

# Resolutions and Decisions

adopted by the General Assembly  
during its seventy-eighth session

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## **NOTE**

The resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly are identified as follows:

### **Regular sessions**

Until the thirtieth regular session, the resolutions of the General Assembly were identified by an arabic numeral followed by a roman numeral in parentheses indicating the session (for example: resolution 3363 (XXX)). When several resolutions were adopted under the same number, each of them was identified by a capital letter placed between the two numerals (for example: resolution 3367 A (XXX), resolutions 3411 A and B (XXX), resolutions 3419 A to D (XXX)). The decisions were not numbered.

Since the thirty-first session, as part of the new system adopted for symbols of General Assembly documents, resolutions and decisions have been identified by an arabic numeral, indicating the session, followed by an oblique stroke and another arabic numeral (for example: resolution 31/1, decision 31/301). When several resolutions or decisions were adopted under the same number, each of them has been identified by a capital letter placed after the two numerals (for example: resolution 31/16 A, resolutions 31/6 A and B, decisions 31/406 A to E).

### **Special sessions**

Until the seventh special session, the resolutions of the General Assembly were identified by an arabic numeral followed, in parentheses, by the letter “S” and a roman numeral indicating the session (for example: resolution 3362 (S-VII)). The decisions were not numbered.

Since the eighth special session, resolutions and decisions have been identified by the letter “S” and an arabic numeral indicating the session, followed by an oblique stroke and another arabic numeral (for example: resolution S-8/1, decision S-8/11).

### **Emergency special sessions**

Until the fifth emergency special session, the resolutions of the General Assembly were identified by an arabic numeral followed, in parentheses, by the letters “ES” and a roman numeral indicating the session (for example: resolution 2252 (ES-V)). The decisions were not numbered.

Since the sixth emergency special session, resolutions and decisions have been identified by the letters “ES” and an arabic numeral indicating the session, followed by an oblique stroke and another arabic numeral (for example: resolution ES-6/1, decision ES-6/11).

In each of the series described above, the numbering follows the order of adoption.

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The present volume contains the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly from 5 September to 22 December 2023, as well as the information requested by the Assembly in section C, paragraph 3, of its resolution 54/248 of 23 December 1999. Decisions adopted by the Assembly during this period appear in volume II. Resolutions and decisions adopted subsequently during the seventy-eighth session will be published in volume III.

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# I. Resolutions adopted without reference to a Main Committee

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## RESOLUTION 78/1

Adopted at the 15th plenary meeting, on 29 September 2023, without a vote, on the basis of draft resolution [A/78/L.1](#), submitted by the President of the General Assembly

### **78/1. Political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly**

*The General Assembly*

*Endorses* the political declaration adopted by the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly, which is contained in the annex to the present resolution.

### **Annex**

#### **Political Declaration adopted at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), under the auspices of the General Assembly in September 2023**

##### **I. Our shared commitment**

1. We, the Heads of State and Government and high representatives, have met at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 18 and 19 September 2023, at the Sustainable Development Goals Summit,<sup>1</sup> to review progress and accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

2. We reaffirm our commitment to effectively implement the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs and uphold all principles enshrined in it. The 2030 Agenda remains our overarching roadmap for achieving sustainable development and overcoming the multiple crises we face. We will act with urgency to realize its vision as a plan of action for people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership, leaving no one behind. We will endeavour to reach the furthest behind first.

3. We emphasize that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.

4. We reaffirm that the 2030 Agenda is universal in nature and that its Goals and targets are comprehensive, far-reaching, people-centered, indivisible and interlinked, balancing the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental, in an integrated manner. They seek to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

5. We reaffirm that the 2030 Agenda is guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including full respect for international law. It is grounded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, international human rights treaties, the Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome. It is informed by other instruments such as the Declaration on the Right to Development.

6. We also reaffirm the Addis Ababa Action Agenda as an integral part of the 2030 Agenda. We are committed to its full implementation which is critical for the realization of the SDGs and their targets and to this end welcome the organization of the 2023 High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development back-to-back with the SDG Summit.

7. We also reaffirm that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time. We express profound alarm that emissions of greenhouse gases continue to rise globally, and remain deeply concerned that all countries, particularly developing countries, are vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change. We emphasize in this regard that mitigation of and adaptation to climate change represent an immediate and urgent priority.

8. The achievement of the SDGs is in peril. At the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda, we are alarmed that the progress on most of the SDGs is either moving much too slowly or has regressed below the 2015 baseline. Our world is currently facing numerous crises. Years of sustainable development gains are being reversed. Millions of people have fallen into poverty, hunger and malnutrition are becoming more prevalent, humanitarian needs are rising, and

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<sup>1</sup> High-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly (Sustainable Development Goals Summit).

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the impacts of climate change more pronounced. This has led to increased inequality exacerbated by weakened international solidarity and a shortfall of trust to jointly overcome these crises.

9. We commit to bold, ambitious, accelerated, just and transformative actions, anchored in international solidarity and effective cooperation at all levels. We will promote a systemic shift towards a more inclusive, just, peaceful, resilient and sustainable world for people and planet, for present and future generations.

10. We will devote ourselves collectively to the pursuit of sustainable development including through international cooperation and partnership on the basis of mutual trust and the full benefit of all, in a spirit of global solidarity, for the common future of present and coming generations.

11. We reaffirm all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including, inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, as set out in principle 7 thereof.

12. We are concerned about the persistent disproportionate and multidimensional impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic. We must strengthen multilateral and international cooperation for developing countries, particularly the poorest and most vulnerable countries, to help them recover from the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and strengthen resilience including through pandemic prevention, preparedness and response.

13. We recognize the special challenges facing all developing countries in pursuing sustainable development, in particular African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States, as well as the specific challenges facing middle-income countries and countries in conflict and post-conflict situations.

14. We remain resolved, between now and 2030, to end poverty and hunger everywhere; to combat inequalities within and among countries; to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies; to respect, protect and fulfil human rights and achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and to ensure the lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources. We also remain resolved to create conditions for sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and decent work for all, and equal pay for work of equal value, taking into account different levels of national development and capacities. We take note with appreciation of the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions and encourage all countries to consider supporting its implementation. We commit to ensuring that persons with disabilities actively participate in and equally benefit from sustainable development efforts.

15. We reaffirm that gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the Goals and targets. The achievement of full human potential and sustainable development is not possible if one half of humanity continues to be denied full human rights and opportunities. We will ensure full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all women and girls, without discrimination. We also resolve to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls.

16. We reaffirm the role of culture as an enabler of sustainable development that provides people and communities with a strong sense of identity and social cohesion and contributes to more effective and sustainable development policies and measures at all levels.

17. We commit to stepping up our efforts to fight against racism, all forms of discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, stigmatization, hate speech, through cooperation, partnership and inclusion and respect for diversity.

18. We reaffirm our resolve to realize our vision of a world with access to inclusive and equitable quality education, universal health coverage including access to quality essential health-care services, social protection, food security and improved nutrition, safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy, sustainable industrialization and quality, resilient, reliable and sustainable infrastructure for all.

19. We commit to achieving a world in which humanity lives in harmony with nature, to conserving and sustainably using our planet's marine and terrestrial resources, including through sustainable lifestyles, and sustainable consumption and production, to reversing the trends of environmental degradation, to promoting resilience, to reducing disaster risk, and to halting ecosystem degradation and biodiversity loss. We will conserve and sustainably use oceans and seas, freshwater resources, as well as forests, mountains and drylands and protect biodiversity, ecosystems and wildlife.

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20. Sustainable development cannot be realized without peace and security; and peace and security will be at risk without sustainable development. We reaffirm the need to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies that provide equal access to justice and that are based on respect for human rights (including the right to development), on effective rule of law and good governance at all levels and on transparent, effective and accountable institutions. Factors which give rise to violence, insecurity and injustice, such as inequality, corruption, poor governance and illicit financial and arms flows, are addressed in the Agenda.

21. The 2030 Agenda remains our commitment to the children and youth of today so that they may achieve their full human potential, as critical agents of change and torchbearers of the 2030 Agenda for current and future generations.

22. We acknowledge the essential role of parliaments in ensuring accountability for the effective implementation of our goals and commitments under the 2030 Agenda.

23. We commit to enhancing global, regional, national and local partnerships for sustainable development, engaging all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, private sector, academia and youth, recognizing the important contribution they can make toward achieving the 2030 Agenda, and the localization of the SDGs. We also reaffirm the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development in addressing regional challenges and scaling up action among countries.

## **II. Our changed world – Progress and remaining gaps and challenges**

24. Our world has changed drastically since the first SDG Summit in 2019 and since we adopted the 2030 Agenda in 2015. The world was already off track in achieving the majority of the SDGs before the COVID-19 pandemic. Without immediate course correction and acceleration of progress toward achieving the SDGs, our world is destined to face continued poverty, prolonged periods of crisis and growing uncertainty.

25. We are concerned about the persistent and long-term impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic, continued poverty and widening inequalities, and the multiple interlinked crises that are pushing our world to the brink, particularly in developing countries and for the poorest and most vulnerable. The crisis of climate change and its impacts, including persistent drought and extreme weather events, land loss and degradation, sea level rise, coastal erosion, ocean acidification and the retreat of mountain glaciers, as well as biodiversity loss, desertification, sand and dust storms, and pollution, including plastic, air, and chemical pollution, threaten planet and people. Forced displacement, the cost-of-living, water, food security and nutrition, financial and energy crises and challenges are derailing progress on the Sustainable Development Goals.

26. In many parts of the world armed conflicts and instability have persisted or intensified, causing untold human suffering and undermining the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals. Our efforts to prevent and resolve conflicts and foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies have often been fragmented and insufficient and have been hindered in the current global context.

27. We acknowledge that the cascading global crises have highlighted and exacerbated existing gender inequality, such as unequal access to healthcare, education, social protection, decent jobs and economic opportunities.

28. We take note of the Secretary-General's special edition progress report on the Sustainable Development Goals, and the Global Sustainable Development Report, recognizing the value of evidenced-based approaches to evaluate progress to date towards the SDGs.

29. We recognize the positive role and contribution of migrants for inclusive growth and sustainable development in countries of origin, transit and destination, including by enriching societies through human, socioeconomic and cultural capacities. We recommit to cooperate internationally to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration involving full respect for human rights and the humane treatment of migrants, regardless of their migration status, and to support countries of origin, transit and destination in the spirit of international cooperation, taking into account national circumstances.

30. We must meet the moment by taking immediate measures to scale up efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, including through development cooperation, SDG investments, reforming the international financial architecture, supporting sustained, inclusive and sustainable growth, enhancing macroeconomic policy cooperation, exploring measures of progress on sustainable development that complement or

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go beyond gross domestic product, and implementing actions to accelerate sustainable development, in particular in support of developing countries.

31. We are deeply concerned by the marked increase of the estimated SDG financing gap and recognize the urgency of providing predictable, sustainable and sufficient development finance to developing countries from all sources.

32. We note that there has been positive progress in a limited number of areas. We recognize the efforts of countries and stakeholders at all levels since 2015 to realize the vision of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. We acknowledge that important lessons were drawn from the COVID-19 pandemic in health, culture, education, science, technology, and innovation and digital transformation for sustainable development.

33. We are encouraged by the progress achieved in the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries 2014–2024, and the SAMOA Pathway for SIDS 2014–2024, and call upon the international community to take the opportunity of the Third UN Conference on LLDCs and the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States to identify and address the key priority issues of LLDCs and SIDS respectively, as well as to forge genuine and durable partnerships, including financial support, that will accelerate the implementation of their respective sustainable development blueprints. Additionally, we welcome the Doha political declaration, and the commitments made towards the timely and full implementation of the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2022–2031.

34. We welcome the ongoing efforts of the UN development system to implement the reforms championed by the Secretary-General and endorsed by the General Assembly, to better support programme countries in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda, stressing the importance of predictable and sustainable funding of the UN development system and its programmatic activities.

35. We recognize that the Voluntary National Reviews have generated valuable lessons learned and have helped countries monitor progress and integrate the Sustainable Development Goals into national plans and policies.

### **III. Call to action – turning our world towards 2030**

36. We commit to taking continuous, fundamental, transformative and urgent actions at all levels and by all stakeholders to overcome the crises and obstacles facing our world. We recognize the urgent need to take the actions necessary to reverse declines and accelerate progress to achieve the 2030 Agenda and implement the SDGs.

37. We commit to achieving sustainable development and shared prosperity for all by focusing our policies and actions on the poorest and most vulnerable. We will endeavour to identify those who are being left behind and reach those who are the furthest behind first. People who are vulnerable must be empowered. Those whose needs are reflected in the 2030 Agenda include all children, youth, persons with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS, older persons, Indigenous Peoples, refugees, internally displaced persons, and migrants. We intend to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society. We will take action to combat inequalities within and among countries and pursue policies that stem the tide of rising inequality, including through social protection systems and universal health coverage. We look forward to the proposed world social summit in 2025, subject to discussion and agreement by the General Assembly on its modalities, and emphasize that the possible summit outcome should have a social development approach and give momentum towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

38. We are determined to make all efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by the target year of 2030 and to revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development. To this end:

(a) We commit to taking comprehensive and targeted measures to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, everywhere, recognizing it is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. We commit to enhancing and supporting policies and strategies for reducing poverty and inequality, including through international cooperation.

(b) We will accelerate actions to end hunger, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition, and the realization of the right to adequate food, including through access to sufficient, safe and nutritious foods all year round, the promotion of sustainable and resilient agriculture and food systems, as well as safe, nutritious and healthy diets. We commit to keep trade channels and markets open for the movement of food, fertilizers and other agricultural inputs

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and outputs, while recognizing the importance of shorter supply chains at the local levels. In this context, we also commit to supporting developing countries to address extreme food price volatility.

(c) We commit to targeted and accelerated action to remove all legal, social, and economic barriers to achieving gender equality, the empowerment of all women and girls including those with disabilities, their full, equal and effective participation in all decision-making processes, and the realization and enjoyment of their human rights. In this regard we commit to eliminating, preventing and responding to all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls in public and private spaces both in person and in digital contexts, and call for women's full access to justice and effective legal remedies.

(d) We will continue increasing investment in inclusive and equitable quality education and life-long learning opportunities for all, including early childhood education, youth and adult literacy programmes and initiatives, digital education, cultural education, education for sustainable development, digital technologies for education, skills enhancement, affordable higher education and vocational training, education in emergencies and teachers' continuous professional development. We recognize that early childhood education and care can generate substantial benefits for children. We will address barriers to girls' education, gender and disability gaps and promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in and through education and safe, healthy and stimulating learning environments that enable all learners to achieve their full potential and physical, mental and emotional well-being. We also take note of the 2022 United Nations Transforming Education Summit.

(e) We will continue to take action to bridge the digital divides and spread the benefits of digitalization. We will expand participation of all countries, in particular developing countries, in the digital economy, including by enhancing their digital infrastructure connectivity, building their capacities and access to technological innovations through stronger partnerships and improving digital literacy. We will leverage digital technology to expand the foundations on which to strengthen social protection systems. We commit to building capacities for inclusive participation in the digital economy and strong partnerships to bring technological innovations to all countries. We reaffirm that the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online. We look forward to the elaboration of a Global Digital Compact to bridge the digital divides and to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

(f) We will address water scarcity and stress and drive transformation from a global water crisis to a world where water is a sustainable resource, ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. We note the importance of the mid-term comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028 and the water-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, and we commend the convening of the UN 2023 Water Conference.

(g) We will ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages, including by strengthening health systems and achieving universal health coverage and all other health-related targets and leaving no-one behind. We will address gaps in preventing, preparing for, and responding to current and future pandemics and health emergencies, including in the development and distribution of timely and equitable access to medical countermeasures such as vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics.

(h) We commit to making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, including through the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, to contribute to the achievement and localization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and enhancing financial and technical assistance to plan and implement sustainable urbanization and human settlements programmes and projects, and we will promote access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing.

(i) We recommit to making fundamental changes in our consumption and production patterns, including by transitioning to sustainable economic and business models, the implementation of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, and by providing support to developing countries to strengthen their scientific, technological and innovation capacity. We recognize that local and national zero-waste initiatives can contribute to achieving sustainable consumption and production.

(j) We will ensure universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, including through enhanced international cooperation to assist developing countries and through sustained investments, advancing research and development, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology. We will increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix by 2030.

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(k) We recommit to the full implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, and recall its Mid-term review, as disasters have become more frequent and intense. We acknowledge that its implementation will require capacity building and technical and financial assistance in order to be effectively implemented by developing countries. We will promote a disaster risk-informed approach to sustainable development at the local, national, regional and global levels and accelerate progress on integrating disaster risk reduction into policies, programmes and investments at all levels. We recognize the need for a broader and a more people-centred preventive approach to disaster risk reduction, and that disaster risk reduction policies and practices need to be multi-hazard and multisectoral, inclusive and accessible in order to be efficient and effective. We will promote effective local, national and regional multi-hazard early warning mechanisms.

(l) We stress the urgency of enhancing ambition for climate action in the implementation of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement<sup>2</sup> in relation to climate mitigation, adaptation and the provision of the means of implementation, especially finance to developing countries. We urge the implementation of the decisions adopted at COP 27 held in Sharm El-Sheikh. We will take concrete steps toward the operationalization of the new funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage by COP 28. We commit to continuing our work to accelerate our action to address climate change. In this regard, we also look forward to the first global stock take of the Paris Agreement to take place at COP 28.

(m) We emphasize the need for a balanced and enhanced implementation of all provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including its three objectives. We will take urgent action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030 to put nature on a path to recovery for the benefit of people and planet by conserving and sustainably using biodiversity and by ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the utilization of genetic resources, while providing the sufficient means of implementation to support developing countries. We welcome the CBD COP15 and its outcomes, including the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and call for the timely implementation of these outcomes and in this regard we welcome the establishment of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund. We call for its timely operationalization and capitalization from all sources, including international financial resources from developed countries, philanthropic organizations and private sector, and to progress towards implementation as soon as possible.

(n) We commit to continue urgent efforts to implement the strategic objectives of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, affirming that combating desertification, land degradation, drought and floods, as well as sand and dust storms, and achieving land degradation neutrality are essential and have emerged as a pathway to accelerate progress towards achieving the SDGs.

(o) We will decisively and urgently mobilize action for sustainable ocean management, recognizing the central role of a healthy, productive and resilient ocean. We commit to an integrated and coordinated approach to conserve, protect and restore the ocean, its ecosystems and its biodiversity. We emphasize that our actions to implement Goal 14 should be in accordance with, reinforce and not duplicate or undermine existing legal instruments, arrangements, processes, mechanisms or entities. We affirm the need to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of The Future We Want. We look forward to the third UN Ocean Conference, to be held in 2025, to scale-up ocean action and accelerate implementation.

(p) We will support the global efforts to address plastic pollution, and the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment by 2024.

(q) We commit to bridging the science, technology and innovation divides and the responsible use of science, technology, and innovation as drivers of sustainable development and to build the capacities necessary for sustainable transformations. We reiterate the need to accelerate the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed. We will take action to enhance the ability of developing countries to benefit from science, technology, and innovation and address the major structural impediments to accessing new and emerging technologies including through scaling up the use of open science, affordable and open-source technology, research and development, including through strengthened

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<sup>2</sup> Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.



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partnerships. We aim to increase funding for SDG-related research and innovation and build capacity in all regions to contribute to and benefit from this research. We will seek to better realize the benefits and address the challenges of artificial intelligence. We undertake to increase the use of science and scientific evidence in policymaking.

(r) We pledge to take action to strengthen international, national and local data systems efforts to collect high quality, timely, relevant, disaggregated and reliable data on SDG progress and to intensify efforts to strengthen data and statistical capacities in developing countries. We will continue to strengthen our efforts to collect, analyse and disseminate relevant, reliable and disaggregated data for better monitoring and policymaking to accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. We commit to increasing the availability of SDG data and closing SDG data gaps at all levels, increasing financing for data and statistics, and enhancing capacity building support to developing countries.

(s) We will continue to integrate the SDGs into our national policy frameworks and develop national plans for transformative and accelerated action. We will make implementing the 2030 Agenda and achieving the SDGs a central focus in national planning and oversight mechanisms. We will further localize the SDGs and advance integrated planning and implementation at the local level. We encourage all relevant actors to better address interlinkages, synergies and trade-offs between the Sustainable Development Goals, enhancing policy coherence for sustainable development.

(t) We commit to accelerate the full implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and to take further actions to scale up financing for sustainable development, and provide means of implementation for developing countries, including the following:

(i) We will ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, strengthening the capacity to mobilize domestic resources and private sector investment in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, and to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its forms and dimensions and to create decent jobs.

(ii) We urge developed countries to scale up and fulfill their respective ODA commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance (ODA/GNI) to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to the least developed countries.

(iii) We call for improved international debt mechanisms to support debt review, debt payment suspensions, and debt restructuring, as appropriate, with an expansion of support and eligibility to vulnerable countries in need. We commit to continuing to assist developing countries in avoiding a build-up of unsustainable debt and in implementing resilience measures so as to reduce the risk of relapsing into another debt crisis. We recognize the importance of new and emerging challenges and vulnerabilities in regard to developing country external and domestic debt sustainability. We call for strengthened multilateral actions and coordination by all creditors to address the deteriorating debt situation.

(iv) We welcome the Secretary-General's efforts to address the SDG financing gap through an SDG stimulus. We will advance the Secretary-General's proposal, in a timely manner through discussions at the United Nations as well as other relevant forums and institutions, to tackle the high cost of debt and rising risks of debt distress, to enhance support to developing countries and to massively scale up affordable long-term financing for development and expand contingency financing to countries in need.

(v) We call for scaling up debt swaps for SDGs, including debt swaps for climate and nature, and debt swaps for food security, as appropriate, while recognizing that debt swaps cannot replace broader debt treatments in unsustainable debt situations, to allow developing countries to use debt service payments for investments in sustainable development.

(vi) We recommit to preventing and combating illicit financial flows and strengthening international cooperation and good practices on assets return and recovery. We reaffirm our commitment to strive to eliminate safe havens that create incentives for the transfer abroad of stolen assets and illicit financial flows. We will implement our obligations to prevent and combat corruption, bribery and money laundering in all their forms enshrined in the existing international architecture, in particular in those prescribed in the United Nations Convention Against Corruption and the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime.

(vii) We call for an urgent voluntary re-channeling of Special Drawing Rights to countries most in need, including through multilateral development banks, while respecting relevant legal frameworks and preserving the reserve asset character of Special Drawing Rights. We will explore ways for future allocations of Special Drawing Rights to benefit those countries most in need.

(viii) We support reform of the international financial architecture. We also support international financial institution and multilateral development bank reform as a key for large-scale Sustainable Development Goal-related investments in order to better address global challenges. The international financial architecture, including its business models and financing capacities, must be made more fit for purpose, equitable and responsive to the financing needs of developing countries, to broaden and strengthen the voice and participation of developing countries in international economic decision-making, norm-setting, and global economic governance. We commit to engage in inclusive inter-governmental discussions on the reform of international financial institutions in forthcoming processes, including at the United Nations, taking into account current and ongoing initiatives.

(ix) We urge multilateral development banks to bring forward actions to mobilize and provide additional financing within their mandates to support developing countries to achieve the SDGs. We support multilateral development bank reform efforts and call for tangible progress in this regard, including through securing increases to grants and concessional finance, better leveraging their capital bases and considering ways for the respective boards of the MDBs to increase their capitalization and encourage dialogue between multilateral development banks and other financial institutions.

(x) We recommit to the promotion of a universal, rules-based, non-discriminatory, open, fair, inclusive, equitable and transparent multilateral trading system, with the World Trade Organization (WTO) at its core, as well as meaningful trade liberalization. We underscore that the multilateral trading system should contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, providing policy space for national development objectives, poverty eradication and sustainable development, consistent with relevant international rules and countries' commitments, and promote export-led growth in the developing countries through, inter alia, preferential trade access for developing countries, targeted special and differential treatment that responds to the development needs of individual countries, in particular least developed countries, and the elimination of trade barriers that are inconsistent with World Trade Organization agreements. We welcome the commitment of WTO members to work towards the necessary reform of the organization, with the aim of improving all its functions and effectively addressing the challenges facing global trade. We look forward to concrete and positive results at the 13th WTO Ministerial Conference.

(xi) We confirm our political commitment to explore measures of progress on sustainable development that complement or go beyond gross domestic product to have a more inclusive approach to international cooperation and reaffirm our call to engage in United Nations-led intergovernmental discussions in consultation with relevant stakeholders.

(xii) We encourage the international community to consider multidimensional vulnerability, including the potential use of a multidimensional vulnerability index, as criteria to access concessional finance.

(xiii) We look forward to the deliberations on convening a fourth international conference on financing for development in 2025.

(xiv) We look forward to the beginning of inter-governmental discussions in New York at United Nations Headquarters on ways to strengthen the inclusiveness and effectiveness of international tax cooperation.

39. We recognize that the integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals requires a global response. We renew our commitment to multilateralism, to find new ways of working together and to ensure that multilateral institutions keep pace with the rapid changes taking place. We further commit to finding peaceful and just solutions to disputes and to respecting international law and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including the right to self-determination of peoples and the need to respect the territorial integrity and political independence of States.

40. We commit to fully support the UN development system, including the RC system and the Joint SDG Fund, to deliver better in support of programme countries and their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs. We support the United Nations in playing a central and coordinating role in international development cooperation.

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41. We commit to using the review of the high-level political forum at the 78th session of the General Assembly to further strengthen the follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, harnessing data to track progress in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, strengthening analysis of the interlinkages across the Goals and targets, including policy implications of their synergies and trade-offs.

42. We look forward to the Summit of the Future in 2024 as an important opportunity to, inter alia, accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs.

43. We commit with united efforts, political will and firm actions to advance concrete, integrated and targeted policies and actions to fulfill the vision of the 2030 Agenda and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. We pledge to act now, for present and future generations, turning our world towards a sustainable and resilient path by 2030, and leaving no one behind.

### **RESOLUTION 78/3**

Adopted at the 16th plenary meeting, on 5 October 2023, without a vote, on the basis of draft resolution [A/78/L.2](#), submitted by the President of the General Assembly

#### **78/3. Political declaration of the General Assembly high-level meeting on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response**

*The General Assembly*

*Adopts* the political declaration of the General Assembly high-level meeting on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, held on 20 September 2023 in accordance with its resolution [77/275](#) of 24 February 2023, as contained in the annex to the present resolution.

#### **Annex**

#### **Political declaration of the General Assembly high-level meeting on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response**

We, Heads of State and Government and representatives of States and Governments, assembled at the United Nations on 20 September 2023, with a dedicated focus on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, affirm that pandemics call for timely, urgent and continued leadership, global solidarity, increased international cooperation and multilateral commitment among Member States and with relevant United Nations entities and other relevant international and regional organizations, to implement coherent and robust national, regional and global actions, driven by science and the need to prioritize equity and the respect for human rights to strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, and fully address the direct and indirect consequences of future pandemics, and in this regard we:

1. Reaffirm the right of every human being, without distinction of any kind, to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;

2. Recognize that health is a precondition for and an outcome and indicator of all three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – of sustainable development and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and that, despite progress made, challenges in global health, including major inequities and vulnerabilities within and among countries, regions and populations, still remain and demand persistent and urgent attention;

3. Recognize also the need to tackle health inequities and inequalities, within and among countries, through political commitment, policies and international cooperation and global solidarity, including those that address social, economic, environmental and other determinants of health and ensure that no one is left behind, with an endeavour to reach the furthest behind first, founded on the dignity of the human person;

4. Reaffirm our commitment to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, through which we supported research and development of vaccines and medicines, as well as preventive measures and treatments for communicable and non-communicable diseases, in particular those that disproportionately impact developing countries;

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5. Recognize that the illness, death, socioeconomic disruption and devastation caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, including to health systems, has brought urgency to strengthening international cooperation to prevent, prepare for and respond to pandemics and other health emergencies, taking into account lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and other health emergencies;

6. Recognize the COVID-19 pandemic as one of the greatest global challenges in the history of the United Nations, and note with deep concern the loss of life it caused, its exacerbation of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, its negative impact on equity, human and economic development across all spheres of society, as well as on global humanitarian needs, gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, the enjoyment of human rights, livelihoods, food security and nutrition, education, and its disruption to economies, supply chains, trade, societies and the environment, within and among countries, which is reversing hard-won development gains and hampering progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and all its Goals and targets;

7. Express concern at the continued emergence and re-emergence of epidemic-prone diseases and recognize that pandemics have a disproportionate impact on developing countries as well as people living with co-morbidities, underlying chronic conditions, communicable and non-communicable diseases, older persons, people living in poverty, people living in rural areas, women and girls, children, Indigenous Peoples, people of African descent, migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons and persons with disabilities, as well as those who are vulnerable or in vulnerable situations, with repercussions on health and development gains;

8. Express deep concern also that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated the stark inequities within and among countries and regions in access to vaccines, with 27 per cent of the population fully vaccinated in low-income economies compared to 75 per cent in high-income economies, as of 30 April 2023, and in that regard recognize the need to address bottlenecks in the universal, effective, efficient, equitable and timely access, distribution and administration of vaccines within and among countries with the aim of boosting immunization through effective vaccination campaigns globally;

9. Recognize the need to build and maintain global solidarity and trust within and among countries, to prioritize equity and to maximize political will to build on the lessons learned and best practices from the COVID-19 pandemic, including by turning, where appropriate, temporarily scaled-up capacities into permanent capacities in a sustainable manner and to ensure better global pandemic prevention, preparedness and response;

10. Acknowledge that diversified, sustainable, strengthened local and regional innovation and production capacities of vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other health products are a critical development to provide for greater sustainability of supply chains, equitable and timely access to and distribution of health technologies, especially during pandemics and other health emergencies;

11. Recognize the need to support developing countries in building expertise in developing local, national and regional research, innovation, manufacturing, production and regulatory capacities by building on lessons learned from technology transfer hubs and intellectual property-sharing mechanisms, while further enabling the increased use of health technologies and the digital transformation of health systems and acknowledging the importance of existing international efforts performed in this regard;

12. Recognize also the critical role of international collaboration and cooperation in research and development and innovation, particularly in vaccine clinical trials that are health-needs driven, transparent, well-designed and well-implemented, based on established ethical guidance, as well as in the development of rapid diagnostics tests, other technologies and assays;

13. Recognize further the important role played by the private sector in research and development of innovative medicines, encourage the use, where appropriate, of alternative financing mechanisms for research and development as a driver of innovation for new medicines and new uses for medicines and continue to support voluntary initiatives and incentive mechanisms that separate the cost of investment in research and development from the price and volume of sales, facilitate equitable and affordable access to new tools and other results to be gained through research and development;

14. Recognize further the potential of digital health technologies in strengthening secure communications in health emergencies, implementing and supporting public health measures and bolstering national response efforts to pandemics, epidemics and other health emergencies, to protect and promote the health of individuals and communities, while ensuring personal data protection, including by taking into consideration the World Health

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Organization global strategy on digital health 2020–2025, to overcome distance barriers in the delivery of health services, and, in that regard, the importance of telehealth in the context of pandemics, including digitized health documents, while reaffirming the right of everyone to enjoy the benefit of scientific progress and its applications;

15. Recognize the significant role of health workers, community health workers and essential workers in other sectors in responding to pandemics, and their dedication and sacrifice, and encourage national, regional and international efforts to commemorate this role, and the need to take necessary steps at the country level to protect them from all forms of harm, violence, attacks, harassment and discriminatory practices, and to promote their decent and safe working environment and conditions at all times, as well as ensure health and care workers' physical and mental health and well-being;

16. Recognize further that, while women represent 70 per cent of the workforce and about 90 per cent of front-line health workers, they have just 25 per cent of leadership roles and face a 24 per cent pay gap compared to men across the health and care sector, and other front-line and essential workers, including humanitarian personnel, around the world aimed at addressing pandemics and other health emergencies through measures to protect the physical and mental health and well-being, and safety of people, and emphasizing the importance of providing health and other essential workers with the necessary training, support and protection;

17. Recognize further the importance of training, developing and recruiting a skilled health workforce, as well as their retention to prevent brain drain from developing countries, including public health professionals, doctors, nurses, midwives, community health workers and front-line health workers, as fundamental to strong and resilient health systems and communities to prevent, prepare for and respond to pandemics and other health emergencies, and improving working conditions and management of the health workforce to ensure the safety of health workers, especially women health workers, who face harm such as increasing violence and harassment in the workplace, stress, mental health issues, burnout and lack of adequate infection controls and protections;

18. Recognize the role of Governments, international organizations, civil society, non-governmental organizations, community organizations, religious leaders and faith-based organizations, academia, philanthropic foundations, the private sector and pandemic prevention, preparedness and response networks in building trust, raising public awareness and addressing health-related misinformation, disinformation and hate speech, including through primary health care;

19. Recognize further the need to strengthen pandemic prevention by sharing experience and best practices, across sectors and to raise the level of preparedness, including early warning systems, in order to have the earliest and most adequate response to any pandemics and other health emergencies that may arise, and recognize also the value of an integrated One Health approach that fosters cooperation between the human health, animal health and plant health, as well as environmental and other relevant sectors;

20. Recognize the need for all countries, in particular for developing countries, to build scientific and clinical medical research capacity, including through partnerships with other countries, international organizations and other relevant entities;

21. Recognize the consequence of the adverse impact of climate change, natural disasters, extreme weather events as well as other environmental determinants of health, such as clean air, safe drinking water, sanitation, safe, sufficient and nutritious food and secure shelter, for health and in this regard underscore the need to foster health in climate change adaptation efforts, underlining that resilient and people-centred health systems are necessary to protect the health of all people, in particular those who are vulnerable or in vulnerable situations, particularly those living in small island developing States;

22. Stress the need for Member States to further strengthen national health systems to prevent non-communicable and communicable diseases and address their impact on mental health and well-being, through the provision of mental health and psychosocial support services for achieving universal health coverage, including in their response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and to ensure adequate response to future health emergencies;

23. Note with concern that the unprecedented global closure of education institutions during the COVID-19 pandemic has severely affected the learning, development and well-being of children and youth worldwide and the importance of ensuring access to education during pandemics and other health emergencies;

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24. Express concern that health-related misinformation and disinformation negatively impacted routine immunization services globally, particularly affecting children under the age of 5, and in this regard emphasize that routine immunization is one of the most efficient and cost-effective public health interventions with the greatest reach and demonstrated health outcomes that play a crucial role in preventing pandemics and other health emergencies;

25. Recognize further that infection prevention and control, including hygiene, and access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation services, particularly in health facilities, are essential for preventing the emergence and spread of infectious diseases that can have a negative impact on the enjoyment of all human rights, and highlight in this regard the importance of urgent universal and equitable access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene and other infection prevention and control measures, and addressing antimicrobial resistance, including through enhanced investment, as a crucial aspect of pandemic prevention, preparedness and response as well as functioning of health systems in general;

26. Recognize that this high-level meeting serves to further enhance political momentum and commitment towards pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, aligned with and informed by the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body, which is drafting and negotiating a World Health Organization convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, and that of the Working Group on Amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005);

27. Recognize further the fundamental role of equitable, people-centred and community-based primary health care in preventing, preparing for and responding to pandemics, with the goal of achieving universal health coverage and other Sustainable Development Goals and targets, as envisioned in the Declaration of Alma-Ata and the Declaration of Astana, and further recognize that primary health care, including routine immunization programmes, brings people into first contact with the health system and is the most inclusive, effective, equitable and efficient approach to enhance people's health, as well as social well-being and trust, noting that primary health care and community-based health services should be high-quality, safe, comprehensive, integrated, accessible, available and affordable for everyone and everywhere, including those who live in remote geographical regions or in areas difficult to access, noting the work of the World Health Organization on the operational framework for primary health care;

28. Acknowledge that more needs to be done with regard to the scope and coordination of current financing mechanisms, also by identifying sources of funding to rapidly surge more effective and equitable responses, including by supporting large-scale operations for pandemic prevention, preparedness and response and ensuring equitable and timely access to pandemic-related products during pandemics and other health emergencies, and recognize that contingent at-risk funding is needed;

29. Welcome the launch of the Pandemic Fund in November 2022 to finance critical investments to strengthen national, regional and global pandemic prevention, preparedness and response capacities with a focus on low- and middle-income countries and recall that financing effective national, regional and global health emergency preparedness will require approximately US\$ 30 billion per year, including an estimated gap of \$10 billion,<sup>3</sup> in new external financing per year outside current official development assistance levels;

### **Call to action**

We therefore commit to scale up our efforts to strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness and response and further implement the following actions and express our strong resolve to:

30. Strengthen regional and international cooperation, multilateralism, global solidarity, coordination and governance at the highest political levels and across all relevant sectors, with the determination to overcome inequities and ensure the sustainable, affordable, fair, equitable, effective, efficient and timely access to medical countermeasures, including vaccines, diagnostics, therapeutics and other health products, to ensure high-level attention through a multisectoral approach to prevent, prepare for and respond to pandemics and other health emergencies, particularly in developing countries;

31. Urge the sustainable, affordable, fair, equitable, effective, efficient and timely access to medical countermeasures, including vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other health products, and call upon the World

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<sup>3</sup> World Bank and World Health Organization, "Analysis of Pandemic Preparedness and Response architecture, financing needs, gaps and mechanisms"; available at [G20-Gaps-in-PPR-Financing-Mechanisms-WHO-and-WB-pdf.pdf](https://www.worldbank.org/G20-Gaps-in-PPR-Financing-Mechanisms-WHO-and-WB-pdf.pdf) (worldbank.org).

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Health Organization to coordinate this with relevant partners, ensuring coherence with the ongoing discussions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body and the Working Group on Amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005) in Geneva;

32. Call for equity, social justice and social protection mechanisms to ensure universal and equitable access to timely and quality health and social services without financial hardship for all people, particularly for those who are vulnerable or in vulnerable situations, as well as the elimination of the root causes of discrimination and stigma in health-care settings, including during pandemics and other health emergencies;

33. Call upon the international community to mobilize necessary means to support Africa's efforts to prevent, prepare for and respond to outbreaks and epidemics that account for over 100 major public health emergencies events annually;

34. Address the particular needs and vulnerabilities of, inter alia, women, children, youth, persons with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and other communicable diseases, non-communicable diseases, older persons, migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons, people of African descent, Indigenous Peoples, and those who are vulnerable or in vulnerable situations, which may include assistance, health care, mental health and psychosocial support, without any discrimination and with informed consent, in accordance with relevant international commitments, as applicable, and in line with national contexts and priorities;

35. Promote the supply and distribution of sustainable, fair, equitable, effective, efficient, quality, safe, affordable medicines, including generics, vaccines, diagnostics and other health technologies and innovation, to ensure timely access and delivery of affordable quality health services;

36. Promote increased access to affordable, safe, effective and quality medicines, including generics, vaccines, diagnostics and health technologies, reaffirming the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) as amended, and also reaffirming the 2001 World Trade Organization Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which recognizes that intellectual property rights should be interpreted and implemented in a manner supportive of the right of Member States to protect public health and, in particular, to promote access to medicines for all, and note the need for appropriate incentives in the development of new health products;

37. Reaffirm the right to use, to the fullest extent, the provisions contained in the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement), which provides flexibilities for the protection of public health and promotes access to medicines for all, in particular for developing countries, and the World Trade Organization Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which recognizes that intellectual property protection is important for the development of new medicines and also recognizes the concerns about its effects on prices, while noting the discussions in the World Trade Organization and other relevant international organizations, including on innovative options to enhance the global effort towards the production and timely and equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other health technologies, including through local production;

38. Explore, encourage and promote a range of innovative incentives for health research and development, including a stronger and transparent partnership between the public and the private sectors as well as academia, acknowledging the important role played by the private sector in research and development of innovative medicines, vaccines and diagnostics, while recognizing the need for increasing public health-driven research and development that is needs-driven and evidence-based, guided by the core principles of transparency, safety, affordability, effectiveness, efficiency, equity and considered as a shared responsibility, as well as appropriate incentives in the development of new health products and technologies;

39. Promote the transfer of technology, on mutually agreed terms, and know-how and encourage research, innovation and commitments to voluntary licencing, where possible, in agreements where public funding has been invested in research and development for pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, to strengthen local and regional capacities for the manufacturing, regulation and procurement of needed tools for equitable and effective access to vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and essential supplies, as well as for clinical trials, and to increase global supply through facilitating transfer of technology within the framework of relevant multilateral agreements;

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40. Commit to remove trade barriers, strengthen supply chains, facilitate the movement of medical and public health goods, and diversify manufacturing capacities across regions, especially during pandemics and other health emergencies among and within countries;

41. Strengthen local, national and regional innovation and production capacities in developing countries, especially low- and middle-income countries, through, inter alia, financial and technical support, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, cooperation with, support to and development of voluntary patent pools and other voluntary initiatives, such as the Medicines Patent Pool, and through leveraging innovation, such as investment of Unitaid, to make quality health products available and affordable in developing countries, promoting generic competition in line with the World Health Organization road map for access to medicines, vaccines and other health products, 2019–2023;

42. Make collective effort to strengthen developing countries' capacity for increased innovation around local and regional manufacturing and production of medical countermeasures, including vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other health products, to ensure sustainability as well as to close the gaps in global distribution of vaccines and medicines;

43. Promote the fair, equitable and timely sharing of benefits arising from the use of pathogens, sequences or any other materials with pandemic potential through a multilateral system taking into account relevant national and international laws, regulations, obligations and frameworks, in line with the work being undertaken in other relevant areas and by other United Nations and multilateral organizations or agencies, particularly the ongoing discussions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body and the Working Group on Amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005) in Geneva;

44. Encourage the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body to conclude negotiations on a World Health Organization convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, prioritizing the need for equity, with a view to adoption under article 19, or under other provisions of the World Health Organization Constitution as may be deemed appropriate by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body, with respect to the timeframes set out in paragraph 1 (5) of World Health Assembly decision SSA2(5);

45. Encourage the Working Group on Amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005) to continue its work on consideration of proposed targeted amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005), with respect to the time frames set out in paragraph 2 (a) of World Health Assembly decision 75(9);

46. Provide greater access to essential health services, products and vaccines, while also fostering awareness about the risks of substandard and falsified medical products, and assuring the quality and safety of services, products and practice of health workers as well as financial risk protection;

47. Support efforts to address the physical and mental health, well-being and safety of health workers, community health workers, front-line workers and other essential workers, especially for women, who manage heavy workloads, face patient surges, and long working hours during pandemics and other health emergencies, while taking into account their unpaid care and domestic work;

48. Support the provision of adequate remuneration, resources and training to health professionals, especially those cadres typically underrepresented in the health workforce, and ensure that they have safe and decent working conditions with adequate protections, including prioritized and timely access to vaccines and personal protective equipment, gender-responsive workplace policies, addressing underpayment and the gender pay gap, ensuring equal pay for work of equal value and protecting health workers, particularly women, from violence and harassment, including sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse;

49. Ensure further the safe, timely and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel and medical personnel responding to pandemics and other health emergencies, as well as their means of transport, supplies and equipment, and to support, facilitate and enable transportation and logistical supply lines, in order to allow such personnel to efficiently and safely perform their task of assisting affected populations, and in this regard also reaffirm the need to take the necessary measures to respect and protect such personnel, hospitals and other medical facilities consistent with international humanitarian law;

50. In accordance with international humanitarian law, respect and protect, in situations of armed conflict, medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, and hospitals and other medical facilities, which must not be unlawfully attacked, and ensure that the



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wounded and sick receive, to the fullest extent practicable and with the least possible delay, the medical care and attention required;

51. Commit to strengthening women's full, effective and meaningful participation in leadership and decision-making processes in pandemics and other health emergencies at all levels, and to mainstream a gender perspective into all policies and programmes, including in budgetary responses;

52. Ensure, by 2030, universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes, which is fundamental to the achievement of universal health coverage, while reaffirming the commitments to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences;

53. Accelerate action to address the global shortfall of health workers, including addressing its root causes, consistent with the Global Strategy on Human Resources for Health: Workforce 2030 by investing in education, training, employment, retention and strengthening the institutional capacity for health workforce governance, leadership and planning, and protecting all health workers, particularly women, from all forms of violence, attacks, harassment and discriminatory practices, while recognizing that health worker safety and patient safety are connected;

54. Further strengthen cooperation to recruit, train, develop and retain a skilled health workforce, which is an important element of strong and resilient health systems, as part of health emergency prevention and preparedness strategies, guided by target 3.c of the 2030 Agenda and the World Health Organization Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel, and note with concern that highly trained and skilled health personnel from developing countries continue to emigrate at an increasing rate to certain countries, which weakens health systems in countries of origin, while taking into account individual rights of health personnel to work in any country in accordance with applicable laws, and taking into account that nothing should be interpreted as limiting the freedom of health personnel to migrate to countries that wish to employ them;

55. Leverage the potential of the multilateral system and call upon the relevant entities of the United Nations development system, within their respective mandates, and through coordinated actions, primarily by the World Health Organization, as the directing and coordinating authority on international health work in accordance with its Constitution, as well as the reinvigorated resident coordinators and the United Nations country teams, within their respective mandates, as well as other relevant global actors, including the international financial institutions and development banks, civil society, the private sector and academia, to assist and support countries, in particular developing countries, in their efforts to strengthen and ensure pandemic prevention, preparedness and response at the national level, in accordance with their respective national contexts, priorities and competences;

56. Commit further to sustainable financing that provides adequate and predictable funding to the World Health Organization, which enables it to have the resources needed to fulfil its core functions as defined in its Constitution, noting the importance of transformation, increased transparency, accountability and efficiency gains in the World Health Organization and stressing the relevance and importance of adequate funding of the World Health Organization Contingency Fund for Emergencies for its rapid response to health emergencies;

57. Ensure a multisectoral approach towards pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, given the multifaceted causes and consequences of pandemics, including their potential impact on social protection, education, agriculture, the environment, trade, travel, tourism, development and other sectors and at all levels;

58. Recognize the need to strengthen national and regional centres of expertise, through international cooperation and global solidarity, such as laboratories for public health, support research and academic institutions, national public health institutes, inter alia, Centres for Disease Control and Prevention or their equivalents and their cross-sector partners, in collectively building public health capacity and capabilities for predictable and rapid response, supporting already established multi-country training hubs, such as regional World Health Organization training hubs;

59. Reaffirm the importance of national ownership and the primary role and responsibility of governments at all levels to determine their own paths towards pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, in accordance with national contexts and priorities, which is critical for minimizing public health hazards and vulnerabilities as well as delivering effective prevention, surveillance, early warning and response in health emergencies;

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60. Strengthen legislative and regulatory frameworks, promote greater policy coherence and ensure sustainable and adequate financing to implement and evaluate high-impact policies to protect people from pandemics and other health emergencies, taking into account social, economic and environmental determinants of health by working across all sectors through a whole-of-government and whole-of-society and health-in-all-policies approach and by engaging stakeholders in an appropriate, coordinated, comprehensive and integrated action and response;

61. Take measures to embed multisectoral emergency coordination within strengthened and sustainably financed national health systems linked to multiple sectors and systems, including disaster risk management systems, and support its implementation by a well-resourced and protected health emergency workforce underpinned by disaggregated data, integrated analytics, research and innovation, informed by dynamic assessments and monitoring of potential health threats, vulnerabilities and functional capabilities, and strong links to regional and global support, coordination and collaboration structures and mechanisms across all phases of the health emergency cycle of preparing for, preventing, detecting and responding to pandemics;

62. Acknowledge the need for governments, at all levels, to strengthen systems, science- and evidence-based and multisectoral monitoring and accountability, as appropriate, in order to stimulate effective implementation and results to help underpin current and future actions required for pandemic prevention, preparedness and response;

63. Recognize the need to strengthen stakeholder engagement, including in pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, and ensure sustainability, while including those most affected by pandemics or other health emergencies, and integrate all relevant stakeholders, local communities, civil society and academia, in global health governance processes, through transparent information-sharing and inclusive processes;

64. Take measures to counter and address the negative impacts of health-related misinformation, disinformation, hate speech and stigmatization, especially on social media platforms, on people's physical and mental health, including countering vaccine hesitancy in the context of pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, and to foster trust in public health systems and authorities, including by increasing public health education, literacy and awareness, while recognizing that the effective engagement of stakeholders requires access to timely, accurate and evidence-based information and awareness-raising, including through the use of digital health tools;

65. Prioritize pandemic prevention, preparedness and response in national priorities, as appropriate, informed by science and with full respect for human rights and development needs, ensure a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, to achieve universal health coverage with primary health care as its cornerstone, which is fundamental to realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to build resilient health systems able to maintain essential public health functions, services and access to these, to support and protect the health workforce, and to institute social and economic support that can sustain the widespread uptake of public health measures;

66. Further strengthen efforts to address non-communicable diseases as part of pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, recognizing that people living with non-communicable diseases are likely to be at a higher risk of developing severe illness from new pandemic pathogens and are likely to be the most impacted by the pandemic, including health-service disruptions;

67. Strengthen health systems resilience through accelerating efforts to end the global epidemics of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, towards pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, including by leveraging best practices and lessons learned, enhancing health information and laboratory systems and strengthening procurement and supply chain management systems in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and ensuring the systematic engagement of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria responses in pandemic response, leveraging national HIV/AIDS strategic plans to guide key elements of pandemic preparedness planning and acknowledging the integral role of civil society and communities in strengthening public health measures and implementing response programming;

68. Strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, including for ongoing global epidemics such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, by sharing experience and best practices, and raise the level of preparedness, including enabling diagnostics of drivers of outbreaks in animals of zoonotic potential, surveillance and early warning systems, in order to have the earliest and most adequate response to any outbreak that may arise, recognizing the necessity of a One Health approach that fosters cooperation between the human, animal and plant health, as well as other relevant sectors, including through strengthened cooperation and collaboration among the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Organization for Animal Health and the United Nations Environment Programme;

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69. Promote international cooperation and coordination in alignment with the One Health Joint Plan of Action (2022–2026), as appropriate, to support building regional, national and community-level capacities, including through the use of a One Health approach, and enable diagnostics of comprehensively addressing outbreaks in animals, the environment and humans during both inter-pandemic and pandemic times;

70. Take comprehensive measures to tackle antimicrobial resistance and strengthen infection control by promoting adequate access to and responsible use of antimicrobials, safeguarding public health and preserving the effectiveness of treatments, recognizing that antimicrobial resistance could be an aggravating factor during pandemics, and that tackling it requires high-level collaboration across sectors and between countries at the global level, and look forward to the high-level meeting on antimicrobial resistance, to be held in 2024;

71. Improve routine immunization, vaccination and outreach capacities, including by providing evidence-based information on promoting confidence, uptake, demand and scaling up proven innovations to generate behavioural insights and data, engaging with all relevant stakeholders, generating demand and combating misinformation, and expand vaccine coverage to prevent outbreaks as well as the spread and re-emergence of communicable diseases, including for vaccine-preventable and eradicated diseases as well as for ongoing eradication efforts;

72. Take measures to enhance the resilience of national health systems to prevent, prepare for and respond to pandemics and other health emergencies, including by integrating disaster risk management into primary, secondary and tertiary health care, especially at the local level, developing the capacity of health workers in understanding disaster risk and applying and implementing disaster risk reduction approaches in health work, promoting and enhancing the training capacities in the field of disaster medicine, and supporting and training community health groups in disaster risk reduction approaches in health programmes, in collaboration with other sectors, as well as in the implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) of the World Health Organization, while also taking into account the Bangkok Principles for the implementation of the health aspects of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030;

73. Recognize that health financing requires global solidarity and collective effort and commit to strengthen international cooperation to support efforts to build and strengthen capacity in developing countries, especially African countries and small island developing States, including through enhanced official development assistance and financial and technical support and support to research, development and innovation programmes;

74. Ensure sufficient domestic public spending on health, where appropriate, expand pooling of resources allocated to health, maximize efficiency and ensure equitable allocation of health spending, to deliver cost-effective, essential, affordable, timely and quality health services, improve service coverage, reduce impoverishment from health expenditure and ensure financial risk protection, while noting the role of private sector investment, as appropriate;

75. Strengthen international cooperation and coordination and financial and investment commitments to support efforts to build, strengthen and sustain capacity for pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, including research and development capacity in developing countries, including through enhanced official development assistance and adequate surge financing for future responses, and other means of innovative financing, while recognizing that all people should be able to receive high-quality health care without financial hardship;

76. Leverage existing financing tools, including multilateral development banks, to mobilize additional timely, reliable, flexible, equitable, predictable and sustainable funding for pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, as well as funding for rapid surge financing for responses in the event of a public health emergency of international concern, strengthening financing mechanisms for global health and other relevant sectors, as well as their roles and responsibilities;

### **As a follow-up to the present political declaration, we:**

77. Request the Secretary-General to provide, in consultation with the World Health Organization and other relevant agencies, a report including recommendations on the implementation of the present declaration towards strengthening pandemic prevention, preparedness and response during the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly, which will serve to inform a high-level meeting to be convened in 2026;

78. Decide to convene a high-level meeting on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response in 2026 in New York, aimed at undertaking a comprehensive review of the implementation of the present declaration, the scope and modalities of which shall be decided no later than the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly, taking into consideration and in full coordination with the outcomes of other ongoing related processes to strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness and response.

#### **RESOLUTION 78/4**

Adopted at the 16th plenary meeting, on 5 October 2023, without a vote, on the basis of draft resolution [A/78/L.3](#), submitted by the President of the General Assembly

#### **78/4. Political declaration of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage**

*The General Assembly*

*Adopts* the political declaration of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage, held on 21 September 2023 in accordance with its resolution [75/315](#) of 17 August 2021, as contained in the annex to the present resolution.

#### **Annex**

#### **Political declaration of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage**

#### **Universal health coverage: expanding our ambition for health and well-being in a post-COVID world**

We, Heads of State and Government and representatives of States and Governments, are assembled at the United Nations on 21 September 2023 to undertake a comprehensive review of the implementation of the political declaration of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage, entitled “Universal health coverage: moving together to build a healthier world”, of 2019, and to identify gaps and solutions to accelerate progress towards the achievement of universal health coverage by 2030, with a view to scaling up the global effort to build a healthier world for all, and in this regard we:

1. Reaffirm the right of every human being, without distinction of any kind, to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;
2. Reaffirm and renew our political commitment to accelerate the implementation of the 2019 political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on universal health coverage, which reaffirms that health is a precondition for and an outcome and indicator of the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and continues to inspire our action and enhance our efforts to achieve universal health coverage by 2030, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all;
3. Reaffirm General Assembly resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, stressing the need for a comprehensive and people-centred approach, with a view to leaving no one behind, reaching the furthest behind first, and the importance of health across all the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which are integrated and indivisible;
4. Reaffirm General Assembly resolution [69/313](#) of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which reaffirmed 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;
5. Reaffirm the political declarations adopted at the high-level meetings of the General Assembly on HIV and AIDS, on tackling antimicrobial resistance, on ending tuberculosis, on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, and on improving global road safety as well as General Assembly resolutions on the control and elimination of malaria;
6. Acknowledge the importance of coordination across health-related processes taking place during the seventy-eighth session of the General Assembly, particularly the high-level meetings on universal health coverage,

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tuberculosis and pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, while also looking forward to the convening of the high-level meetings on antimicrobial resistance in 2024 and non-communicable diseases in 2025;

7. Recall World Health Assembly resolution 76.4 of 30 May 2023, entitled “Preparation for the high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on universal health coverage”;

8. Recognize that universal health coverage is fundamental for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals related not only to health and well-being, but also to eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition, ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities, achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and decent work for all, reducing inequalities within and among countries, ensuring just, peaceful and inclusive societies and to building and fostering partnerships, while reaching the goals and targets included throughout the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is critical for the attainment of healthy lives and well-being for all, with a focus on health outcomes throughout the life course;

9. Reaffirm the importance of national ownership and the primary role and responsibility of governments at all levels to determine their own path towards achieving universal health coverage, in accordance with national contexts and priorities, and underscore the importance of political leadership for universal health coverage beyond the health sector in order to pursue whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches, as well as health-in-all-policies approaches, equity-based approaches and life-course approaches;

10. Recognize that health is an investment in human capital and social and economic development, towards the full realization of human potential, and significantly contributes to the promotion and protection of human rights and dignity as well as the empowerment of all people;

11. Recognize that universal health coverage implies that all people have access, without discrimination, to nationally determined sets of the needed promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative essential health services and essential, safe, affordable, effective and quality medicines and vaccines, diagnostics and health technologies, including assistive technologies, while ensuring that the use of these services does not expose the users to financial hardship, with a special emphasis on the poor, vulnerable and marginalized segments of the population;

12. Recognize that health inequities and inequalities within and among countries, as well as social and economic injustices, continue to be pervasive and should be tackled through political commitment, concerted action, global solidarity and international cooperation in order to address social, economic, environmental and other determinants of health, and further recognize that reported averages of global, regional and national progress on universal health coverage may mask inequalities;

13. Recognize the interrelatedness between poverty and other social and economic determinants of health and the realization of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, without financial hardship, and, in particular, the fact that ill health can be both a cause and a consequence of poverty;

14. Recognize the fundamental importance of equity, social justice and social protection mechanisms as well as the elimination of the root causes of discrimination and stigma in health-care settings to ensure universal and equitable access to quality health services without financial hardship for all people, particularly for those who are vulnerable or in vulnerable situations;

15. Recognize the consequence of the adverse impact of climate change, natural disasters, extreme weather events as well as other environmental determinants of health, such as clean air, safe drinking water, sanitation, safe, sufficient and nutritious food and secure shelter, for health and in this regard underscore the need to foster health in climate change adaptation efforts, underlining that resilient and people-centred health systems are necessary to protect the health of all people, in particular those who are vulnerable or in vulnerable situations, particularly those living in small island developing States;

16. Recognize that food security and food safety, adequate nutrition and sustainable, resilient and diverse nutrition-sensitive food systems promote healthier populations and are important elements to address malnutrition in all its forms, while reaffirming that health, water and sanitation systems must be strengthened simultaneously to end malnutrition;

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17. Recognize the importance of the prevention, treatment and control of non-communicable diseases and the promotion of mental health and well-being in contributing to a better quality of life, and the importance of addressing risk factors through promoting healthy diets and lifestyles, including regular physical activity, to prevent and reduce overweight and obesity;

18. Express deep concern that the level of progress and investment to date remain insufficient to meet target 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and that at the current pace of progress towards universal health coverage up to one third of the world's population will remain underserved by 2030, and in this regard note with regret that:

(a) The expansion of service coverage has slowed compared to pre-2015 gains, with minimal or no progress made since 2019;

(b) Trends in financial protection are worsening, with the incidence of catastrophic out-of-pocket spending on health having increased from 12.6 per cent in 2015 to 13.5 per cent in 2019 and 4.4 per cent of the global population in 2019 were pushed or further pushed into extreme poverty due to out-of-pocket payments for health;

(c) There is a global shortfall of 523 million people in achieving the commitment made in the political declaration of 2019 to progressively provide 1 billion additional people by 2023 with quality essential health services and quality, safe, effective, affordable and essential medicines, vaccines, diagnostics and health technologies;

19. Acknowledge that despite major health gains over the past decades, there has not been enough progress in implementing measures to address the health needs of all, in part due to the disruption of essential health services during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, noting that:

(a) Non-communicable diseases, including cardiovascular diseases, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes, are collectively responsible for 74 per cent of all deaths worldwide, with 86 per cent of the 17 million people who died prematurely, or before reaching 70 years of age, occurring in low- and middle-income countries, and cancer accounting for approximately 10 million deaths globally in 2020;

(b) More than 1 billion people live with a mental health disorder and those with severe mental health conditions die on average 10 to 20 years earlier than the general population, with suicide accounting for more than 1 in 100 deaths annually, numbering approximately 703,000 deaths annually;

(c) Harmful use of alcohol and substance abuse contribute to 3 million deaths a year, and more than 8.7 million deaths a year are linked to tobacco use, with 80 per cent of 1.3 billion tobacco users globally living in low- and middle-income countries;

(d) Globally, at least 2.2 billion people have a near or distance vision impairment, at least 1 billion of which could have been prevented or have yet to be addressed, with 90 per cent of those with unaddressed vision impairment or blindness living in low- and middle-income countries;

(e) Progress on communicable diseases remains off track, with an estimated 1.3 million new HIV infections in 2022; an estimated 1.6 million deaths from tuberculosis and a rise in the tuberculosis incidence rate by 3.6 per cent between 2020 and 2021; 247 million malaria cases globally; 1.65 billion people still requiring treatment and care for neglected tropical diseases; and viral hepatitis among the leading causes of mortality worldwide with 3 million new hepatitis infections and over 1.1 million deaths from hepatitis-related illnesses every year;

(f) Progress in reducing maternal mortality has stagnated in recent years, with almost 800 maternal deaths every day from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth, a global maternal mortality ratio of 223 per 100,000 live births, and almost 95 per cent of these deaths occurring in low and lower-middle-income countries;

(g) Five million children, almost half of whom were newborns, died before reaching their fifth birthday in 2021, mostly due to preventable or treatable causes, with around 45 per cent linked to undernutrition;

(h) 25 million children under the age of 5 years missed out on routine immunization in 2021, a 5 per cent decline from 2019 and the largest sustained decline in childhood vaccinations in approximately 30 years;

(i) There are nearly 1.3 million preventable deaths and an estimated 50 million injuries each year as a result of road traffic crashes;

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(j) Annually, approximately 4.95 million deaths are associated with bacterial antimicrobial resistance and 1.27 million deaths are directly caused by bacterial antimicrobial resistance, with one in five of these deaths occurring in children under the age of 5, often from previously treatable infections;

(k) Almost 2 million people continue to die every year from preventable occupational diseases and injuries;

(l) Every year, environmental factors contribute to around 13 million deaths, with ambient and indoor air pollution causing at least 7 million preventable deaths, in which ambient air pollution in both cities and rural areas was estimated to have caused 4.2 million premature deaths worldwide in 2019;

(m) Globally, an estimated 2.4 billion people are currently living with a health condition that may benefit from rehabilitation and that rehabilitation needs are largely unmet globally and that in many countries more than 50 per cent of people do not receive the rehabilitation services they require;

20. Recognize the increasing gap between life expectancy and healthy life expectancy for older persons and note that despite the progress achieved at the global level, many health systems continue to be inadequately prepared to identify and respond to the growing needs of the rapidly ageing population, including the increased prevalence of non-communicable diseases;

21. Express concern that over 1.5 million people aged 10–24 years died in 2021, with the leading causes of death from injuries, including road traffic injuries, drowning, interpersonal violence, self-harm, and maternal conditions such as complications from pregnancy and childbirth, and recognize that comprehensive action to ensure their physical, mental and social well-being is needed;

22. Express concern that persons with disabilities often experience health inequities, including due to lack of knowledge, negative attitudes and discriminatory practices within the health workforce, with many likely to die 20 years earlier than those without disabilities, and experience higher health costs and gaps in service availability, including for primary care, long-term care, assistive technologies and specialized services;

23. Recognize that migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons often face barriers that limit their access to essential health services, including high costs, language and cultural differences, discrimination, administrative hurdles, and in this regard note the need to accelerate efforts, at all levels, to integrate public health considerations into migration policies and incorporate the health needs of migrants in national and local health-care services, policies and plans in ways which are transparent, equitable, non-discriminatory, people-centred, race- and gender-responsive, disability-inclusive and child-sensitive, and which leave no one behind;

24. Note with concern that Indigenous Peoples often experience disproportionately poorer health outcomes and may face considerable barriers to accessing primary health care and essential health services;

25. Express concern that the unmet health-care needs, in particular among poor households that cannot afford the cost of health services, can result in increased morbidity and mortality due to lack of or delayed access;

26. Note that the high prices of some health products, and inequitable access to such products within and among countries, as well as financial hardships associated with high prices of health products, continue to impede progress towards achieving universal health coverage;

27. Note with deep concern that the COVID-19 pandemic severely disrupted the provision of essential health services in countries, with 92 per cent of countries reporting disruptions during the height of the pandemic resulting in millions of excess deaths globally, and has reinforced and created new obstacles to the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, increased extreme poverty, widened inequalities and had a disproportionate impact on people in vulnerable situations;

28. Note with serious concern the severe shortcomings the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed at the national, regional and global levels in preparedness for, timely and effective prevention and detection of, and response to potential health emergencies, including in the capacity and resilience of health systems, and express regret for the severe impact of the pandemic, while recognizing the link between pandemic prevention, preparedness and response and universal health coverage;

29. Express deep concern about the uneven access of developing countries, particularly African countries, to safe, quality, efficacious, effective, accessible and affordable vaccines against COVID-19, and emphasize the need to enhance the capacities of developing countries to achieve universal health coverage and have equitable access to

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vaccines and health technologies and means to respond to and recover from the COVID-19 and other pandemics, as well as reaffirming the need to strengthen the support for national, regional and multilateral initiatives that aim to accelerate the development and production of and equitable access to COVID-19 diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines, and take note of the Declaration on the Right to Development;

30. Recognize the fundamental role of primary health care in achieving universal health coverage and other Sustainable Development Goals and targets, as was declared in the Declaration of Alma-Ata and the Declaration of Astana, and further recognize that primary health care, including community-based primary health care, brings people into first contact with the health system and is the most inclusive, effective and efficient approach to enhance people's physical and mental health, as well as social well-being, noting that primary health care and health services should be high-quality, safe, comprehensive, integrated, accessible, available and affordable for everyone and everywhere, including those who live in remote geographical regions or in areas difficult to access, noting the work of the World Health Organization on the operational framework for primary health care;

31. Note that 90 per cent of essential interventions for universal health coverage can be delivered using a primary health-care approach, including at the local community levels, and that an estimated 75 per cent of the projected health gains from the Sustainable Development Goals could be achieved through primary health care, including saving over 60 million lives and increasing average life expectancy by 3.7 years by 2030;

32. Recognize the importance of community-based health services as a critical component of primary health care and as a means of ensuring universal and equitable access to health for all which can be instrumental in achieving universal health coverage, particularly when delivered in low-resource areas;

33. Recognize also that primary health care can contribute to raising health literacy and public awareness and to addressing health-related misinformation, disinformation and hate narratives, including during public health emergencies, and in preventing, preparing for and responding to infectious disease outbreaks and, in this regard, acknowledge the potential role of community-led initiatives and community engagement in building trust in health systems;

34. Recognize the importance of water, sanitation, hygiene, waste management and electricity services in health-care facilities for health promotion, disease prevention and the safety of both patients and health workers, and therefore express serious concern that 22 per cent of health-care facilities lack basic water services, half lack basic hand hygiene facilities at point of care and at toilets, 10 per cent have no sanitation service, one in four facilities does not practice waste segregation, and that close to 1 billion people in low- and lower-middle income countries are served by health-care facilities with unreliable or no electricity supply;

35. Note the negative effects on health caused by the overall lack of access to safe water, hygiene and sanitation services, including for menstrual health and hygiene management and maternal health services, which contribute to the empowerment of women and girls and the enjoyment of their human rights;

36. Recognize that there are significant gaps in the financing of health systems across the world, particularly in the allocation of public and external funds on health, and that such financing can be more efficient, considering that:

(a) On average, in low- and middle-income countries more than one third of national health expenditure is covered by out-of-pocket expenses, leading to high levels of financial hardship, and government spending accounts for less than 40 per cent of funding for primary health care;

(b) External funding represents just 0.2 per cent of global health expenditure but plays an important role in health spending in developing countries, accounting for about 30 per cent of national health expenditure on average in low-income countries;

(c) An estimated 20 to 40 per cent of health resources are being wasted through inefficiencies, which significantly affects the ability of health systems to deliver quality services and improve public health;

37. Recognize that fighting corruption at all levels and in all its forms is a priority and that corruption is a serious barrier to effective resource mobilization and allocation and diverts resources away from activities that are vital for poverty eradication and sustainable development, which may undermine efforts to achieve universal health coverage;



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38. Express deep concern at the continued global shortfall of health workers and the projected global shortfall of more than 10 million health workers by 2030, primarily in low- and middle-income countries, while noting that regions with the highest burden of disease continue to have the lowest health workforce densities to deliver essential health services, and that disparities at national level persist between rural, remote and hard-to-reach areas compared to urban areas, and further note that health worker migration accelerated during the COVID-19 pandemic with approximately 15 per cent of health workers working outside their country of birth or first professional certification, recognizing the need to strengthen the World Health Organization Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel;

39. Recognize the need to invest in training, developing, recruiting and retaining a skilled health workforce, as fundamental to strong and resilient health systems, while stressing the need to improve working conditions and management of the health workforce to ensure the safety of health workers, inter alia from all forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, and harassment in the workplace and the lack of adequate infection controls and protections, as well as stress, burnout and other impacts on mental health;

40. Further recognize that globally, women comprise approximately 70 per cent of the health workforce, and in some health professions more than 90 per cent, face a 24 per cent pay gap compared to men across the health and care sector, and continue to face significant barriers in accessing leadership and decision-making roles, occupying just an estimated 25 per cent of leadership roles;

41. Recognize that a coherent approach to strengthen the global health architecture as well as health system resilience and universal health coverage are central for effective and sustainable prevention, preparedness and response to pandemics and other public health emergencies, and recognize also the value of a One Health approach that fosters cooperation between the human health, animal health and plant health, as well as environmental and other relevant sectors and that strengthening early warning and response systems contributes to health system resilience;

42. Note that the increasing number of complex emergencies is hindering the achievement of universal health coverage and that coherent and inclusive approaches to safeguard universal health coverage in emergencies are essential, including through international cooperation, ensuring the continuum and provision of essential health services and public health functions, in line with humanitarian principles;

43. Recognize that humanitarian emergencies have a devastating impact on health systems, leaving people, especially people in vulnerable situations, without full access to health-care services and exposing them to preventable diseases and other health risks;

44. Recognize the role of Governments to strengthen legislative and regulatory frameworks and institutions to support equitable access to quality service delivery for the achievement of universal health coverage, including through engagement with their respective communities and stakeholders;

45. Recognize that people's engagement, particularly of women and girls, families and communities, and the inclusion of all relevant stakeholders are core components of health system governance that empower all people in improving and protecting their own health, giving due regard to addressing and managing conflicts of interest and undue influence, contributing to the achievement of universal health coverage for all, with a focus on health outcomes.

We commit to scale up our efforts and further implement the political declaration of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage of 2019 and to achieve the health-related Sustainable Development Goals and targets through the following actions:

46. Strengthen national efforts, international cooperation and global solidarity at the highest political level to accelerate the achievement of universal health coverage by 2030, with primary health care as a cornerstone, to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all throughout the life course, and in this regard re-emphasize our resolve:

(a) To progressively address the global shortfall of 523 million people without access to quality essential health services and safe, effective, quality, affordable essential medicines, vaccines, diagnostics and health technologies, in order to provide coverage for 1 billion additional people by 2025, with a view to covering all people by 2030;

(b) To reverse the trend of rising catastrophic out-of-pocket health expenditure by providing measures to ensure financial risk protection and eliminate impoverishment due to health-related expenses by 2030, with special emphasis on the poor as well as those who are vulnerable or in vulnerable situations;

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47. Increase and sustain political leadership at the national level for the achievement of universal health coverage by strengthening legislative and regulatory frameworks, promoting policy coherence and ensuring sustainable and adequate financing to implement high-impact policies to protect and promote people's health, including by providing financial risk protection, and comprehensively addressing social, economic, environmental and other determinants of health by working across all sectors through health-in-all-policies approach, and by engaging stakeholders in an appropriate, coordinated, comprehensive and integrated, whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, and to promote social participation;

48. Ensure that no one is left behind, with an endeavour to reach the furthest behind first, and address the physical and mental health needs of all, while respecting and promoting human rights and the dignity of the person and the principles of equality and non-discrimination, as well as empowering those who are vulnerable or in vulnerable situations, including women, children, youth, persons with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS, older persons, people of African descent, Indigenous Peoples, refugees, internally displaced persons and migrants, and those living in poverty and extreme poverty in both urban and rural areas, people living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing;

49. Strengthen national health plans and policies based on a primary health-care approach to support the provision of a comprehensive, evidence-based, nationally determined and costed package of health services with financial protection for all, to promote and enable access to the full range of integrated, quality, safe, effective, affordable and essential health services, medicines, vaccines, diagnostics and health technologies needed for health and well-being throughout the life course;

50. Strengthen referral systems between primary and other levels of care to ensure their effectiveness;

51. Implement the most effective, high-impact, quality-assured, people-centred, gender-, race- and age-responsive and disability-inclusive and evidence-based interventions to meet the health needs of all throughout the life course, and in particular those who are vulnerable or in vulnerable situations, ensuring universal access to nationally determined sets of integrated quality health services at all levels of care for promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative care in a timely manner;

52. Continue to explore ways to integrate, as appropriate, safe and evidence-based traditional and complementary medicine services within national and local health systems, particularly at the level of primary health care, according to national context and priorities, while ensuring safety and quality of care, and in this regard recognize the important role and capacities of the World Health Organization and other relevant actors to support Member States with relevant evidence-based guidance;

53. Scale up efforts to build and strengthen quality, people-centred, sustainable and resilient health systems and enhance their performance by improving patient safety built on a foundation of strong primary health care and coherent national, regional and local policies and strategies for quality and safe health services, noting that universal health coverage can only be achieved if the services and medical products are safe, effective and affordable and are delivered in a timely, equitable, efficient and integrated manner;

54. Ensure safety is a key priority for the health and well-being of all patients and health workers, and in this regard, note the importance of clean water, sanitation and hygiene in all health-care facilities, inter alia for menstrual health and hygiene management, as well as infection prevention and control strategies, including for health care-associated infections and for reducing antimicrobial resistance;

55. Strengthen efforts to address the specific physical and mental health needs of all people as part of universal health coverage, building on commitments made in 2019, by advancing comprehensive approaches and integrated service delivery and striving to ensure that challenges are addressed and the achievements are sustained and expanded, including for:

(a) HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections, tuberculosis, malaria, polio, hepatitis, neglected tropical diseases including dengue, cholera, and other emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases;

(b) Non-communicable diseases, including cardiovascular diseases, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases, diabetes, mental health conditions and psychosocial disabilities, and neurological conditions, including dementia;

(c) Eye health conditions, hearing loss, musculoskeletal conditions, oral health, and rare diseases;

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(d) Injuries and deaths, including those related to road traffic accidents and drowning, through preventive measures and strengthening an integrated emergency, critical and operative care system;

56. Improve routine immunization and vaccination capacities, especially for children, including by providing evidence-based, scientific and data-driven information to counter vaccine hesitancy, as well as to foster trust in public health authorities, including through Risk Communication and Community Engagement, and expand affordable vaccine coverage to prevent outbreaks as well as the incidence and re-emergence of communicable and non-communicable diseases, including for vaccine-preventable diseases already eliminated as well as for ongoing eradication efforts, such as for poliomyelitis, noting the Immunization Agenda 2030, which envisions a world where everyone, everywhere, at every age, fully benefits from vaccines for good health and well-being;

57. Strengthen multisectoral action to promote active and healthy lifestyles, including physical activity, ensure a world free from hunger and malnutrition in all its forms, and promote access to safe drinking water and sanitation and hygiene services and safe, sufficient and nutritious food and adequate, diversified, balanced and healthy diets throughout the life course, with special emphasis on the nutrition needs of pregnant and lactating women, women of reproductive age and adolescent girls, and of infants and young children, especially during the first 1,000 days, including, as appropriate, through exclusive breastfeeding during the first six months, with continued breastfeeding to 2 years of age or beyond, with appropriate complementary feeding, to combat malnutrition, micronutrient deficiencies and anaemia;

58. Scale up efforts in primary and specialized health services for the prevention, screening, treatment and control of non-communicable diseases and promotion of mental health and well-being throughout the life course, including access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines, vaccines, diagnostics and health technologies, and palliative care, and understandable, high-quality, accessible and patient-friendly information on their use as part of the health promotion policies;

59. Scale up measures to promote and improve mental health and well-being as an essential component of universal health coverage, including by addressing the determinants that influence mental health, brain health, neurological conditions, substance abuse and suicide, and by developing comprehensive and integrated services to promote mental health and well-being, while fully respecting human rights, noting that these conditions are an important cause of morbidity and have comorbidities with communicable and other non-communicable diseases and contribute to the global burden of disease;

60. Scale up efforts to develop, implement and evaluate policies and programmes that promote healthy and active ageing, maintain and improve quality of life of older persons and to identify and respond to the growing needs of the rapidly ageing population, especially the need for continuum of care, including promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative care as well as specialized care and the sustainable provision of long-term care, including home and community care services, and access to assistive technologies, taking note of the proclamation of the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021–2030), reaffirming the importance of extending universal health coverage to all older persons;

61. Mainstream a gender perspective on a systems-wide basis when designing, implementing and monitoring health policies, taking into account the human rights and specific needs of all women and girls, with a view to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and ensuring women's effective participation and leadership in health policies and health systems delivery;

62. Ensure, by 2030, universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes, and ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences;

63. Take measures to significantly reduce maternal, perinatal, neonatal, infant and child mortality and morbidity and increase access to quality health-care services for newborns, infants and children, as well as all women before, during and after pregnancy and childbirth, including through providing antenatal and postnatal care, sufficient numbers of skilled birth attendants and adequately supplied birthing facilities;

64. Ensure availability of and access to health services for all persons with disabilities, to enable their full participation in society and achievement of their life goals, including by removing physical, attitudinal, social, structural and financial barriers, and providing quality standards of care as well as scaling up efforts for their

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empowerment, participation and inclusion, noting that persons with disabilities, who represent 16 per cent of the global population, continue to experience unmet health needs;

65. Address the particular needs and vulnerabilities of migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons, which may include assistance, health care and psychological and other counselling services, in accordance with relevant international commitments, as applicable, and in line with national contexts and priorities;

66. Address the physical and mental health needs of Indigenous Peoples, with full consideration to their social, cultural and geographic realities, providing access, without discrimination, to nationally determined sets of the needed promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative essential health services and strengthening access to immunization for Indigenous Peoples;

67. Scale up efforts to promote healthier and safer workplaces and decent working conditions free from all forms of discrimination, harassment and violence, and improve access to occupational health services;

68. Ensure a safe transport system for all road users, based on safe roads and roadsides, safe speeds, safe vehicles and safe road users, including by implementing a Safe System approach;

69. Promote equitable distribution of and increased access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines, including generics, as well as vaccines, diagnostics and other health technologies, to ensure affordable quality health services and their timely delivery;

70. Provide greater access to essential health services, products and vaccines, while also fostering awareness about the risks of substandard and falsified medical products, and assuring the quality and safety of services, products and practice of health workers as well as financial risk protection;

71. Promote increased access to affordable, safe, effective and quality medicines, including generics, vaccines, diagnostics and health technologies, reaffirming the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) as amended, and also reaffirming the 2001 World Trade Organization Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which recognizes that intellectual property rights should be interpreted and implemented in a manner supportive of the right of Member States to protect public health and, in particular, to promote access to medicines for all, and notes the need for appropriate incentives in the development of new health products;

72. Reaffirm the right to use, to the fullest extent, the provisions contained in the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement), which provides flexibilities for the protection of public health and promotes access to medicines for all, in particular for developing countries, and the World Trade Organization Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which recognizes that intellectual property protection is important for the development of new medicines and also recognizes the concerns about its effects on prices, while noting the discussions in the World Trade Organization and other relevant international forums, including on innovative options to enhance the global effort towards the production and timely and equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other health technologies, including through local production, and note the outcome of the twelfth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, including the ministerial decision on the TRIPS Agreement and the ministerial declaration on the World Trade Organization response to the COVID-19 pandemic and preparedness for future pandemics, while noting discussions in the World Trade Organization on a possible extension of the decision to cover the production and supply of COVID-19 diagnostics and therapeutics;

73. Explore, encourage and promote a range of innovative incentives and financing mechanisms for health research and development, including a stronger and transparent partnership between the public and the private sectors as well as academia and the scientific community, acknowledging the important role played by the private sector in research and development of innovative medicines, while recognizing the need for increasing public health-driven research and development that is needs-driven and evidence-based, guided by the core principles of safety, availability, affordability, effectiveness, efficiency, equity and accessibility, and considered as a shared responsibility, as well as appropriate incentives in the development of new health products and technologies;

74. Promote the transfer of technology and know-how and encourage research, innovation and commitments to voluntary licensing, where possible, in agreements where public funding has been invested in research and development for pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, to strengthen local and regional capacities for the manufacturing, regulation and procurement of needed tools for equitable and effective access to vaccines,

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therapeutics, diagnostics and essential supplies, as well as for clinical trials, and to increase global supply through facilitating transfer of technology within the framework of relevant multilateral agreements;

75. Improve availability, affordability and efficiency of health products by increasing transparency of prices of medicines, vaccines, medical devices, diagnostics, assistive products, cell- and gene-based therapies and other health technologies across the value chain, including through improved regulations and building constructive engagement and a stronger partnership with relevant stakeholders, including industries, the private sector and civil society, in accordance with national and regional legal frameworks and contexts, to address the global concern about the high prices of some health products and in this regard encourage the World Health Organization to continue its efforts to biennially convene the Fair Pricing Forum with Member States and all relevant stakeholders to discuss the affordability and transparency of prices and costs relating to health products;

76. Recognize the important role played by the private sector in research and development of innovative medicines and continue to support voluntary initiatives and incentive mechanisms that separate the cost of investment in research and development from the price and volume of sales, facilitate equitable and affordable access to new tools and other results to be gained through research and development;

77. Recognize the need to support developing countries to build expertise and strengthen local and regional production of vaccines, medicines, diagnostics and other health technologies in order to facilitate equitable access, recognizing that the high prices of some health products and the inequitable access to such products impede progress towards achieving universal health coverage, particularly for developing countries;

78. Ensure that digital health interventions complement and enhance health system functions through mechanisms such as accelerating exchange of information, recognize that digital health interventions are not a substitute for functioning health systems, that there are significant limitations to what digital health is able to address, and that it can never replace the fundamental components needed by health systems such as health workforce, financing, leadership and governance, and access to essential medicines, and in this regard acknowledge the pressing need to address the major impediments that developing countries face in accessing and developing digital technologies, and highlight the importance of financing and capacity-building;

79. Promote policies, laws and regulations to build and strengthen an interoperable and effective digital health system, taking into account the World Health Organization global strategy on digital health 2020–2025, while addressing the digital divides, to accelerate progress towards universal health coverage, including the safe, accessible, equitable and affordable use of digital health technologies and information and communications technologies, such as mobile technology, including for people living in underserved, rural and remote areas or in areas difficult to access, acknowledging the role of digital health tools in promoting public health information and health literacy, as well as empowering patients by strengthening patient involvement in clinical decision-making with a focus on health professional-patient communication and by enabling them to access their electronic health data and facilitating continuity of care;

80. Invest in and encourage ethical and public health-driven use of relevant evidence-based and user-friendly technologies, including digital technologies, and innovations to improve the cost-effectiveness of health systems and efficiency in the provision and delivery of quality care, recognizing the need to protect data and privacy;

81. Strengthen capacity on health intervention and technology assessment, disaggregated data collection, analysis and use, while respecting patient privacy and safeguarding provider-patient confidentiality, as well as promoting data protection, to achieve evidence-based decisions at all levels on universal health coverage, and to build and strengthen interoperable and integrated health information systems for the management of health systems and public health surveillance;

82. Address the negative impact of misinformation and disinformation on public health measures and people's physical and mental health, including on social media platforms, and foster trust in health systems and vaccine confidence, particularly by promoting access to timely and accurate information;

83. Continue to pursue policies towards adequate, sustainable, effective and efficient health financing and investments in universal health coverage and health systems strengthening through close collaboration among relevant authorities, including finance and health authorities, to respond to unmet health needs and to eliminate financial barriers to access to quality, safe, effective, affordable and essential health services, medicines, vaccines, diagnostics and other health technologies, reduce out-of-pocket expenditures which lead to financial hardship and

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ensure financial risk protection for all throughout the life course, especially for the poor and those in vulnerable situations;

84. Expand quality essential health services, strengthen health systems and mobilize resources in health and other health-related Sustainable Development Goals in developing countries;

85. Scale up efforts to ensure nationally appropriate spending targets for quality investments in public health, consistent with national sustainable development strategies, in accordance with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and transition towards sustainable financing through domestic public resource mobilization;

86. Prioritize and optimize budgetary allocations on health through investing in primary health care and ensure adequate financial resources for a nationally determined package of health services for universal health coverage, in accordance with national contexts and priorities, while recalling the recommended target of an additional 1 per cent of gross domestic product or more for primary health care and noting that higher government spending is associated with lower reliance on out-of-pocket expenditures and lower prevalence of catastrophic health spending;

87. Mobilize domestic public resources as a major source of financing for universal health coverage, through political leadership, consistent with national capacities, and expand pooling of resources allocated to health, promote better allocation and use of resources, improve health systems efficiency, address the environmental, social and economic determinants of health, consider new ways to progressively raise public sources of revenue, improve the efficiency of public financial management, accountability and transparency, and prioritize coverage of the poor and people in vulnerable situations, while noting the role of and the risks associated with private sector investment, as appropriate;

88. Recognize that health financing requires global solidarity and collective effort and urge Member States to strengthen international cooperation to support efforts to build and strengthen capacity in developing countries, including through enhanced official development assistance and financial and technical support and support to research, development and innovation programmes;

89. Provide adequate, predictable, evidence-based and sustainable external finances, while improving their effectiveness, to support national efforts in achieving universal health coverage, in accordance with national contexts and priorities, through bilateral, regional and multilateral channels, including international cooperation, financial and technical assistance, debt financing as appropriate, considering the use of traditional and innovative financing mechanisms such as, inter alia, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, the Global Financing Facility for Women, Children and Adolescents and the United Nations trust fund for human security, within their respective mandates, as well as partnerships with the private sector and other relevant stakeholders, including public-private partnerships, while recognizing the need to make global health partnerships more efficient, effective and resilient;

90. Promote and implement policy, legislative, regulatory and fiscal measures, as appropriate, to prioritize health promotion, health literacy and disease prevention at all levels, aiming at minimizing the exposure to main risk factors of non-communicable diseases, and promote healthy diets and lifestyles, as well as physical activity, consistent with national policies, noting that price and tax measures can be an effective means to reduce consumption and related health costs and represent a potential revenue stream for financing for development in many countries, recognizing that investing in prevention is often more cost-effective when compared to the cost of treatment and care;

91. Accelerate action to address the global shortfall of health workers and encourage the development of nationally costed health workforce plans in accordance with the Global Strategy on Human Resources for Health: Workforce 2030 by investing in education, employment and retention, strengthening the institutional capacity for health workforce governance, leadership, data and planning, addressing causes of health worker migration as well as departure from the health workforce and protecting and supporting all health workers from all forms of discrimination, harassment, violence and attacks, and to promote a decent and safe working environment and conditions at all times as well as ensure their physical and mental health;

92. Continue to scale up efforts and strengthen cooperation to promote the training, development, recruitment and retention of a competent, skilled and motivated health workforce, including community health workers and mental health professionals, guided by target 3.c of the 2030 Agenda as well as develop, improve and make available evidence-based training that is sensitive to different cultures and the specific health needs of women, children, older persons, Indigenous Peoples, people of African descent and persons with disabilities;

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93. Encourage incentives to secure the equitable distribution of qualified health workers, including community health workers, especially in rural, hard-to-reach and underserved areas and in fields with high demands for services, including by providing decent and safe working environment and conditions with due regard to their physical and mental health and appropriate remuneration for health workers working in these areas, including equal pay for work of equal value, consistent with the World Health Organization Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel, being mindful of the needs of countries facing the most severe health workforce shortages;

94. Ensure that bilateral labour agreements entail proportional benefit for both countries of origin and destination and protect migrant health workers, noting with concern that highly trained and skilled health personnel from developing countries continue to emigrate at an increasing rate, which weakens health systems in the countries of origin, noting that health personnel may seek employment in a country of their choice;

95. Provide better opportunities and decent work for women to ensure their role and leadership in the health sector, with a view to increasing the meaningful representation, engagement, participation and empowerment of all women in the workforce at all levels, including in decision-making positions, and take measures towards fair employment practices and eliminating biases against women, and address inequalities, including the gender pay gap, by appropriately remunerating health workers and care workers in the health sector, including community health workers;

96. Strengthen the resilience of health systems by ensuring that primary health care, referral systems, and essential public health functions, including prevention, early detection and control of diseases, are among the core components of prevention of and preparedness for health emergencies, in order to respond to such emergencies while maintaining the provision of and access to essential health services and medicines, especially routine immunization, as well as mental health support, or to quickly reinstate them after disruption and commit to strengthening public health systems across all countries, including to implement the International Health Regulations (2005), while recognizing that many countries still lack necessary public health infrastructure;

97. Enhance emergency health preparedness and response systems, as well as strengthen capacities and resilience of health systems at national, regional and international levels, including to mitigate the impacts of climate change and natural disasters on health, while stressing the need to enhance coordination, coherence and integration between disaster and health risk management systems, including at the local levels;

98. Enhance cooperation at the local, national, regional and global levels through a One Health approach, including through health system strengthening, capacity-building, including for research and regulatory capacity, and technical support and ensure equitable access to affordable, safe, effective and quality existing and new antimicrobial medicines, vaccines and diagnostics as well as effective and integrated stewardship and surveillance to improve the prevention, monitoring, detection and control of zoonotic diseases and pathogens, threats to health and ecosystems, the emergence and spread of antimicrobial resistance, and future health emergencies, by fostering cooperation and a coordinated approach between human health, animal health and plant health, as well as environmental and other relevant sectors, and urge Member States to adopt an all-hazard, multisectoral and coordinated approach to prevention, preparedness and response for health emergencies, and encourage the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Organization for Animal Health and the United Nations Environment Programme to build on and strengthen their existing cooperation;

99. In accordance with international humanitarian law, respect and protect, in situations of armed conflict, medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, and hospitals and other medical facilities, which must not be unlawfully attacked, and ensure that the wounded and sick receive, to the fullest extent practicable and with the least possible delay, the medical care and attention required;

100. Set measurable national targets and strengthen national monitoring and evaluation platforms, as appropriate, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to support regular tracking of the progress made for the achievement of universal health coverage by 2030;

101. Continue to strengthen health information systems and collect quality, timely and reliable data, including vital statistics, disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographical location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts as required to monitor progress and identify gaps in the universal and inclusive achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 3 and all other health-related Sustainable Development

Goals, while protecting the privacy of data that could be linked to individuals, and to ensure that the statistics used in the monitoring progress can capture the actual progress made on the ground, including on unmet health needs, for the achievement of universal health coverage, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

102. Promote strong global partnerships with all relevant stakeholders to collaboratively support the efforts of Member States, as appropriate, to achieve universal health coverage and other health-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals, including through technical support, capacity-building and strengthening advocacy, building on existing health-related initiatives and global networks such as the Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-being for All and UHC2030, which launched the UHC Action Agenda in March 2023, as well as promote global awareness and action on universal health coverage through the commemoration of International Universal Health Coverage Day on 12 December of every year, including by convening multi-stakeholders to support the review of progress and setting milestones for the progressive achievement of universal health coverage at the national level, as appropriate;

103. Strengthen the capacity of national government authorities to exercise strategic leadership and coordination role, focusing on intersectoral interventions, as well as strengthen the capacity of local authorities, and encourage them to engage with their respective communities and stakeholders;

104. Promote participatory, inclusive approaches to health governance for universal health coverage, including by exploring modalities for enhancing a meaningful whole-of-society approach and social participation, involving all relevant stakeholders, including local communities, health workers and care workers in the health sector, volunteers, civil society organizations and youth in the design, implementation and review of universal health coverage, to systematically inform decisions that affect public health, so that policies, programmes and plans better respond to individual and community health needs, while fostering trust in health systems;

105. Leverage the full potential of the multilateral system, in collaboration with Member States upon their request, and call upon the relevant entities of the United Nations development system, within their respective mandates, recognizing the key role of the World Health Organization as the directing and coordinating authority on international health work in accordance with its Constitution, and the United Nations country teams, under the leadership of the reinvigorated resident coordinators, within their respective mandates, as well as other relevant global development and health actors, including civil society, the private sector and academia, to assist and support countries, in their efforts to achieve universal health coverage at the national level, in accordance with their respective national contexts, priorities and competences;

106. Invite relevant United Nations entities, especially the World Health Organization, to continue to provide, in a timely manner, quality and effectively disseminated normative guidance and technical support to Member States, upon their request, in order to build capacity, strengthen health systems and promote financial sustainability, training, recruitment, development and retention of human resources for health, and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, with a particular focus on developing countries;

107. Request the Secretary-General to continue engaging with Member States to sustain and further strengthen the political momentum on universal health coverage and, in close collaboration with relevant United Nations agencies and other stakeholders, including regional organizations, to strengthen existing initiatives that are led and coordinated by the World Health Organization to provide assistance to Member States, upon their request, towards the achievement of universal health coverage and all health-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals.

**As a follow-up to the present political declaration, we:**

108. Request the Secretary-General to provide, in consultation with the World Health Organization and other relevant agencies, a progress report during the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly, and a report including recommendations on the implementation of the present declaration towards achieving universal health coverage during the eighty-first session of the General Assembly, which will serve to inform the high-level meeting to be convened in 2027;

109. Decide to convene a high-level meeting on universal health coverage in 2027 in New York, aimed to undertake a comprehensive review on the implementation of the present declaration to identify gaps and solutions to accelerate progress towards the achievement of universal health coverage by 2030, the scope and modalities of which shall be decided no later than the eightieth session of the General Assembly, taking into consideration the outcomes of other existing health-related processes and the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly.



## RESOLUTION 78/5

Adopted at the 16th plenary meeting, on 5 October 2023, without a vote, on the basis of draft resolution [A/78/L.4](#), submitted by the President of the General Assembly

### **78/5. Political declaration of the high-level meeting on the fight against tuberculosis**

*The General Assembly*

*Adopts* the political declaration of the high-level meeting on the fight against tuberculosis, held on 22 September 2023 in accordance with its resolution [77/274](#) of 24 February 2023, as contained in the annex to the present resolution.

### **Annex**

#### **Political declaration of the high-level meeting on the fight against tuberculosis**

#### **Advancing science, finance and innovation, and their benefits, to urgently end the global tuberculosis epidemic, in particular by ensuring equitable access to prevention, testing, treatment and care**

We, Heads of State and Government and representatives of States and Governments assembled at the United Nations on 22 September 2023 to reaffirm our commitment to end the tuberculosis epidemic by 2030, and review progress achieved in realizing the 2018 political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the fight against tuberculosis,<sup>4</sup> deeply concerned that some of the global targets set at the United Nations high-level meeting might not be reached, alarmed by the adverse impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on access to diagnosis and treatment for people affected by tuberculosis, resulting in increases in illness and deaths, and the persistent crisis of drug-resistant and multidrug-resistant tuberculosis, seize the opportunity that the midterm review of progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development presents to intensify leadership and action for a comprehensive and urgent response against the disease, its determinants and consequences at the national, regional and global levels, in order to scale up investments for the tuberculosis response, research and innovation to reduce the number of people falling ill and dying and incurring catastrophic costs from tuberculosis, including by incorporating lessons learned from the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and achieve the targets agreed in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in the End TB Strategy,<sup>5</sup> and in this regard we:

1. Renew and reaffirm our collective commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>6</sup> including the resolve to end the tuberculosis epidemic by 2030, as outlined in Sustainable Development Goal 3.3, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development<sup>7</sup> and the 2018 political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the fight against tuberculosis;
2. Acknowledge that Millennium Development Goal 6 and associated strategies, plans and programmes for the prevention and care of tuberculosis helped to reverse the trend of the tuberculosis epidemic;
3. Reaffirm the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on antimicrobial resistance,<sup>8</sup> the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on HIV and AIDS,<sup>9</sup> the political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases,<sup>10</sup> and the political declaration of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage;<sup>11</sup>
4. Recall the first World Health Organization Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Tuberculosis in the Sustainable Development Era: A Multisectoral Response, held in Moscow on 16 and 17 November 2017, and its Moscow Declaration to End TB;

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<sup>4</sup> Resolution [73/3](#).

<sup>5</sup> See World Health Organization, document [WHA67/2014/REC/1](#), resolution 67.1.

<sup>6</sup> Resolution [70/1](#).

<sup>7</sup> Resolution [69/313](#), annex.

<sup>8</sup> Resolution [71/3](#).

<sup>9</sup> Resolution [75/284](#).

<sup>10</sup> Resolution [73/2](#)

<sup>11</sup> Resolution [74/2](#).

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5. Reaffirm the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and that the fulfilment of the right to health in the context of tuberculosis is closely linked to the right to enjoy and share the benefits of scientific progress and its applications, and note with concern that access to tuberculosis services and to the benefits of research and innovation such as quality, safe, efficacious and affordable tuberculosis diagnostics and treatment, remains challenging, especially for developing countries;

6. Reaffirm further that health is a precondition for, and an outcome and indicator of the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and that sustainable development can be achieved only in the absence of a high prevalence of debilitating diseases such as tuberculosis, which requires further multifaceted efforts, including to support developing countries, especially those with a high burden of tuberculosis to ensure they are on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, especially in light of the continuing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic;

7. Remain deeply concerned that while it has been 30 years since the World Health Organization declared tuberculosis a global emergency, the global tuberculosis epidemic still is a critical challenge in all regions and affects every country of the world and disproportionately affects developing countries, and that although tuberculosis is preventable and curable, an estimated 10.6 million people fell ill with tuberculosis, of whom 56.5 per cent were men, 32.5 per cent women and 11 per cent children, and approximately 1.6 million people died from the disease in 2021, including approximately 187,000 people with HIV, making tuberculosis one of the leading causes of death worldwide, that 30 high-tuberculosis-burden countries accounted for 87 per cent of those affected, and that one quarter of the world's population is estimated to have been infected with the bacterium that causes the disease and that millions of people ill with tuberculosis are missing out on quality care each year, including on access to affordable diagnostic tests and treatment, especially in developing countries;

8. Recognize that tuberculosis affects populations inequitably and contributes to the cycle of ill health and poverty, that malnutrition and inadequate living conditions contribute to the spread of tuberculosis and its impact upon the community, and that tuberculosis is fundamentally linked to a majority of the leading development challenges addressed by the 2030 Agenda;

9. Recognize that tuberculosis disproportionately affects people in vulnerable situations in all countries, that the epidemic is driven by both health and social and economic determinants, such as poverty, undernutrition, HIV, housing conditions, mental health, diabetes, tobacco use, harmful use of alcohol and other substance abuse, including drug injection, incarceration, history of incarceration and other congregated settings, as well as occupational risks, such as among miners and health-care workers, that people with tuberculosis and their families face financial hardships before, during and after seeking care, and that these determinants and socioeconomic consequences of tuberculosis are exacerbated by or arise through health and humanitarian emergencies, armed conflicts, displacement, climate change and disasters, and therefore affirm that the response to tuberculosis needs to be people-centred, community-based, gender-responsive, with full respect for human rights, and integrated across relevant health and other sectors;

10. Recognize that structural inequity, stigma, racism and discrimination, including against women, inadequate investment in, and inequitable access to tuberculosis prevention, diagnosis, treatment remain key roadblocks to ending the tuberculosis epidemic, that people with tuberculosis may suffer from stigma and all forms of discrimination and that barriers to the enjoyment of human rights need to be addressed through comprehensive political, legal and programmatic actions;

11. Note the multidirectional relationship between tuberculosis, mental health conditions, social and economic determinants, including stigma and discrimination, that can lead to greater morbidity and poorer treatment outcomes, that the prevalence of depression is as high as 45 per cent among individuals with tuberculosis, and that this needs to be addressed through integrated programming;

12. Recognize the profound socioeconomic challenges and financial hardships faced by people affected by tuberculosis, including in obtaining an early diagnosis, in being subject to extremely long treatment regimens, with drugs that could involve severe side effects, as well as in securing integrated support, including from the community, and therefore affirm that all these people require integrated, people-centred prevention, diagnosis, treatment, management of side effects, and care, as well as psychosocial, nutritional and socioeconomic support for successful treatment, including to reduce stigma and discrimination;

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13. Acknowledge that strong and resilient public health systems are an essential pillar of the tuberculosis response, including health workforce capacity-building for public and private sector care, and recognizes that women health workers make up 70 per cent of the global health workforce and 90 per cent of the front-line health workforce, but hold only 25 per cent of senior leadership positions in health, and resolve to address the 24 per cent pay gap compared to men across the health sector, and to provide better opportunities and working environments for women to ensure their role and leadership in the health sector;

14. Also acknowledge that investments in building robust, integrated and resilient health systems, including in tuberculosis prevention, detection and treatment services and research and development infrastructure and community responses can advance universal health coverage and contribute to effective pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, and recognizing the opportunity for further coordination for global health policies that the 2023 health-related General Assembly high-level meetings present;

15. Recognize that tuberculosis can cause infertility, maternal and perinatal mortality, that tuberculosis treatment can reduce obstetric complications, and that addressing this requires universal access to integrated tuberculosis care for women and girls across the life course, in order to obtain the highest standard of health, and that these must not be interrupted in times of emergency;

16. Reaffirm the importance of collaboration and cooperation at the global and regional level, in particular across the health, finance, trade and development sectors, in order to enhance collective actions to end tuberculosis;

17. Commend the progress achieved in saving 74 million lives across all countries between 2000 and 2021 through provision of tuberculosis treatment for people with tuberculosis and antiretroviral therapy for people with HIV co-infected with tuberculosis, and regret that only some progress has been achieved towards targets and commitments agreed in the political declaration of the 2018 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the fight against tuberculosis;

18. Note with concern that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a damaging impact on access to tuberculosis prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care and the burden of tuberculosis disease and that progress made in the years up to 2019 has slowed, stalled or reversed, and global tuberculosis targets are off track, and that the number of people diagnosed with tuberculosis and notified to public health reporting systems fell by 18 per cent from 7.1 million in 2019 to 5.8 million in 2020, followed by a partial recovery to 6.4 million in 2021, and that as a result of these disruptions, the number of people who died from tuberculosis increased in 2020 and 2021 compared to prior years, and the number of people who fell ill from tuberculosis increased in 2021;

19. Express deep concern that in 2021 only 61 per cent of people with tuberculosis, including 38 per cent of children, were diagnosed and treated for tuberculosis, that only 38 per cent of people with tuberculosis were diagnosed with World Health Organization-recommended rapid molecular diagnostics, and, as a result, between 2018 and 2021:

(a) Only 26.3 million people, including 1.9 million children and 649,000 people with drug-resistant tuberculosis, were reported to have been provided with tuberculosis treatment, which translates to 66 per cent of the 40 million target;

(b) And only 12.5 million people, including 10.3 million people living with HIV, 1.6 million children under the age of 5 who are household contacts of people affected by tuberculosis and 0.6 million other household contacts of people affected by tuberculosis, were provided with tuberculosis preventive treatment, which translates to 42 per cent of the 30 million target agreed in the 2018 political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the fight against tuberculosis;

(c) And that close to half of the people diagnosed with tuberculosis and their families experienced financial hardship because of tuberculosis;

20. Welcome the commitment and support for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, through the seventh replenishment held in September 2022, which will help to sustain support for tuberculosis programmes;

21. Recognize the need to mobilize sufficient and sustainable financing for universal access to quality prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care of tuberculosis, from all sources, with the aim of increasing overall global investments for ending tuberculosis, and to align with overall national health financing strategies, including in developing countries, to raise domestic revenues and provide international financial support, including at bilateral,

regional and global levels, towards achieving universal health coverage and social protection strategies, in the lead-up to 2030;

22. Welcome progress in reaching 10.3 million people living with HIV with tuberculosis preventive treatment between 2018 and 2021, surpassing the target of reaching 6 million people between 2018 and 2022 set at the 2018 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the fight against tuberculosis, with a total of 16 million receiving tuberculosis preventive treatment since 2005 when the policy was introduced, which translates to 42 per cent of people living with HIV having benefited from tuberculosis preventive treatment by 2021, although this remains far from reaching the 90 per cent target by 2025, agreed in the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on HIV and AIDS;

23. Note with concern that, although people living with HIV are about 16 times more likely to fall ill from tuberculosis compared to people without HIV and that tuberculosis remains the leading cause of severe illness and death of people living with HIV, almost half of people with HIV-associated tuberculosis are not diagnosed and treated for tuberculosis, and also note that in 2021, testing for HIV among people with tuberculosis increased to 76 per cent compared to 64 per cent in 2018 and that 89 per cent of people living with HIV who were diagnosed with tuberculosis were on antiretroviral treatment in 2021;

24. Acknowledge that ending tuberculosis requires accelerating progress towards universal health coverage, particularly through strong and sustainable primary health care, with multisectoral approaches that address tuberculosis determinants, that engages people affected by tuberculosis and civil society, and reaches people with tuberculosis, or at risk of tuberculosis, with equitable and affordable access to high-quality services, close to their everyday environments, enabling them to fully enjoy the benefits of scientific advances, and free of financial hardship;

25. Acknowledge that drug-resistant tuberculosis is a key component of the global challenge of antimicrobial resistance, and express grave concern that the scope and scale of multidrug-resistant and extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis illness and mortality place an additional burden on health and community systems, especially in low- and middle-income countries, and thereby pose a critical challenge that could reverse the progress made against the disease, against antimicrobial resistance and towards the Sustainable Development Goals, and that there is a profound gap in access to quality diagnosis, treatment and care for those affected, and there is still a low treatment success rate for those who are treated, and therefore acknowledge that it is necessary to ensure global collaboration, sustainable and sufficient political buy-in and financial investment from all sources, strong and resilient health systems, and additional investment in research, development and innovation, recognizing that innovation has the potential to benefit society at large;

26. Express concern that close to half a million people annually develop tuberculosis that is resistant to at least rifampicin, the most effective first-line drug, of whom only one in three accessed treatment in 2021 and of these, 40 per cent had poor health outcomes for reasons including gaps in access to World Health Organization-recommended diagnostic tests and treatment, inefficient service delivery models, medication side-effects, lack of access to treatment support, comprehensive social protection and care and acknowledged lack of attention and care to the needs of tuberculosis survivors for post-treatment follow-up, particularly drug-resistant tuberculosis survivors;

27. Remain deeply concerned that financing for tuberculosis prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care is inadequate, that overall total annual funding was consistently less than half of the 13 billion United States dollars a year target set at the 2018 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the fight against tuberculosis, that domestic funding declined during the COVID-19 pandemic, while acknowledging that investment in care and the prevention of tuberculosis brings some of the largest gains in terms of lives saved and economic benefits from development investments;

28. Stress the importance of domestic and international funding for the tuberculosis response, particularly in high-burden countries, and note that overall international funding has stagnated since 2018, and stressing therefore the importance of adequately replenishing voluntary international financing mechanisms such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Unitaid, other sources of financing, including official development assistance, as well as innovative financing to support comprehensive national tuberculosis strategies as an integral part of costed national health strategies, multilateral efforts and other initiatives, to end tuberculosis;

29. Reaffirm the central role of the World Health Organization as the leading agency on health in providing technical advice, guidance, direction and support on tuberculosis prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care, and urgently support its Global Tuberculosis Programme, to end tuberculosis worldwide;

30. Commend progress achieved so far in tuberculosis research and innovation of new tests, drugs and regimens that informed World Health Organization guidance,<sup>12</sup> including on the use of shorter-duration tuberculosis preventive treatment with less pill burden, shorter-duration regimens for the treatment of drug-susceptible tuberculosis for adults and children, and more effective all-oral shorter-duration regimens for the treatment of drug-resistant tuberculosis, including formulations appropriate for children, and note that although 26 high-tuberculosis-burden countries are using World Health Organization-recommended rapid molecular diagnostic tests and 126 countries have introduced all-oral regimens to treat drug-resistant forms of tuberculosis, supply and access to some drugs central to these regimens is not yet universally available;

31. Recognize that reaching the 2030 global tuberculosis targets requires, inter alia, technological breakthroughs by 2025, so that the annual decline in global tuberculosis incidence can be accelerated to an average of 17 per cent per year, and research and development is critical to achieving that goal;

32. Recall with concern that no new vaccines for prevention of all forms of tuberculosis have been licensed for over 100 years, that safe, effective, affordable, accessible and preventive vaccines for people of all ages which can be administered before or after exposure are essential to accelerate the decline in illness and mortality and reduce antimicrobial resistance, and acknowledge the importance of global collaboration and increased investment to fast-track progress and ensure equitable access and maximal return on public investment in scientific progress;

33. Recall with concern that the utilization of World Health Organization-recommended rapid molecular diagnostics remains far too limited, and that in 2021, only 38 per cent of the 6.4 million people newly diagnosed with tuberculosis were initially tested with World Health Organization-recommended rapid molecular diagnostics, and acknowledging that the limited utilization of these rapid tests underscores the urgent need for enhanced global collaboration to facilitate their wider use to ensure more timely and accurate tuberculosis diagnoses, while further research on point-of-care tests is urgently required;

34. Express concern that financing for tuberculosis research and innovation is only half of the 2 billion United States dollars a year target agreed in the 2018 political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the fight against tuberculosis, and underscore that enhanced, sustained and equitable financing is required for the development and evaluation of better tools and strategies to ensure tuberculosis prevention and care for all, including to address social and economic determinants of the disease, as called for in the global strategy for tuberculosis research and innovation,<sup>13</sup> taking into account that an additional investment in research, development and innovation has the potential to benefit society at large;

35. Recognize the importance of national systems that monitor the availability, accessibility, acceptability, affordability and quality of tuberculosis care at their respective national level;

36. Welcome the roll-out of the World Health Organization multisectoral accountability framework for tuberculosis as requested in General Assembly resolution 73/3 and World Health Assembly resolution 71.3, and emphasize the continued importance of multisectoral action and accountability, as appropriate, across the health and nutrition, finance, labour, social protection, education, science and technology, justice, agriculture, the environment, including air quality, housing, trade, development and other sectors, in order to ensure that all relevant stakeholders pursue actions to end tuberculosis and leave no one behind through whole-of-society and whole-of-government approaches;

37. Recognize that equitable, affordable and sustainable access to high-quality tuberculosis diagnostics, vaccines and medicines, including for preventive treatment, are essential to end illness, suffering and prevent further loss of life from tuberculosis, and further recognize the role played by relevant international organizations and initiatives, such as the Stop TB Partnership/Global Drug Facility, working to improve access to high-quality and affordable medicines, including appropriate formulations of medicines for children, and diagnostics to test, prevent and treat tuberculosis for populations in need;

38. Recognize that active and meaningful engagement of civil society, people and communities affected by tuberculosis, and health-care workers, is vital to improve access to tuberculosis prevention and care, relevant health information and education, and contribute to the promotion and protection of the human rights of people affected by

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<sup>12</sup> See World Health Organization guidance, available at <https://tbksp.org/en/guidance-books-solr>.

<sup>13</sup> See World Health Organization, document WHA73/2020/REC/1, resolution 73.3.

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tuberculosis, including through planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and accountability, as appropriate and at all levels, of the tuberculosis response and in research, development and delivery of tuberculosis services;

39. Commit to protect and promote the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its application in order to advance towards universal access to quality, affordable, inclusive, equitable and timely prevention, diagnosis, treatment, care and awareness-raising related to tuberculosis, and address its economic and social determinants;

40. Improve availability, affordability and efficiency of health products by increasing transparency of prices of medicines, vaccines, medical devices, diagnostics, assistive products, cell- and gene-based therapies and other health technologies across the value chain, including through improved regulations and building constructive engagement and a stronger partnership with relevant stakeholders, including industries, the private sector and civil society, in accordance with national and regional legal frameworks and contexts, to address the global concern about the high prices of some health products and in this regard encourage the World Health Organization to continue its efforts to biennially convene the Fair Pricing Forum with Member States and all relevant stakeholders to discuss the affordability and transparency of prices and costs relating to health products;

41. Recognize the need to strengthen linkages between ending tuberculosis and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including towards achieving universal health coverage, through the Sustainable Development Goals review processes, including the high-level political forum on sustainable development, and noting relevant resolutions and decisions made by the World Health Assembly;

42. Commit to urgently strengthen measures to reduce tuberculosis-related deaths, including among people living with HIV, through comprehensive multisectoral actions, including but not limited to the implementation of the World Health Organization End TB Strategy, that address all determinants and risk factors of tuberculosis and improve health outcomes, and close the large gaps in access to tuberculosis prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care, especially in high-burden countries;

43. Continue to support the World Health Organization multisectoral accountability framework for tuberculosis by establishing or strengthening high-level multisectoral accountability and review mechanisms, in line with national contexts, defining the roles and responsibilities of relevant sectors and stakeholders with the meaningful engagement of people and communities affected by tuberculosis, and to strengthen national review of progress aligned to agreed national and global tuberculosis targets, including the commitments in the present political declaration, with support from the World Health Organization to enhance efforts in ending tuberculosis;

44. Commit to develop and implement ambitious costed national tuberculosis strategic plans or national health strategies with multisectoral approaches, including with the active involvement of communities and people affected by tuberculosis, civil society, private sector and other stakeholders to enable universal access to quality tuberculosis services and actions to address all tuberculosis determinants and drivers, such as poverty, undernutrition, HIV, inequalities by social and economic position, as well as inadequate housing and living conditions, barriers to gender equality, and non-communicable diseases, including diabetes;

45. Emphasize that efforts to increase awareness on tuberculosis must be intensified, including through continuous sensitization, teaching and training of health workers to consider tuberculosis in differential diagnosis, bearing in mind the need to invest in a better public health infrastructure and workforce to improve prevention efforts;

46. Strengthen support and capacity-building in low-income and lower-middle-income countries, many of which have high rates of tuberculosis combined with health and social protection systems that have limited resources, including to support implementing multisectoral approaches in their response to the tuberculosis epidemic;

47. Further commit to strengthen notification of all people diagnosed with tuberculosis, by public, private and community-based health-care providers to national health information systems, facilitated by the expanded use of secure, confidential and digital case-based surveillance, with full respect for human rights, in line with the highest applicable standards and data privacy laws, and to improve civil registration and vital statistics registers (CRVS), to allow for tracking of the tuberculosis epidemic, including drug-resistant forms, and its impact, with disaggregation by age, sex and other characteristics relevant to national contexts, and to strengthen national capacity for the use and analysis of such data, including by improving real-time data collection, reporting and automation, to inform and support evidence-based decision-making and strengthen accountability;

48. Pledge to accelerate progress towards timely, quality, universal access to tuberculosis services in both high- and low-burden countries, as outlined in the End TB Strategy, such that, by 2027:

(a) At least 90 per cent of the estimated number of people who develop tuberculosis are reached with quality-assured diagnosis and treatment, with all those diagnosed having been initially tested with World Health Organization-recommended rapid molecular tests, and supported to complete treatment, which translates to providing life-saving treatment for up to approximately 45 million people between 2023 and 2027, including up to 4.5 million children and up to 1.5 million people with drug-resistant tuberculosis;

(b) At least 90 per cent of people at high risk of developing tuberculosis are provided with preventive treatment, which translates to providing up to approximately 45 million people with tuberculosis preventive treatment, including approximately 30 million household contacts of people with tuberculosis, including children and approximately 15 million people living with HIV, with the vision of reaching more people, including those who live in remote geographical regions or in areas difficult to access, taking into account World Health Organization guidance;

(c) 100 per cent of people with tuberculosis have access to a health and social benefits package so they do not have to endure financial hardship because of their illness;

49. Commit to integrate within primary health care, including community-based health services, the systematic screening, prevention, treatment and care of tuberculosis and for related health conditions, such as HIV and AIDS, viral hepatitis, undernutrition, mental health, non-communicable diseases including diabetes and chronic lung disease, tobacco use, harmful use of alcohol and other substance abuse, including drug injection, as well as a people-centred, approach, to improve equitable access to quality, inclusive, affordable health services with effective referral systems to other levels of care;

50. Given that one third of deaths among people living with HIV are due to tuberculosis and that HIV is associated with poorer tuberculosis treatment outcomes, recommit to strengthen coordination and collaboration between tuberculosis and HIV programmes, with the support of relevant United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes and other stakeholders in the follow-up to the 2021 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on HIV and AIDS to ensure universal access to integrated prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care services, including through promoting testing for HIV among people with tuberculosis and screening all people living with HIV regularly for tuberculosis, especially using diagnostics appropriate for people with advanced HIV disease who are most at risk of dying from tuberculosis, providing tuberculosis preventive treatment, and addressing common social and economic determinants of HIV, tuberculosis and related comorbidities and structural barriers to health services, such as stigma, discrimination and gender inequality, leaving no one behind;

51. Commit to strengthen comprehensive care for all people with tuberculosis, using specific models of care such as nutritional and mental health and psychosocial support, social protection, as well as rehabilitation, treatment of post-tuberculosis lung disease, and palliative care, paying particular attention to people in vulnerable situations or who are vulnerable to tuberculosis, including women during pregnancy, lactation and post-partum period, children and adolescents, people living with HIV, persons with disabilities, including those with lifelong disabilities due to tuberculosis, Indigenous Peoples, health-care workers, older persons, migrants, refugees, internally displaced people, people living in situations of complex emergencies, stateless persons, people in prison and other closed settings, people living in impoverished areas, people affected by extreme poverty, miners and others exposed to silica, undernourished people, ethnic minorities, people and communities at risk of exposure to bovine tuberculosis, taking into account the higher prevalence of tuberculosis among men and that the gaps in case detection and reporting are higher among men;

52. Commit to ensure meaningful participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities, including those affected by tuberculosis, through non-discrimination, equality of opportunities, accessibility to all tuberculosis services, and integrated tuberculosis services for persons with disabilities, including comprehensive rehabilitation and social support services for tuberculosis survivors with disabilities in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;

53. Commit to urgently scale up comprehensive efforts to close long-standing gaps in prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care of children with or at risk of tuberculosis, recognizing it is an important preventable cause of preventable childhood illness and death, including among children with HIV and as a comorbidity of other common childhood illnesses, especially pneumonia, meningitis and malnutrition, including by implementing relevant World Health Organization guidance and policies to improve equitable access to screening, prevention, testing and treatment

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services, particularly to vaccines and formulations of tuberculosis medicines for children, as part of a comprehensive integrated primary health care;

54. Commit to accelerate progress to end the crisis of the drug-resistant tuberculosis epidemic in the context of broader national, regional and global mechanisms to address antimicrobial resistance, by improving treatment adherence for people with drug-susceptible and drug-resistant tuberculosis, including with support of digital technologies, and by working towards the achievement of the universal, equitable and affordable access to World Health Organization-recommended diagnostics and drug-susceptibility tests, as well as those approved and recommended by national regulatory agencies and all-oral shorter-duration treatment regimens for people with drug-resistant tuberculosis, complemented by monitoring and management of side effects together with care and support to improve outcome of treatment;

55. Scale up efforts to collect and report antimicrobial resistance surveillance data for tuberculosis, and increase support for the existing surveillance systems, including the World Health Organization Global Project on Anti-Tuberculosis Drug Resistance Surveillance, the Global Tuberculosis Data Collection System and the World Health Organization Global Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Surveillance System (GLASS) in its endeavour to strengthen knowledge through surveillance and research, and look forward to the 2024 high-level meeting on antimicrobial resistance;

56. Recognize high-level commitments and calls for action against tuberculosis, including its multidrug-resistant and zoonotic forms, made by global, regional and subregional bodies and meetings, and recognize also the value of a One Health approach;

57. Recommit to promoting access to affordable medicines, including generics, for scaling up access to affordable tuberculosis treatment, including the treatment of multidrug-resistant and extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis;

58. Strive to ensure that tuberculosis services are essential elements of national and global strategies and efforts to achieve universal health coverage, to address antimicrobial resistance, and to strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness and response to ensure uninterrupted diagnosis, prevention, treatment, affordable and quality-assured antibiotics, surveillance and research-related tuberculosis activities for all people, while ensuring that the fight against tuberculosis is not devalued as a result of health emergencies;

59. Commit to invest in tuberculosis services and health workforce, support service providers, ensuring sufficient quantity, adequate levels of training and motivation, surveillance, inter alia, integrated molecular surveillance, information systems, laboratory capacity, community-based care, as well as to consolidate and adopt existing laboratory capacities used during the COVID-19 pandemic to increase the access to diagnostics, to strengthen global health capacities to prevent, prepare, detect, report and respond to threats from future epidemics and pandemics and to avoid adverse impact of future pandemics on tuberculosis;

60. Commit to build back stronger by learning lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic, including by enhancing the resilience of tuberculosis programmes during health emergencies, implementing resilient and inclusive recovery plans to reach targets and harnessing innovations such as digital technologies;

61. Support building capacities, skills and expertise and developing local and regional manufacturing capacities for health tools, including in developing countries, while recognizing that the high prices of some health products, and the inequitable access to such products within and among countries, as well as financial hardships associated with high prices of health products, continue to impede progress towards achieving universal health coverage and ending tuberculosis, among other diseases, by 2030;

62. Commit to mobilize sufficient, adequate, predictable and sustainable financing for universal access to quality tuberculosis prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care within and beyond the health sector to address determinants and drivers of the tuberculosis epidemic, from all sources, with the aim of reaching overall global investments of at least 22 billion United States dollars a year by 2027, and 35 billion annually by 2030 as estimated by the Stop TB Partnership by enhancing global solidarity, and through domestic and international investment mechanisms, including innovative financing mechanism, aligned with costed and budgeted national health plans and strategies to end tuberculosis and its complications or sequelae in collaboration with the World Health Organization and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria;



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63. Continue to promote sustainable, financial and technical support from all sources to developing countries with a view to build capacity, support and strengthen national health systems in bringing epidemics under control, including to prevent and eliminate tuberculosis and in achieving universal health coverage;

64. Commit to work towards the increase of funding from the bilateral donors and financial mechanisms such as the Global Fund and financing institutions such as the World Bank and the Regional Development Banks, and private sector and innovative financing mechanisms including co-financing schemes and mobilize additional funding;

65. Commit to give particular attention to high-burden countries, including by supporting efforts in eliminating tuberculosis through prevention efforts and access to quality diagnosis, treatment and care, including access to affordable diagnostic tools and drug treatment, as well as financing innovations, research and development;

66. Recognize the enormous economic and social impacts and burden of tuberculosis for people affected by the disease, their households, in particular, for migrants and hosting countries and in this respect highlights the need to provide support as well as technical and financial assistance, to host and transit countries for strengthening local and national infrastructures and health systems for effective tuberculosis prevention, treatment and care, with a view to reducing the burden on health systems;

67. Commit to maximize the potential of innovation to end tuberculosis by 2030, including through international cooperation as well as financing, encouraging greater collaboration between the scientific research and innovation community and tuberculosis stakeholders; committing to scale up promising innovations to the greatest extent possible; and fostering greater engagement from the research and innovation community in high-burden countries at all stages of planning and implementation of tuberculosis programmes and in alignment with national plans and priorities;

68. Further commit to mobilize adequate, predictable and sustainable financing for tuberculosis research and innovation especially to high-burden countries towards reaching 5 billion United States dollars a year by 2027, for the development of safe, effective, accessible and affordable rapid and accurate point-of-care diagnostics, including for drug susceptibility testing, including for use in community settings; vaccines for all forms of tuberculosis for people of all ages; and shorter, safer and more effective treatment regimens, especially for drug-resistant tuberculosis, including child-friendly diagnostics and treatment, and for implementation science to facilitate the scaling of evidence-based interventions and other newly approved technologies, including digital technologies, while ensuring participation of institutions from all countries, particularly from developing countries, in tuberculosis research and innovation;

69. Commit to create a research-enabling environment that expedites research innovation, and promotes collaboration in tuberculosis research and development across United Nations Member States in order to develop and introduce new tools to prevent, diagnose and treat tuberculosis in all its forms, and to ensure equitable access to the benefits and applications of tuberculosis research;

70. Promote increased access to affordable, safe, effective and quality medicines, including generics, vaccines, diagnostics and health technologies, reaffirming the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) as amended, and also reaffirming the 2001 World Trade Organization Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which recognizes that intellectual property rights should be interpreted and implemented in a manner supportive of the right of Member States to protect public health and, in particular, to promote access to medicines for all, and note the need for appropriate incentives in the development of new health products;

71. Commit to create an enabling environment for tuberculosis research, including operational and implementation research and innovation, by developing and implementing sustainable and fully funded national tuberculosis research agendas and strategic plans in line with national priorities, developing or strengthening public-private partnerships and product development partnerships in collaboration with affected communities and civil society, particularly in high-burden countries, where appropriate, strengthening research capacity, legislative and regulatory frameworks where needed so that new tuberculosis diagnostics, medicines and vaccines, for both tuberculosis disease and infection are prioritized;

72. Commit to increase international cooperation to advance tuberculosis research and innovation, including by fostering and coordinating research and clinical trials, providing funding for collaborative research and clinical trials, supporting transparent and rapid reporting of research and clinical trial results, promoting data-sharing, encouraging open innovation approaches, voluntary licensing and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms;

73. Further commit to strengthening research capacity and collaboration through improving tuberculosis research platforms and networks across the public and private sectors, noting platforms and networks such as the BRICS Tuberculosis Research Network<sup>14</sup> in basic science, clinical research and development, including pre-clinical and clinical trials, as well as operational, qualitative and applied research, to advance effective tuberculosis prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care and actions on the economic and social determinants and impacts of the disease;

74. Commit to promote equitable, affordable and timely access to the benefits of research and innovation, tuberculosis vaccines, medicines, including generic medicines, and diagnostics, and through appropriate governance structures that foster local and regional production capacity, research and innovation as a shared responsibility that is needs-driven, evidence-based and guided by the core principles of affordability, accessibility, effectiveness, efficiency and equity by rapid deployment of recently approved tools, diagnostics, new drugs, regimens and methodologies, as they become available, in countries with the greatest need, including through the Stop TB Partnership/Global Drug Facility, to ensure availability and access to quality-assured and affordable tuberculosis commodities, recommended by the World Health Organization;

75. Continue to support existing initiatives and incentive mechanisms that separate the cost of investment in research and development from the price and volume of sales, to facilitate equitable and affordable access to new tools and other results to be gained through research and development;

76. Commit to working with the private sector and academia, accelerate the research, development and roll-out of safe, effective, affordable and accessible pre- and post-exposure vaccines, preferably within the next five years, for all forms of tuberculosis for people of all ages, and establish sustainable systems for local, regional and global manufacturing and procurement and equitable distribution of vaccines once they are available, through global collaboration mechanisms, including World Health Organization initiatives such as the accelerator council for new tuberculosis vaccines<sup>15</sup> noting that further details of the programme are being developed;

77. Commit to intensify national efforts to create enabling legal and social policy frameworks to combat inequalities, in order to eliminate all forms of tuberculosis-related stigma, discrimination, inequality and other barriers, including those negatively impacting human rights, and to adopt equitable, inclusive and gender-responsive approaches, as appropriate, to address barriers to tuberculosis services that reflect the different ways men and women can be affected by tuberculosis and achieve a more effective response and greater results, so that no one is left behind in the fight against tuberculosis;

78. Commit to strengthen the meaningful engagement of parliaments, civil society, the educational system and tuberculosis-affected local communities, including young people and women, in all aspects of the tuberculosis response, to ensure that the response is equitable, inclusive, people-centred and promotes gender equality and respects human rights, including with regard to policymaking forums, planning, comprehensive tuberculosis care delivery, and national multisectoral accountability and review mechanisms as appropriate, and increase and sustain investment for initiatives, in particular at the community level, and in line with national contexts;

79. Commit to promote the inclusion of tuberculosis in the curricula of medical schools, public health, nursery, medical technology, nutrition, social work and other related areas of training;

80. Commit to safeguard tuberculosis services as essential health services during humanitarian and health emergencies and in conflict settings, as displaced people and people affected by such emergencies face multiple challenges, including heightened tuberculosis infection, risk of treatment interruption and limited access to quality health-care services, nutritious food and information that is language- and culture-sensitive;

81. Commit to strengthen financial and social protections for people affected by tuberculosis and alleviate the health and non-health related financial burden of tuberculosis experienced by affected people and their families;

82. Request the World Health Organization to continue to provide global leadership to support Member States to build a resilient response to tuberculosis as an integral part of the universal health coverage agenda, and to also address the drivers and determinants of the epidemic, including in the context of health and humanitarian emergencies,

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<sup>14</sup> See <https://bricstb.samrc.ac.za/>.

<sup>15</sup> See <https://www.who.int/news/item/17-01-2023-who-announces-plans-to-establish-a-tb-vaccine-accelerator-council>.

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with multisectoral engagement, the provision of normative guidance and technical support, and through monitoring, reporting and review of progress, and by advancing the tuberculosis research and innovation agenda;

83. Request the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with the Director General of the World Health Organization, to strengthen cooperation between Member States and relevant entities to implement the present declaration and accelerate progress towards ending tuberculosis by 2030, including funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, United Nations regional commissions, the Stop TB Partnership, hosted by the United Nations Office for Project Services, Unitaaid, hosted by the World Health Organization, and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, to promote cooperation among relevant multilateral stakeholders;

84. Also request the Secretary-General, with the support of the World Health Organization, to report, as part of his annual Sustainable Development Goals report, on the global effort to end tuberculosis, and to present to the General Assembly a report in 2027 on the progress achieved in realizing the commitments made in this political declaration towards agreed tuberculosis goals at the national, regional and global levels, including on the progress of multisectoral action, within the context of achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which will serve to inform preparations for a comprehensive review by Heads of State and Government at a high-level meeting on tuberculosis in 2028.

### RESOLUTION 78/6

Adopted at the 25th plenary meeting, on 1 November 2023, by a recorded vote of 115 to 6, with 31 abstentions,\* on the basis of draft resolution [A/78/L.6](#), sponsored by: Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay

\* *In favour:* Albania, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Zambia

*Against:* Belarus, Mali, Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo

*Abstaining:* Algeria, Bahrain, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Cuba, Egypt, Eritrea, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Mozambique, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam, Yemen

### 78/6. Report of the International Criminal Court

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution [77/6](#) of 2 November 2022 and all its previous relevant resolutions,

*Recalling also* that the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court<sup>16</sup> reaffirms the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including the prohibition of the illegal use of force enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

<sup>16</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2187, No. 38544.

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*Recognizing* the International Criminal Court as an independent permanent judicial institution and, in this regard, that the United Nations and the Court respect each other's status and mandate,

*Reiterating* the historic significance of the adoption of the Rome Statute,

*Emphasizing* that justice, especially transitional justice in conflict and post-conflict societies, is a fundamental building block of sustainable peace,

*Convinced* that ending impunity is essential for coming to terms with any past crimes committed and preventing such crimes in the future,

*Acknowledging* the fact that the International Criminal Court has achieved considerable progress in its investigations and judicial proceedings in various situations and cases which were referred to it by States parties to the Rome Statute and by the Security Council, and which the Prosecutor of the Court has initiated proprio motu, in accordance with the Rome Statute,

*Recalling* that effective and comprehensive cooperation and assistance in all aspects of its mandate by States, the United Nations and other international and regional organizations remain essential for the International Criminal Court to carry out its activities,

*Expressing its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for providing effective and efficient assistance to the International Criminal Court in accordance with the Relationship Agreement between the United Nations and the International Criminal Court,<sup>17</sup>

*Acknowledging* the Relationship Agreement as approved by the General Assembly in its resolution [58/318](#) of 13 September 2004, including paragraph 3 of the resolution, with respect to the payment in full of expenses accruing to the United Nations as a result of the implementation of the Relationship Agreement,<sup>18</sup> which provides a framework for continued cooperation between the International Criminal Court and the United Nations, which enables, inter alia, facilitation by the United Nations of the Court's field activities, and encouraging the conclusion of supplementary arrangements and agreements, as necessary,

*Recalling* that referrals by the Security Council can enable the International Criminal Court to exercise jurisdiction over all four crimes under the Rome Statute, the crime of aggression, genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity,

*Noting* the need for funding of expenses related to investigations or prosecutions of the International Criminal Court, including in connection with situations referred to the Court by the Security Council,

*Welcoming* the continuous support given by civil society to the International Criminal Court,

*Stressing* the importance that the Rome Statute accords to the rights and needs of victims, in particular their right to participate in judicial proceedings and to claim reparations, and emphasizing the importance of informing and involving victims and affected communities in order to give effect to the mandate of the International Criminal Court towards victims,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the International Criminal Court for 2022/23;<sup>19</sup>

2. *Also welcomes* the States that have become parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and calls upon all States in all regions of the world that are not yet parties to the Rome Statute to consider ratifying, accepting, approving or acceding to it without delay;

3. *Further welcomes* the States parties as well as States not parties to the Rome Statute that are parties to the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court,<sup>20</sup> and calls upon all States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to that Agreement;

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<sup>17</sup> [A/58/874](#) and [A/58/874/Add.1](#).

<sup>18</sup> Articles 10 and 13 of the Relationship Agreement.

<sup>19</sup> [A/78/322](#).

<sup>20</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2271, No. 40446.

## I. Resolutions adopted without reference to a Main Committee

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4. *Notes* the recent ratifications and acceptances of the amendments adopted at the Review Conference of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, held in Kampala from 31 May to 11 June 2010;
5. *Underlines*, bearing in mind that in accordance with the Rome Statute the International Criminal Court is complementary to national criminal jurisdictions, that States need to adopt appropriate measures within their national legal systems for those crimes for which they are required under international law to exercise their responsibility to investigate and prosecute;
6. *Encourages* further efforts by the United Nations, other international and regional organizations and States, as well as civil society, to appropriately assist States, upon their request, in strengthening their domestic capacity to investigate and prosecute crimes, and in this regard underlines the importance of national ownership;
7. *Emphasizes* the importance of international cooperation and judicial assistance in conducting effective investigations and prosecutions;
8. *Acknowledges* the role of the International Criminal Court in a multilateral system that aims to end impunity, promote the rule of law, promote and encourage respect for human rights, achieve sustainable peace and further the development of nations, in accordance with international law and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;
9. *Calls upon* States parties to the Rome Statute that have not yet done so to adopt national legislation to implement obligations emanating from the Rome Statute and to cooperate with the International Criminal Court in the exercise of its functions, and recalls the provision of technical assistance by States parties in this respect;
10. *Welcomes* the cooperation and assistance provided thus far to the International Criminal Court by States parties as well as States not parties, the United Nations and other international and regional organizations, and calls upon those States that are under an obligation to cooperate to provide such cooperation and assistance in the future, in particular with regard to arrest and surrender, the provision of evidence, the protection and relocation of victims and witnesses and the enforcement of sentences;
11. *Notes* the efforts of the Secretary-General in promoting cooperation between the United Nations and the International Criminal Court in accordance with the Relationship Agreement between the United Nations and the International Criminal Court, and also notes in this regard that the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat has a specific role within the United Nations;
12. *Recalls* article 3 of the Relationship Agreement, according to which, with a view to facilitating the effective discharge of their respective responsibilities, the United Nations and the International Criminal Court shall cooperate closely, whenever appropriate, with each other and consult each other on matters of mutual interest pursuant to the provisions of the Relationship Agreement and in conformity with the respective provisions of the Charter and the Rome Statute, and shall respect each other's status and mandate,<sup>21</sup> and requests the Secretary-General to continue to include information relevant to the implementation of article 3 of the Relationship Agreement in a report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session;
13. *Recalls* the guidance issued by the Secretary-General on contacts with persons who are the subject of arrest warrants or summonses issued by the International Criminal Court,<sup>22</sup> and in this regard takes note of the information included in the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of article 3 of the Relationship Agreement;<sup>23</sup>
14. *Recalls* the Relationship Agreement, and notes that expenses related to investigations or prosecutions incurred by the International Criminal Court in connection with situations referred by the Security Council or otherwise continue to be borne exclusively by States parties to the Rome Statute;
15. *Emphasizes* the importance of cooperation with States that are not parties to the Rome Statute;

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<sup>21</sup> Article 2, paragraph 3, of the Relationship Agreement.

<sup>22</sup> [A/67/828-S/2013/210](#), annex.

<sup>23</sup> [A/78/320](#).

## I. Resolutions adopted without reference to a Main Committee

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16. *Invites* regional organizations to consider concluding cooperation agreements with the International Criminal Court;

17. *Recalls* that, by virtue of article 12, paragraph 3, of the Rome Statute, if the acceptance of a State which is not a party to the Rome Statute is required under article 12, paragraph 2, of the Rome Statute, that State may, by declaration lodged with the Registrar of the International Criminal Court, accept the exercise of jurisdiction by the Court with respect to the crime in question;

18. *Urges* all States parties to take the interests, needs for assistance and mandate of the International Criminal Court into account when relevant matters are being discussed in the United Nations, and invites all other States to consider doing the same, as appropriate;

19. *Emphasizes* the importance of the full implementation of all aspects of the Relationship Agreement, which forms a framework for close cooperation between the two organizations and for consultation on matters of mutual interest pursuant to the provisions of that Agreement and in conformity with the respective provisions of the Charter and the Rome Statute, as well as the need for the Secretary-General to continue to inform the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session of the expenses incurred and reimbursements received by the United Nations in connection with assistance provided to the International Criminal Court;

20. *Encourages* further dialogue between the United Nations and the International Criminal Court, and welcomes in this regard the increased interaction of the Security Council with the Court under various formats, including the holding of open debates on peace and justice and working methods, with a special focus on the role of the Court;

21. *Continues to welcome* the statement by the President of the Security Council of 12 February 2013,<sup>24</sup> in which the Council reiterated its previous call regarding the importance of State cooperation with the International Criminal Court, in accordance with the respective obligations of States, and expressed its commitment to effective follow-up of Council decisions in this regard;

22. *Expresses its appreciation* for the work undertaken by the International Criminal Court liaison office to United Nations Headquarters, and encourages the Secretary-General to continue to work closely with that office;

23. *Encourages* States to contribute to the trust fund established for the benefit of victims of crimes within the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court and the families of such victims, and acknowledges with appreciation contributions made to that trust fund thus far;

24. *Recalls* that, at the Review Conference of the Rome Statute, which was convened and opened by the Secretary-General, States parties reaffirmed their commitment to the Rome Statute and its full implementation, as well as its universality and integrity, and that the Review Conference undertook a stocktaking exercise of international criminal justice, considering the impact of the Rome Statute on victims and affected communities, peace and justice, complementarity and cooperation, called for the strengthening of the enforcement of sentences, adopted amendments to the Rome Statute to expand the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court to cover three additional war crimes when committed in armed conflicts not of an international character, and adopted amendments to the Rome Statute to define the crime of aggression and to establish conditions under which the Court could exercise jurisdiction with respect to that crime;

25. *Also recalls* the activation of the International Criminal Court's jurisdiction over the crime of aggression as of 17 July 2018;

26. *Further recalls* the amendments to articles 124 and 8 of the Rome Statute adopted by the Assembly of States Parties at the fourteenth, and sixteenth and eighteenth sessions, respectively, and calls upon all States parties to consider ratifying or accepting them;

27. *Acknowledges* the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization;<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> [S/PRST/2013/2](#); see *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1 August 2012–31 July 2013* (S/INF/68).

<sup>25</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 1* (A/78/1).



## I. Resolutions adopted without reference to a Main Committee

28. *Takes note* that the International Criminal Court continued its review process initiated by the Assembly of States Parties at its eighteenth session;

29. *Also takes note* of the decision of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court at its eighteenth session, while recalling that, according to article 112, paragraph 6, of the Rome Statute, the Assembly of States Parties shall meet at the seat of the Court or at United Nations Headquarters, to hold its twenty-third session in The Hague, looks forward to the twenty-third session, scheduled to be held from 2 to 7 December 2024, and requests the Secretary-General to provide the necessary services and facilities in accordance with the Relationship Agreement and resolution 58/318;

30. *Encourages* the widest possible participation of States in the Assembly of States Parties, invites States to contribute to the trust fund for the participation of the least developed countries, and acknowledges with appreciation contributions made to that trust fund thus far;

31. *Invites* the International Criminal Court to submit, if it deems it appropriate, in accordance with article 6 of the Relationship Agreement, a report on its activities for 2023/24, for consideration by the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session.

### RESOLUTION 78/7

Adopted at the 26th plenary meeting, on 2 November 2023, by a recorded vote of 187 to 2, with 1 abstention,\* on the basis of draft resolution A/78/L.5, sponsored by Cuba

\* *In favour:* Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against:* Israel, United States of America

*Abstaining:* Ukraine

#### **78/7. Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba**

*The General Assembly,*

*Determined* to encourage strict compliance with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

*Reaffirming*, among other principles, the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation, which are also enshrined in many international legal instruments,

*Recalling* the statements of the Heads of State or Government of Latin America and the Caribbean at the Summits of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States regarding the need to put an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba,

*Concerned* about the continued promulgation and application by Member States of laws and regulations, such as that promulgated on 12 March 1996 known as “the Helms-Burton Act”, the extraterritorial effects of which affect the sovereignty of other States, the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction and the freedom of trade and navigation,

*Taking note* of declarations and resolutions of different intergovernmental forums, bodies and Governments that express the rejection by the international community and public opinion of the promulgation and application of measures of the kind referred to above,

*Recalling* its resolutions 47/19 of 24 November 1992, 48/16 of 3 November 1993, 49/9 of 26 October 1994, 50/10 of 2 November 1995, 51/17 of 12 November 1996, 52/10 of 5 November 1997, 53/4 of 14 October 1998, 54/21 of 9 November 1999, 55/20 of 9 November 2000, 56/9 of 27 November 2001, 57/11 of 12 November 2002, 58/7 of 4 November 2003, 59/11 of 28 October 2004, 60/12 of 8 November 2005, 61/11 of 8 November 2006, 62/3 of 30 October 2007, 63/7 of 29 October 2008, 64/6 of 28 October 2009, 65/6 of 26 October 2010, 66/6 of 25 October 2011, 67/4 of 13 November 2012, 68/8 of 29 October 2013, 69/5 of 28 October 2014, 70/5 of 27 October 2015, 71/5 of 26 October 2016, 72/4 of 1 November 2017, 73/8 of 1 November 2018, 74/7 of 7 November 2019, 75/289 of 23 June 2021 and 77/7 of 3 November 2022 and its decision 76/563 of 11 May 2022,

*Recalling also* the measures adopted by the Executive of the United States of America in 2015 and 2016 to modify several aspects of the application of the embargo, which contrast with the measures applied since 2017 to reinforce its implementation,

*Concerned* that, since the adoption of its resolutions 47/19, 48/16, 49/9, 50/10, 51/17, 52/10, 53/4, 54/21, 55/20, 56/9, 57/11, 58/7, 59/11, 60/12, 61/11, 62/3, 63/7, 64/6, 65/6, 66/6, 67/4, 68/8, 69/5, 70/5, 71/5, 72/4, 73/8, 74/7, 75/289 and 77/7, the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba is still in place, and concerned also about the adverse effects of such measures on the Cuban people and on Cuban nationals living in other countries,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 77/7;<sup>26</sup>
2. *Reiterates its call upon* all States to refrain from promulgating and applying laws and measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to the present resolution, in conformity with their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which, inter alia, reaffirm the freedom of trade and navigation;
3. *Once again urges* States that have and continue to apply such laws and measures to take the steps necessary to repeal or invalidate them as soon as possible in accordance with their legal regime;
4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the appropriate organs and agencies of the United Nations system, to prepare a report on the implementation of the present resolution in the light of the purposes and principles of the Charter and international law and to submit it to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session;
5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session the item entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”.

## RESOLUTION 78/8

Adopted at the 30th plenary meeting, on 8 November 2023, without a vote, on the basis of draft resolution A/78/L.7, sponsored by: Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Namibia, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay

<sup>26</sup> A/78/84.



**78/8. Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency**

*The General Assembly,*

*Having received* the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency for 2022<sup>27</sup>

*Taking note* of the statement by the Director General of the Agency, in which he provided additional information on the main developments in the activities of the Agency during 2023,

*Recognizing* the importance of the work of the Agency,

*Recognizing also* the cooperation between the United Nations and the Agency and the Agreement governing the relationship between the United Nations and the Agency as approved by the General Conference of the Agency on 23 October 1957 and by the General Assembly in the annex to its resolution [1145 \(XII\)](#) of 14 November 1957,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency;
2. *Takes note* of resolutions GC(67)/RES/7, entitled “Nuclear and radiation safety”; GC(67)/RES/8, entitled “Nuclear security”; GC(67)/RES/9, entitled “Strengthening of the Agency’s technical cooperation activities”; GC(67)/RES/10, entitled “Strengthening the Agency’s activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications”, comprising GC(67)/RES/10 A, entitled “Non-power nuclear applications”, GC(67)/RES/10 B, entitled “Nuclear power applications”, and GC(67)/RES/10 C, entitled “Nuclear knowledge management”; GC(67)/RES/11, entitled “Strengthening the effectiveness and improving the efficiency of Agency safeguards”; GC(67)/RES/12, entitled “Implementation of the NPT safeguards agreement between the Agency and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea”; GC(67)/RES/13, entitled “Application of IAEA safeguards in the Middle East”; GC(67)/RES/14, entitled “Status of Palestine in the IAEA”; GC(67)/RES/15, entitled “Restoration of the sovereign equality of Member States in the IAEA”; GC(67)/RES/16, entitled “Nuclear safety, security and safeguards in Ukraine”; and GC(67)/RES/17, entitled “Personnel”, comprising GC(67)/RES/17 A, entitled “Staffing of the Agency’s Secretariat” and GC(67)/RES/17 B, entitled “Women in the Secretariat”; and decisions GC(67)/DEC/9, entitled “Amendment to Article XIV.A of the Statute”; GC(67)/DEC/10, entitled “Amendment to Article VI of the Statute”; and GC(67)/DEC/11, entitled “Promotion of efficiency and effectiveness of the IAEA decision making process”, adopted by the General Conference of the Agency at its sixty-seventh regular session, held from 25 to 29 September 2023;
3. *Reaffirms its strong support* for the indispensable role of the Agency in encouraging and assisting the development and practical application of atomic energy for peaceful uses, in technology transfer to developing countries and in nuclear safety, verification and security;
4. *Welcomes* resolution GC(67)/RES/1 on the approval of the appointment of Rafael Mariano Grossi as Director General of the Agency from 3 December 2023 to 2 December 2027;
5. *Appeals* to Member States to continue to support the activities of the Agency;
6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the Director General of the Agency the records of the seventy-eighth session of the General Assembly relating to the activities of the Agency.

**RESOLUTION 78/9**

Adopted at the 37th plenary meeting, on 20 November 2023, without a vote, on the basis of draft resolution [A/78/L.8](#), sponsored by: Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

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<sup>27</sup> See [A/78/304](#).

**78/9. Commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia**

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, by which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets,

*Taking note* of the aims and purposes of the Tashkent Declaration of 26 March 1998,<sup>28</sup> by which the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia was established,

*Welcoming* the progress achieved in the Central Asian countries, their integration with economies of Europe and Asia and their contribution to global economic growth,

*Recognizing* shared interests in the further development of regional cooperation among the Central Asian countries for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and advancing good-neighbourly relations,

*Welcoming* the contribution and support of the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, as well as Member States and international financial institutions, extended for promoting and strengthening cooperation among the Central Asian countries,

*Noting* that 2023 marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the establishment of the Special Programme,

1. *Congratulates* the participating States of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Special Programme, and recognizes its significant role as a regional programme that promotes mutual understanding, economic cooperation and regional development;

2. *Encourages* the participating States of the Special Programme and the United Nations to explore the possibility of establishing a United Nations multi-partner trust fund for the effective and timely mobilization of financial resources for the implementation of projects under the Special Programme;

3. *Calls for* consistent involvement of the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in further supporting and strengthening the activities of the Special Programme;

4. *Invites* all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and other international, regional and subregional organizations to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Special Programme by participating in the relevant commemorative activities;

5. *Stresses* that the cost of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution should be met through voluntary contributions, including from the private sector.

**RESOLUTION 78/10**

Adopted at the 38th plenary meeting, on 21 November 2023, by a recorded vote of 118 to none, with 2 abstentions,\* on the basis of draft resolution [A/78/L.9](#), sponsored by: Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Sudan, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Viet Nam

\* *In favour:* Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan,

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<sup>28</sup> [A/53/96](#), annex II.

Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe

*Against:* None

*Abstaining:* Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic

#### **78/10. Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution [76/13](#) of 2 December 2021, in which it decided to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-eighth session the sub-item entitled “Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal”, and recalling also its prior decision to consider the sub-item every two years, in advance of the Summer and Winter Olympic Games,

*Recalling also* its resolution [48/11](#) of 25 October 1993, which, inter alia, revived the ancient Greek tradition of *ekecheiria* (“Olympic Truce”) calling for a truce during the Olympic Games to encourage a peaceful environment and ensure safe passage, access and participation for athletes and relevant persons at the Games, thereby mobilizing the youth of the world to the cause of peace,

*Recalling further* that the core concept of *ekecheiria*, historically, has been the cessation of hostilities from seven days before until seven days after the Olympic Games, which, according to the legendary oracle of Delphi, was to replace the cycle of conflict with a friendly athletic competition every four years,

*Recognizing* the valuable contribution of sport in promoting education, sustainable development, peace, cooperation, solidarity, fairness, social inclusion and health at the local, regional and international levels, and noting that, as declared in the 2005 World Summit Outcome,<sup>29</sup> sports can contribute to an atmosphere of tolerance and understanding among peoples and nations,

*Recognizing also* the role that sports can play to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism, and its contributions to building resilience against radicalization to violence and terrorist recruitment,

*Welcoming* the designation of 6 April as the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace,

*Recalling* the inclusion in the United Nations Millennium Declaration<sup>30</sup> of an appeal for the observance of the Olympic Truce now and in the future and for support for the International Olympic Committee in its efforts to promote peace and human understanding through sport and the Olympic ideal,

*Recalling also* that, in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>31</sup> sport is recognized as an important enabler of sustainable development, including for its growing contribution to the realization of development and peace in its promotion of tolerance and respect and the contributions it makes to the empowerment of women and of young people, individuals and communities as well as to health, education and social inclusion objectives,

*Acknowledging* the valuable contribution that the appeal launched by the International Olympic Committee on 21 July 1992 for an Olympic Truce could make towards advancing the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

*Recalling* its resolution [77/27](#) of 1 December 2022 on sport as an enabler of sustainable development, in which it called upon future hosts of the Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games and other Member States to include sport, as appropriate, in conflict prevention activities and to ensure the effective implementation of the Olympic Truce during the Games,

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<sup>29</sup> Resolution [60/1](#).

<sup>30</sup> Resolution [55/2](#).

<sup>31</sup> Resolution [70/1](#).

## I. Resolutions adopted without reference to a Main Committee

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*Noting* that the Games of the XXXIII Olympiad will be held from 26 July to 11 August 2024 and that the XVII Paralympic Games will be held from 28 August to 8 September 2024, in Paris,

*Noting also* the vision and sustained action of the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games and their legacy to leverage sport as a tool to promote education, health and social inclusion for all, thereby contributing to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals,

*Acknowledging* that the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games will be a unifying event and a meaningful opportunity to harness the power of sport to foster an atmosphere of peace, development, resilience, tolerance and understanding, accessibility and inclusion, and welcoming all the delegations of National Olympic and Paralympic Committees athletes and the Refugee Olympic and Paralympic Teams admitted by the International Olympic Committee and the International Paralympic Committee to participate in the Games,

*Recognizing* that Paris 2024 aims to ensure the delivery of sustainable Olympic and Paralympic Games, and aims to hold the Games as a catalyst for innovation and change towards a more sustainable world, contributing to the acceleration of the just and equitable transition in sport and major sporting events, and achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner,

*Welcoming* the contribution of Paris 2024 to promoting physical activity for better health, in all areas of society, in particular for youth, with flagship initiatives such as 30-minute daily physical activity programmes,

*Recalling* article 31 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>32</sup> which outlines the right of the child to engage in play and recreational activities, and the outcome document of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled “A world fit for children”,<sup>33</sup> which stresses the promotion of physical, mental and emotional health through play and sports,

*Noting with appreciation* that the International Olympic Committee has allocated the same number of quota places to male and female athletes and its efforts to achieve gender equality on the field of play as one of the objectives and ambitions of the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games, creating a legacy from the Games,

*Recognizing* the imperative need to engage women and girls in the practice of sport for development and peace, and welcoming activities that aim to foster and encourage initiatives in this regard at the global level,

*Noting* the successful conclusion of the XXIV Olympic Winter Games and the XIII Paralympic Winter Games, held in Beijing from 4 to 20 February and from 4 to 13 March 2022, respectively, and welcoming the XXV Olympic Winter Games and the XIV Paralympic Winter Games, to be held in Milano-Cortina, Italy, from 6 to 22 February and from 6 to 15 March 2026, respectively, and the Games of the XXXIV Olympiad and the XVIII Paralympic Games, to be held in Los Angeles, United States of America, from 14 to 30 July and 15 to 27 August 2028, respectively,

*Acknowledging* the joint endeavours of the International Olympic Committee, the International Paralympic Committee and relevant United Nations entities in such fields as the promotion of human rights, human development, poverty alleviation, humanitarian assistance, health promotion, HIV and AIDS prevention, child and youth education, gender equality, peacebuilding and sustainable development,

*Acknowledging also* the importance of the Youth Olympic Games in inspiring youth through integrated sports and cultural and educational experiences, noting in this regard the successful conclusion of the third Youth Olympic Winter Games, held in Lausanne, Switzerland, from 9 to 22 January 2020, and welcoming the fourth Winter Youth Olympic Games, to be held in Gangwon, Republic of Korea, in 2024 and the Summer Youth Olympic Games, to be held in Dakar in 2026,

*Welcoming* the innovative cooperation between the Organizing Committees of the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games and the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games on the importance of sport for youth and development through the sharing of information and best practices, as well as the proactive efforts of Paris 2024, in conjunction with all Organizing Committees of upcoming Games, to implement new standards for delivering more sustainable Games in accordance with the International Olympic Committee reforms,

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<sup>32</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>33</sup> Resolution S-27/2, annex.

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*Recognizing* the role that the Paralympic movement plays in showcasing the achievements of athletes with disabilities to a global audience and in acting as a primary vehicle to promote positive perceptions and greater inclusion of persons with disabilities in sport and society,

*Welcoming* the significant impetus that the Olympic Games, the Paralympic Games and the Youth Olympic Games give to the volunteer movement around the world, acknowledging the contributions of volunteers to the success of the Games, and in this regard calling upon host countries to promote social inclusion without discrimination of any kind,

*Recognizing* the important role of supporters working alongside persons with disabilities to organize and develop disability-specific sports,

*Recognizing also* that the active involvement of persons with disabilities in sports and the Paralympic Games contributes to the full and equal realization of their human rights, as well as respect for their inherent dignity, recalling articles 1 and 30 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,<sup>34</sup> in which States parties recognized the right of persons with disabilities, including those with long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments, to take part on an equal basis with others in cultural life, and committed to take appropriate measures to encourage and promote the participation, to the fullest extent possible, of persons with disabilities in mainstream sporting activities at all levels, with a view to enabling persons with disabilities to participate on an equal basis with others in recreational, leisure and sporting activities, and noting in this regard the need for appropriate instruction, training and resources alongside accessibility of venues, and welcoming plans to stage integrated and inclusive Games,

*Welcoming* the commitment made by various States Members of the United Nations and other relevant stakeholders to developing national and international programmes that promote peace and conflict resolution, the Olympic and Paralympic values and the Olympic Truce ideals through sport and through culture, education, sustainable development and wider public engagement, and acknowledging the contribution of former hosts of the Olympic and Paralympic Games in this regard,

*Recognizing* the humanitarian opportunities presented by the Olympic Truce and by other initiatives supported by the United Nations to achieve the cessation of conflict,

*Recalling* that, in its resolution [77/27](#), it supported the independence and autonomy of sport as well as the mission of the International Olympic Committee in leading the Olympic movement and of the International Paralympic Committee in leading the Paralympic movement, and recognized the unifying and conciliative nature of Olympic Games and major international sport events and that such events are organized in the spirit of peace, mutual understanding, friendship, tolerance and inadmissibility of discrimination of any kind,

*Acknowledging* the fundamental principles of the Olympic Charter, including principle 6, which states that the enjoyment of the rights and freedoms set forth in the Olympic Charter shall be secured for all, without discrimination of any kind,

*Noting with satisfaction* that the United Nations flag will be flown at the Olympic stadium and in the Olympic and Paralympic villages of the XXXIII Olympiad and the XVII Paralympic Games,

1. *Urges* Member States to observe the Olympic Truce individually and collectively, within the framework of the Charter of the United Nations, throughout the period from the seventh day before the start of the Games of the XXXIII Olympiad until the seventh day following the end of the XVII Paralympic Games, to be held in Paris in 2024, in particular, to ensure the safe passage, access and participation of athletes, officials and all other accredited persons taking part in the Games of the Olympiad and the Paralympic Games, and to contribute through other appropriate measures to the safe organization of the Games;

2. *Underlines* the importance of cooperation among Member States to collectively implement the values of the Olympic Truce around the world, and emphasizes the important role of the International Olympic Committee, the International Paralympic Committee and the United Nations in this regard;

3. *Welcomes* the work of the International Olympic Committee and the International Paralympic Committee, as well as the International Olympic Truce Centre, in mobilizing national and international sports federations and

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<sup>34</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.



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organizations, National Olympic and Paralympic Committees and associations of these organizations to take concrete actions at the local, national, regional and international levels to promote and strengthen a culture of peace based on the spirit of the Olympic Truce, and invites those organizations and national committees to cooperate and share information and best practices, as appropriate;

4. *Also welcomes* the leadership of Olympic and Paralympic athletes in promoting peace and human understanding through sport and the Olympic ideal;

5. *Calls upon* all Member States to cooperate with the International Olympic Committee and the International Paralympic Committee in their efforts to use sport as a tool to promote peace, dialogue and reconciliation in areas of conflict during and beyond the period of the Olympic and Paralympic Games;

6. *Recognizes* that sport and the Olympic and Paralympic Games can be used to promote human rights and strengthen universal respect for such rights, thus contributing to their full realization;

7. *Welcomes* the cooperation among Member States, the United Nations and the specialized agencies, funds and programmes, and the International Olympic Committee and the International Paralympic Committee, to maximize the potential of sport to make a meaningful and sustainable contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and encourages the Olympic and Paralympic movements to work closely with national and international sports organizations on the use of sport to this end;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly to promote the observance of the Olympic Truce among Member States and support for human development initiatives through sport and to continue to cooperate effectively with the International Olympic Committee, the International Paralympic Committee and the sporting community in general in the realization of those objectives;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its eightieth session the sub-item entitled “Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal” of the item entitled “Sport for development and peace” and to consider the sub-item before the XXV Olympic Winter Games and the XIV Paralympic Winter Games, to be held in Milano-Cortina in 2026.

### RESOLUTION 78/11

Adopted at the 40th plenary meeting, on 28 November 2023, by a recorded vote of 91 to 8, with 62 abstentions,\* on the basis of draft resolution [A/78/L.10](#), sponsored by: Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brunei Darussalam, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco, Nicaragua, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, State of Palestine

\* *In favour:* Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe

*Against:* Australia, Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Palau, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Abstaining:* Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Nauru, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Sudan, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Ukraine, Uruguay, Vanuatu

**78/11. The Syrian Golan**

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the item entitled “The situation in the Middle East”,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Middle East,<sup>35</sup>

*Recalling* Security Council resolution [497 \(1981\)](#) of 17 December 1981,

*Reaffirming* the fundamental principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations,

*Reaffirming once more* the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,<sup>36</sup> to the occupied Syrian Golan,

*Deeply concerned* that Israel has not withdrawn from the Syrian Golan, which has been under occupation since 1967, contrary to the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions,

*Stressing* the illegality of the Israeli settlement construction and other activities in the occupied Syrian Golan since 1967,

*Noting with satisfaction* the convening in Madrid on 30 October 1991 of the Peace Conference on the Middle East, on the basis of Security Council resolutions [242 \(1967\)](#) of 22 November 1967, [338 \(1973\)](#) of 22 October 1973 and [425 \(1978\)](#) of 19 March 1978 and the formula of land for peace,

*Expressing grave concern* over the halt in the peace process on the Syrian track, and expressing the hope that peace talks will soon resume from the point they had reached,

1. *Declares* that Israel has failed so far to comply with Security Council resolution [497 \(1981\)](#);
2. *Also declares* that the Israeli decision of 14 December 1981 to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan is null and void and has no validity whatsoever, as confirmed by the Security Council in its resolution [497 \(1981\)](#), and calls upon Israel to rescind it;
3. *Reaffirms its determination* that all relevant provisions of the Regulations annexed to the Hague Convention of 1907, and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,<sup>36</sup> continue to apply to the Syrian territory occupied by Israel since 1967, and calls upon the parties thereto to respect and ensure respect for their obligations under those instruments in all circumstances;
4. *Determines once more* that the continued occupation of the Syrian Golan and its de facto annexation constitute a stumbling block in the way of achieving a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region;
5. *Calls upon* Israel to resume the talks on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks and to respect the commitments and undertakings reached during the previous talks;
6. *Demands once more* that Israel withdraw from all the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967 in implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions;
7. *Calls upon* all the parties concerned, the co-sponsors of the peace process and the entire international community to exert all the necessary efforts to ensure the resumption of the peace process and its success by implementing Security Council resolutions [242 \(1967\)](#) and [338 \(1973\)](#);
8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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<sup>35</sup> [A/78/315](#).

<sup>36</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

## RESOLUTION 78/12

Adopted at the 41st plenary meeting, on 29 November 2023, without a vote, on the basis of draft resolution [A/78/L.12](#), sponsored by: Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Georgia, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia

### 78/12. World Duchenne Awareness Day

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>37</sup> the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>38</sup> the Convention on the Rights of the Child<sup>39</sup> and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,<sup>40</sup>

*Reaffirming* its resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a wide, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, and its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, with the endeavour to reach the furthest behind first, including people living with rare diseases,

*Recalling* its resolution [76/132](#) of 16 December 2021,

*Encouraging* Member States and relevant United Nations agencies, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders and organizations, to actively raise awareness on the specific challenges and needs faced by individuals and families in the rare diseases community through national campaigns, educational programmes and information dissemination, with the goal of fostering greater understanding and empathy towards those affected by rare diseases and promoting global solidarity,

*Recognizing* that Duchenne muscular dystrophy is one of the most common paediatric genetic rare diseases,

1. *Decides* to designate 7 September, the current World Duchenne Awareness Day, as a United Nations Day, to be observed every year beginning in 2024;

2. *Invites* all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations and individuals, to observe World Duchenne Awareness Day in an appropriate manner.

## RESOLUTION 78/68

Adopted at the 44th plenary meeting, on 5 December 2023, without a vote, on the basis of draft resolution [A/78/L.13](#), sponsored by: Albania, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belize, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Cyprus, Czechia, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Papua

<sup>37</sup> Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

<sup>38</sup> See resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

<sup>39</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>40</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.



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New Guinea, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

**78/68. Sustainable fisheries, including through the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and related instruments**

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* its annual resolutions on sustainable fisheries, including resolution [77/118](#) of 9 December 2022, and other relevant resolutions,

*Recalling* the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (the Convention),<sup>41</sup> and bearing in mind the relationship between the Convention and the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (the Agreement),<sup>42</sup>

*Welcoming* ratifications of and accessions to the Agreement and the fact that a growing number of States, entities referred to in the Convention and in article 1, paragraph 2 (b), of the Agreement, and subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, have taken measures, as appropriate, towards the implementation of the provisions of the Agreement, in order to improve their management regimes,

*Welcoming also* the holding of the resumed Review Conference on the Agreement, in New York from 22 to 26 May 2023, and its outcome,<sup>43</sup>

*Having considered* the report of the resumed Review Conference on the Agreement,<sup>44</sup> which reaffirmed and consolidated the recommendations adopted in 2006, 2010 and 2016, and adopted additional recommendations,

*Welcoming* the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and its Committee on Fisheries, and recognizing in particular the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (the Code) and other related instruments, including the international plans of action, which set out principles and global standards of behaviour for responsible practices for the conservation of fisheries resources and the management and development of fisheries, as well as the 2005 Rome Declaration on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing,

*Recognizing* the importance of data collection through accurate and reliable reporting and monitoring of catches, including by-catch and discards, as a fundamental element of effective fisheries management that provides a basis for scientific stock assessment, and ecosystem approaches to fisheries management,

*Recalling* that the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration cover the period from 2021 to 2030 and provide important opportunities to address gaps in ocean science, increase knowledge, improve synergies and support the sustainable conservation and management of marine resources, as well as to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide,

*Noting with concern* that the effective management of marine capture fisheries has been made difficult in some areas by unreliable and incomplete information and data caused by, inter alia, unreported and misreported fish catch and fishing effort and that this lack of accurate data undermines the assessment of fish stocks and contributes to overfishing in some areas, and in this regard recalling that members of regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements must fully comply with their associated data-collection and reporting obligations, including to ensure that required data submissions are complete, reliable and submitted in a timely manner,

*Recognizing* the second World Ocean Assessment, launched in April 2021, which provides information on the state of the marine environment, including socioeconomic aspects, in relation to, inter alia, fisheries,

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<sup>41</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.

<sup>42</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2167, No. 37924.

<sup>43</sup> [A/CONF.210/2023/6](#), annex.

<sup>44</sup> [A/CONF.210/2023/6](#).

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*Recognizing also* the significant contribution of sustainable fisheries to food security and nutrition, income, wealth and poverty alleviation for present and future generations,

*Welcoming in this regard* the continuous attention given by the international community to the role of fish and fish products in nutrition and food security, including by the Committee on World Food Security of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, especially noting the importance of the availability of highly nutritious food for low-income populations,

*Welcoming in this regard also* the work by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on strengthening food security and nutrition as a contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Welcoming in this regard further* 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”, as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution [66/288](#) of 27 July 2012,

*Welcoming* the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, held from 25 to 27 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, as adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, and in this regard reaffirming the commitment to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, as reflected in Goal 14 of the outcome document,

*Noting* the voluntary national reviews on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, particularly on Goal 14,

*Recalling* its resolution [76/296](#) of 21 July 2022, in which it endorsed the declaration entitled “Our ocean, our future, our responsibility” adopted by the high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, held in Lisbon from 27 June to 1 July 2022, as well as its resolution [71/312](#) of 6 July 2017, in which it endorsed the declaration entitled “Our ocean, our future: call for action” adopted by the Conference held in New York from 5 to 9 June 2017, and in this regard reaffirming the important role of the declarations in demonstrating the collective determination to act decisively and urgently to improve the health, productivity, sustainable use and resilience of the ocean and its ecosystem,

*Recognizing* the important contributions of the partnership dialogues and voluntary commitments made in the context of the 2022 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development to the effective and timely implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14,

*Recalling* the decision of the General Assembly to convene the high-level 2025 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, to be co-hosted by Costa Rica and France in June 2025, supporting the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14, including sustainable fisheries management,

*Recalling also* the decision in its resolution [71/124](#) of 7 December 2016 to designate 2 May as World Tuna Day,

*Recalling further* the decision in its resolution [72/72](#) of 5 December 2017 to proclaim 5 June the International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, to draw attention to the threats posed by illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities to the sustainable use of fisheries resources as well as to ongoing efforts to fight these activities,

*Recalling* that the Committee on Fisheries, at its thirty-fifth session, thanked the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of China for the successful convening of the Global Conference on Aquaculture Millennium+20 with valuable outputs, noted the importance of the Conference as a significant global platform to engage a broad range of stakeholders in aquaculture, and encouraged the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to continue organizing such conferences,

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*Recalling with appreciation* the activities undertaken in connection with the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture,<sup>45</sup> noting in this context the first Small-scale Fisheries Summit, convened in Rome from 2 to 4 September 2022, and highlighting the need to continue to focus attention on the important role of small-scale and artisanal fisheries and aquaculture in poverty eradication, ending hunger, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition, in line with the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication,<sup>46</sup>

*Recalling* that, in “The future we want”, States were encouraged to give due consideration to implementing the Committee on World Food Security Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security,<sup>47</sup>

*Noting* that the Committee on Fisheries, at its thirty-fifth session, called upon all States to enable fishers and fish workers in small-scale fisheries to participate in the process of decision-making concerning fisheries management, and reiterated the fundamental role that a new subcommittee on fisheries management could play in relation to sustainable small-scale fisheries,

*Recalling* the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication,

*Recognizing* the urgent need for action at all levels, relying on the best available scientific information to ensure the long-term sustainable use and management of fisheries resources through the wide application of the precautionary approach and ecosystem approaches,

*Welcoming* the endorsement by the Committee on Fisheries, at its thirty-fifth session, of the proposal to establish a subcommittee on fisheries management, and noting that the first session of the Subcommittee on Fisheries Management of the Committee on Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations will be convened virtually from 15 to 18 January 2024,

*Reiterating its concern* over the current and projected adverse effects of climate change on food security and the sustainability of fisheries, noting in that regard the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Environment Programme, and noting with concern the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel in its special report on the ocean and cryosphere in a changing climate,

*Recalling* the entry into force of the Paris Agreement,<sup>48</sup> and noting that it aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, including by increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience,

*Noting with appreciation* the comprehensive review of the impacts of climate change on fisheries and aquaculture and adaptation options undertaken by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,

*Reaffirming its commitment* to ensuring that conservation and management measures adopted by regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements are based on the best available scientific information,

*Welcoming* the actions of those States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements that have already begun to carry out work to increase the climate resilience of fisheries and aquaculture in response to the adverse impacts of climate change, and underscoring the need for international cooperation to support States in such efforts,

*Taking note* of the report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations entitled *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022*, in which it was stated that progress had been made in some regions but that the state of marine fishery resources, based on the long-term monitoring of assessed marine fish stocks by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, has continued to decline and that 35.4 per cent of assessed marine fish stocks were estimated to be fished at a biologically unsustainable level and therefore overfished as of 2019,

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<sup>45</sup> See Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document COFI/2022/4.1/Rev.1.

<sup>46</sup> Available at [www.fao.org/voluntary-guidelines-small-scale-fisheries/en/](http://www.fao.org/voluntary-guidelines-small-scale-fisheries/en/).

<sup>47</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document CL 144/9 (C 2013/20), appendix D.

<sup>48</sup> See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

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*Recognizing* the need for enhanced capacity-building, technical assistance and international cooperation to support developing countries, in particular small island developing States, to develop long-term monitoring of marine fish stocks, especially in relation to small-scale and artisanal fisheries,

*Concerned* that only a limited number of States have taken measures to implement, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, the International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity adopted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,

*Recalling* the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing adopted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,

*Particularly concerned* that illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing continues to constitute a serious threat to fish stocks and marine habitats and ecosystems, to the detriment of sustainable fisheries as well as the food security and the economies of many States, particularly developing States,

*Recognizing* the importance of States' and relevant international fisheries organizations' expanding existing efforts to address illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing,

*Concerned* that some operators increasingly take advantage of the globalization of fishery markets to trade fishery products stemming from illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and make economic profits from those operations, which constitutes an incentive for them to pursue their activities,

*Recognizing* that the effective deterrence and combating of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing has significant financial and other resource implications for all States, in particular developing States,

*Recognizing also* that fishing by vessels without nationality on the high seas undermines relevant objectives of the Convention and the Agreement to conserve and sustainably manage marine resources, and noting with concern that fishing vessels without nationality operate on the high seas without governance and oversight,

*Recognizing further* the role of the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels in the concerted fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing,

*Recognizing* the duty provided in the Convention, the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas (the Compliance Agreement),<sup>49</sup> the Agreement and the Code for flag States to effectively exercise jurisdiction and control over fishing vessels flying their flag, and vessels flying their flag which provide support to fishing vessels, to ensure that the activities of such fishing and support vessels do not undermine the effectiveness of conservation and management measures taken in accordance with international law and adopted at the national, subregional, regional or global levels,

*Noting* the advisory opinion of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea on the request for an advisory opinion submitted by the Subregional Fisheries Commission, issued on 2 April 2015,

*Recognizing* the importance of adequately regulating, monitoring and controlling trans-shipment at sea, including on the high seas, to contribute to combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities,

*Noting in this regard* the Voluntary Guidelines for Trans-shipment as a new instrument within the framework of the Code,

*Noting* the obligation of all States, in accordance with international law, as reflected in the relevant provisions of the Convention, to cooperate in the conservation and management of living marine resources, and recognizing the importance of coordination and cooperation at the global, regional, subregional and national levels in the areas, inter alia, of marine scientific research, data collection, information-sharing, capacity-building and training for the conservation, management and sustainable development of living marine resources,

*Acknowledging* the importance of ocean data buoy systems moored in areas beyond national jurisdiction to sustainable development, promoting safety at sea and limiting human vulnerability to natural disasters, due to their use in weather and marine forecasts, fisheries management, tsunami forecasts and climate prediction, and expressing

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<sup>49</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2221, No. 39486.

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concern that most damage to ocean data buoys, such as moored buoys and tsunameters, frequently results from actions taken by some fishing operations which render the buoys inoperable,

*Welcoming in this regard* the adoption of measures by States, individually or through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to protect ocean data buoy systems from the impacts of fishing activities,

*Encouraging* States, individually or through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to cooperate to ensure that interactions between fishing operations and ocean data buoys on the high seas are minimized,

*Recognizing* the need for States, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to continue to develop and implement, consistent with international law, effective port State measures to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and to contribute to addressing overfishing, the critical need for cooperation with developing States to build their capacity, and the importance of cooperation between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Maritime Organization in this regard,

*Recalling* the entry into force of the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in 2016,<sup>50</sup> and acknowledging the holding of the Fourth Meeting of the Parties to that Agreement, in Bali, Indonesia, from 8 to 12 May 2023,

*Recognizing* the efforts of States, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to implement its resolution [46/215](#) of 20 December 1991, in which the General Assembly called for a global moratorium on all large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing, including collaborative fisheries enforcement activities,

*Concerned* that marine pollution from all sources constitutes a serious threat to human health and safety, endangers fish stocks, marine biodiversity and marine and coastal habitats and has significant costs to local and national economies,

*Recognizing* that marine debris is a global transboundary pollution problem and that, owing to the many different types and sources of marine debris, different approaches to its prevention and removal are necessary, including the identification of such sources and environmentally sound techniques for its removal,

*Expressing concern* over the serious threat to fisheries and aquaculture in marine areas posed by pollution from land-based sources, including sewage pollution, and encouraging coordinated efforts by States and organizations to fight the discharge of untreated and environmentally hazardous sewage into coastal ecosystems,

*Recognizing* that the majority of marine debris, including plastics and microplastics, entering the seas and oceans is considered to originate from land-based sources,

*Recognizing also* that abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear, is an increasingly pervasive and destructive form of marine debris causing adverse impacts on fish stocks, marine life and the marine environment, including through ghost fishing, and that urgent preventative action is needed, such as the marking and reporting of the loss of fishing gear in line with the Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear adopted by the Committee on Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, as well as retrieval and removal action,

*Noting* the holding of the first, second and third sessions of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, in Punta del Este, Uruguay, from 28 November to 2 December 2022, in Paris from 29 May to 2 June 2023 and in Nairobi from 13 to 19 November 2023, respectively,

*Acknowledging* that anthropogenic underwater noise could have impacts on different marine species, which could also have consequent socioeconomic impacts, including on fishing, and recalling in this regard the discussions on the issue at the nineteenth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea,<sup>51</sup>

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<sup>50</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document C 2009/REP and Corr. 1–3, appendix E.

<sup>51</sup> See [A/73/124](#).

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*Taking note* of decision 15/24 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity on conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity, in which the Conference noted the role of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations as the global implementing body related to fisheries, and acknowledged the work done to mainstream biodiversity into the fisheries sector globally,

*Noting* the amendment of the appendices to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora by the Conference of the Parties to that Convention to include a number of additional shark and ray species,

*Noting also* the continuing gaps in knowledge and lack of data with respect to anthropogenic underwater noise and its impacts, and welcoming in this respect that the Committee on Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, at its thirty-fourth session, recognized the increased science-based knowledge on underwater anthropogenic noise and encouraged the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to assess its possible impacts, including its socioeconomic consequences, on marine resources in collaboration with relevant international organizations such as the International Maritime Organization,

*Reaffirming* the importance of sustainable aquaculture to food security, recognizing that, as indicated in *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022*, aquaculture has already demonstrated its crucial role in global food security, with its production growing at 6.7 per cent per year on average since 1990, and recognizing the potential of aquaculture for further growth, but also that the enormity of the environmental challenges the sector must face and address as it intensifies production demands new sustainable aquaculture development strategies,

*Noting in this regard* that the Committee on Fisheries requested the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to quickly finalize ambitious guidelines for sustainable aquaculture, and noting further that the Subcommittee on Aquaculture of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, at its twelfth session, held in May 2023, approved the revised final version of the Guidelines for Sustainable Aquaculture and endorsed its submission to the Committee on Fisheries at its thirty-sixth session for adoption,

*Noting* that the contribution of sustainable aquaculture to global fish supplies continues to respond to opportunities in developing countries to enhance local food security and nutrition and poverty alleviation and, together with the efforts of other aquaculture-producing countries, will make a significant contribution to meeting future demands in fish consumption, bearing in mind article 9 of the Code,

*Noting in this regard* the concern about the potential risks and effects of genetically engineered aquatic fish species on the health and sustainability of wild fish stocks and on the biodiversity of the aquatic environment,

*Recognizing* the efforts made by States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in regulating deep-sea fisheries, while still concerned that some deep-sea fishing activities in certain areas are being carried out without the full implementation of relevant paragraphs of previous resolutions, representing a threat to vulnerable marine ecosystems,

*Calling attention* to the particular vulnerabilities of small island developing States, other developing coastal States and subsistence fishing communities whose livelihoods, economic development and food security are heavily dependent on sustainable fisheries and will suffer disproportionately if sustainable fisheries are negatively affected,

*Calling attention also* to the circumstances affecting fisheries in many developing States, in particular African States and small island developing States, and recognizing the urgent need for capacity-building, including the transfer of marine technology and in particular fisheries- and aquaculture-related technology, to enhance the ability of such States to exercise their rights in order to realize the benefits from fisheries resources and fulfil their obligations under international instruments,

*Noting* the need to recognize and address the special role of women and the vulnerability of Indigenous Peoples and local communities and minorities in small-scale and artisanal fisheries,

*Recognizing* the important contribution of women, Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors, as well as challenges faced by women, Indigenous Peoples and local communities in these sectors, including lack of access to social protection and unequal employment opportunities,

*Noting in this regard* the Santiago de Compostela Declaration for Equal Opportunities in the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sectors adopted by participants at the International Conference of Women in Fisheries, in November 2018,

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*Recognizing* the need to adopt, implement and enforce appropriate measures to minimize waste, by-catch and discards, including high-grading, loss of fishing gear and other factors that adversely affect the sustainability of fish stocks and ecosystems and, consequently, can also have harmful effects on the economies and food security of small island developing States, other developing coastal States and subsistence fishing communities,

*Recognizing also* the need to adopt and implement appropriate measures, consistent with the best available scientific information, to minimize by-catch of non-targeted species and juveniles through the effective management of fishing methods, including the use and design of fish aggregating devices, in order to mitigate adverse effects on fish stocks and ecosystems,

*Recognizing further* the need to further integrate ecosystem approaches into fisheries conservation and management and, more generally, the importance of applying ecosystem approaches to the management of human activities in the ocean, and noting in this regard the fifteenth round of informal consultations of States parties to the Agreement, focusing on the topic “Implementation of an ecosystem approach to fisheries management”, the Reykjavik Declaration on Responsible Fisheries in the Marine Ecosystem,<sup>52</sup> the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations related to guidelines for the implementation of the ecosystem approach to fisheries management and the importance of this approach to relevant provisions of the Agreement and the Code, as well as decision VII/11<sup>53</sup> and other relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity,

*Recognizing* the economic and cultural importance of sharks in many countries, the biological importance of sharks in the marine ecosystem as key predatory species, the vulnerability of certain shark species to overexploitation, the fact that some are threatened with extinction, the need for measures to promote the long-term conservation, management and sustainable use of shark populations and fisheries, and the relevance of the International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks, adopted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in 1999, in providing guidance on the development of such measures,

*Welcoming in this regard* the review by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations of the implementation of the International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks, and its ongoing work in this regard,

*Noting with concern* that basic data on shark stocks and harvests continue to be lacking and that not all regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements have adopted conservation and management measures for directed shark fisheries and for the regulation of by-catch of sharks from other fisheries,

*Encouraging* the efforts and progress made by regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to improve the collection of species-specific fisheries and biological data on sharks, and to adopt conservation and management measures based on the best available scientific information to conserve shark species and promote their long-term sustainable management, and urging action within regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to address implementation and compliance within existing measures,

*Welcoming* science-based measures taken by States to conserve and sustainably manage sharks, and noting in this respect management measures taken by coastal States, including limits on catch or fishing effort, technical measures, including by-catch reduction measures, sanctuaries, closed seasons and areas and monitoring, control and surveillance,

*Recalling* the resolution entitled “Conservation and management of sharks”<sup>54</sup> and decisions on sharks and rays, as amended at the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, inter alia, the inclusion of additional species of sharks and rays in appendix II to that Convention,<sup>55</sup> and recalling also the ongoing work of the secretariat of that Convention, as well as other organizations, including the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development

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<sup>52</sup> E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/3, annex.

<sup>53</sup> See United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/7/21, annex.

<sup>54</sup> See resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP18) of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

<sup>55</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 993, No. 14537.



Center and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, on capacity-building to facilitate the implementation of requirements associated with such listings,

*Recalling also* that the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, at its thirteenth session, held in Gandhinagar, India, from 17 to 22 February 2020, added three new species of sharks to those listed in the appendices to that Convention,<sup>56</sup> bringing the number of listed shark and ray species to 37 species,

*Recalling further* that the signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks, at their fourth meeting, held in Bonn, Germany, from 28 February to 3 March 2023, added one new species of shark to those listed in annex I to that Memorandum of Understanding, and adopted a capacity-building strategy aimed at supporting signatories with the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding and its conservation plan,

*Noting with concern* the continuing practice of the removal of fins from sharks, with the remainder of the carcass being discarded at sea,

*Recognizing* the importance of marine species occupying low trophic levels in the ecosystem and for food security, and the need to ensure their long-term sustainability,

*Expressing concern* over continued incidental mortality, in fishing operations, of seabirds, particularly albatrosses and petrels, as well as other marine species, including sharks, fin-fish species, marine mammals and marine turtles, while recognizing considerable efforts by States and through various regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to reduce incidental mortality as a result of by-catch,

*Noting with concern* the significant threat that invasive alien species, such as those carried and transferred by ballast water and by biofouling on ships, pose to marine ecosystems and resources,

*Recognizing* the importance of decent work and productive employment in the fishing sector, which is critical to sustainable livelihoods and food security,

*Noting* the ongoing work by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to develop guidance on social sustainability in fisheries and aquaculture value chains, in line with the recommendation of its Committee on Fisheries, and in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, including industry and fish worker associations,

## **I**

### **Achieving sustainable fisheries**

1. *Reaffirms* the importance that it attaches to the long-term conservation, management and sustainable use of the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas and the obligations of States to cooperate to this end, in accordance with international law, as reflected in the relevant provisions of the Convention, in particular the provisions on cooperation set out in Part V and Part VII, section 2, of the Convention, and where applicable, the Agreement;

2. *Calls upon* all States that have not done so, in order to achieve the goal of universal participation, to become parties to the Convention, which sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out, taking into account the relationship between the Convention and the Agreement;

3. *Notes with satisfaction* that, in “The future we want”,<sup>57</sup> States addressed the sustainable development of fisheries, recognized the significant contribution of fisheries to the three dimensions of sustainable development and stressed the crucial role of healthy marine ecosystems, sustainable fisheries and sustainable aquaculture for food security and nutrition and in providing for the livelihoods of millions of people, and encourages States to implement the commitments made in “The future we want”;

4. *Calls upon* States to implement the Sustainable Development Goals outlined in the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, as adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/1, including

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<sup>56</sup> Ibid., vol. 1651, No. 28395.

<sup>57</sup> Resolution 66/288, annex.



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Goal 14 to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, recalling that some of its targets were to be met by 2020 and that the Goals and targets are integrated and indivisible;

5. *Reiterates*, in this regard, the calls for action to be taken on an urgent basis to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development made in the declarations entitled “Our ocean, our future: call for action”<sup>58</sup> and “Our ocean, our future, our responsibility”;<sup>59</sup>

6. *Encourages* States to give due priority to the implementation of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation)<sup>60</sup> in relation to achieving sustainable fisheries, especially restoring depleted stocks to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield on an urgent basis and, where possible, not later than 2015, and recalls that, in “The future we want”, States committed themselves to intensify their efforts to meet that target and to urgently take the measures necessary to maintain or restore all stocks at least to levels that can produce the maximum sustainable yield, with the aim of achieving those goals in the shortest time feasible, as determined by their biological characteristics, and in order to achieve this, to urgently develop and implement science-based management plans, including by reducing or suspending fishing catch and fishing effort commensurate with the status of the stock, consistent with international law, the applicable international instruments and relevant General Assembly resolutions and guidelines of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

7. *Recalls* the 2021 Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture, endorsed by the Committee on Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, at its thirty-fourth session, to renew its commitment to the Code, and refocus priorities to secure the long-term sustainability and resilience of the sector;

8. *Encourages* States to promote the consumption of fish sourced from sustainably managed fisheries and sustainable aquaculture to support environmental, social and economic goals;

9. *Also encourages* States to consider sustainable aquaculture, consistent with the Code, as a means to promote diversification of the food supply and of income, while ensuring that aquaculture is conducted responsibly and adverse impacts on the environment are minimized;

10. *Reaffirms* its resolution [74/3](#) of 10 October 2019, by which it adopted the political declaration of the high-level meeting to review progress made in addressing the priorities of small island developing States through the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, which notes the importance of oceans, seas and marine resources to small island developing States and acknowledges their efforts to develop and implement strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean and its resources, and emphasizes the need for the full implementation of the Samoa Pathway;<sup>61</sup>

11. *Recalls* its resolution [77/321](#) of 1 August 2023 on the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction, and invites States and regional economic integration organizations to consider its implications for sustainable fisheries;

12. *Expresses its serious concern* regarding the impacts of global climate change and ocean acidification on coral reefs and other ecosystems relevant to fisheries, and urges States, either directly or through appropriate subregional, regional or global organizations or arrangements, to intensify efforts to assess and address, as appropriate, the impacts of global climate change and ocean acidification on the sustainability of fish stocks and the habitats that support them, in particular the most affected ones;

13. *Notes*, in this regard, the special report on the ocean and cryosphere in a changing climate of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and notes with concern the findings contained therein;

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<sup>58</sup> Resolution [71/312](#), annex.

<sup>59</sup> Resolution [76/296](#), annex.

<sup>60</sup> *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 2, annex.

<sup>61</sup> Resolution [69/15](#), annex.

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14. *Invites* States to continue capacity-building efforts and to promote international coordination on scientific research focused on monitoring the impacts of climate phenomena with impacts on fisheries, such as the El Niño/Southern Oscillation (El Niño/La Niña), especially on small-scale and artisanal fisheries and aquaculture;

15. *Notes* that the Committee on Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, at its thirty-fifth session, commended the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on climate change in fisheries and aquaculture, also commended the development of the Strategy on Climate Change 2022–2031 of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations as the new corporate framework for enhancing climate action and recommended the development of a set of actions by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations focused on climate-resilient fisheries, and noted the progress made in supporting countries' adaptation, resilience and mitigation measures, underscoring the vulnerability of small-scale and artisanal fisheries and aquaculture-dependent communities;

16. *Also notes* that the Committee on Fisheries, at its thirty-fifth session, encouraged the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to increase knowledge and awareness on climate change impacts in fisheries and aquaculture and to provide guidance on adaptation and mitigation, highlighting the need for guidance on climate-resilient fisheries management, including by convening a workshop with regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements and regional fisheries advisory bodies, and further encouraged the inclusion of climate change in the Guidelines for Sustainable Aquaculture;

17. *Further notes* that the Committee on Fisheries, at its thirty-fifth session, appreciated the engagement of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations with, and the progress made under, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change<sup>62</sup> and encouraged the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to further foster the inclusion of aquatic foods in global climate forums, including through that Convention's ocean and climate change dialogue;

18. *Emphasizes* the obligations of flag States to discharge their responsibilities, in accordance with the Convention, the Agreement and the Compliance Agreement, to ensure compliance by vessels flying their flag with the conservation and management measures adopted and in force with respect to fisheries resources on the high seas;

19. *Calls upon* States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, as appropriate, to act urgently to assess the risks and potential adverse impacts of climate change with respect to fish stocks, consider them when establishing conservation and management measures and identifying options to reduce risks and adverse impacts with respect to fisheries management and the health and resilience of marine ecosystems and enhance efforts to cooperate to collect, exchange and publish scientific and technical data and best practices related to the development and implementation of adaptation strategies, and to assist developing States in this regard, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change;

20. *Urges* States and relevant organizations and arrangements to assess and consider the impacts of climate change on fisheries and aquaculture sectors in their policies and planning, as appropriate, without delay in order to identify and implement effective adaptation strategies to reduce the vulnerability of these sectors to climate change;

21. *Welcomes* the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and its outcomes, in particular the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and encourages its full and effective implementation, recognizing the role of sustainably managed fisheries in achieving the Framework and its targets relevant to fisheries and aquaculture;

22. *Calls upon* all States, directly or through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to apply widely, in accordance with international law and the Code, the precautionary approach and ecosystem approaches to the conservation, management and exploitation of fish stocks, and also calls upon States parties to the Agreement to implement fully the provisions of article 6 of the Agreement as a matter of priority;

23. *Urges* States to increase their reliance on scientific advice in developing, adopting and implementing conservation and management measures, and to increase their efforts, including through international cooperation, to promote science for conservation and management measures that apply, in accordance with international law, the precautionary approach and ecosystem approaches to fisheries management, enhancing understanding of ecosystem approaches, in order to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of living marine resources, and in this

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<sup>62</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

regard encourages the implementation of the Strategy for Improving Information on Status and Trends of Capture Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations as a framework for the improvement and understanding of fishery status and trends;

24. *Calls upon* all States, directly or through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to apply stock-specific target and limit precautionary reference points, which, for target reference points, are intended to meet management objectives, as described in annex II to the Agreement and in the Code, to ensure that populations of harvested stocks and, where necessary, associated or dependent species are maintained at or restored to sustainable levels, and to use these reference points for triggering conservation and management action;

25. *Encourages* States, directly or through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to establish and implement rebuilding and recovery strategies and plans where a stock is identified as being overfished, which should include time frames and probabilities of recovery aimed at bringing the stock back at least to levels that can produce the maximum sustainable yield, and guided by scientific assessment and subjected to a periodic evaluation of progress;

26. *Also encourages* States to apply the precautionary approach and ecosystem approaches in adopting and implementing conservation and management measures addressing, inter alia, by-catch, pollution and overfishing, and protecting habitats of specific concern, taking into account existing guidelines developed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

27. *Further encourages* States to enhance or develop observer programmes, individually or through regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements, in order to improve data collection on, inter alia, target and by-catch species, which could also assist monitoring, control and surveillance tools, and to take into account standards, forms of cooperation and other existing structures for such programmes as described in article 25 of the Agreement and article 5 of the Code;

28. *Calls upon*, in this regard, States, individually in line with their national legislation or through regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements, to take steps as appropriate to ensure the safety of observers;

29. *Encourages* States to implement, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, accurate, complete, reliable and effective data collection and reporting of required data on catches, including by-catch and discards, and to review, validate and provide such data in support of scientific stock assessment and ecosystem approaches to fisheries management, as well as monitoring and compliance activities, while noting the importance, particularly for developing countries, of improving the capacity to collect and report accurate, complete, reliable and effective data;

30. *Calls upon* States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to collect and, where appropriate, report to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations required catch and effort data, and fishery-related information, in a complete, accurate and timely way, including for straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks within and beyond areas under national jurisdiction, discrete high seas fish stocks, and by-catch and discards; and, where they do not exist, to establish processes to strengthen data collection, including through innovative technologies, and reporting by members of regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, including through regular reviews of member compliance with such obligations, and, when such obligations are not met, require the member concerned to rectify the problem, including through the preparation of plans of action with timelines;

31. *Invites* States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to cooperate with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in the implementation and further development of the Fisheries Resources Monitoring System initiative;

32. *Reaffirms* paragraph 10 of its resolution [61/105](#) of 8 December 2006, and calls upon States, including through regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements, to urgently adopt and implement measures to fully implement the International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks for directed and non-directed shark fisheries, based on the best available scientific information, through, inter alia, limits on catch or fishing effort, by requiring that vessels flying their flag collect and regularly report data on shark catches, including species-specific data, discards and landings, undertaking, including through international cooperation, comprehensive stock assessments of sharks, reducing shark by-catch and by-catch mortality and, where scientific information is uncertain or inadequate, not increasing fishing effort in directed shark fisheries and urgently establishing science-based management measures to ensure the long-term conservation, management and sustainable use of shark stocks

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and to prevent further declines of vulnerable or threatened shark stocks, and encourages the full utilization of dead sharks caught in the context of sustainably managed fisheries;

33. *Calls upon* States to take immediate and concerted action to improve the implementation of and compliance with existing regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements and national measures that regulate shark fisheries and incidental catch of sharks, in particular those measures which prohibit or restrict fisheries conducted solely for the purpose of harvesting shark fins and, where necessary, to consider taking other measures, as appropriate, such as requiring that all sharks be landed with each fin naturally attached;

34. *Calls upon* regional fisheries management organizations with the competence to regulate highly migratory species to strengthen or establish precautionary, science-based conservation and management measures, as appropriate, for sharks taken in fisheries within their convention areas consistent with the International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks;

35. *Encourages* range States and regional economic integration organizations that have not yet done so to become signatories to and implement the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, and invites non-range States, intergovernmental organizations and international and national non-governmental organizations or other relevant bodies and entities to consider becoming cooperating partners;

36. *Encourages* States, as appropriate, to cooperate in establishing non-detriment findings for shared stocks of marine species listed in appendices I and II to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, consistent with the concepts and non-binding guiding principles contained in resolution Conf. 16.7 on non-detriment findings, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora;

37. *Notes*, in this regard, the ongoing collaboration between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora in raising awareness and building capacity on the implementation of that Convention in the fisheries sector, as a growing number of commercially exploited aquatic species are being included in appendix II to that Convention;

38. *Recalls* the fundamental role of sound scientific advice as the basis for decisions on fisheries management, and notes the ongoing collaboration of regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements with the secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora to provide the best scientific data and information;

39. *Urges* States to eliminate barriers to trade in fish and fisheries products which are not consistent with their rights and obligations under the World Trade Organization agreements, taking into account the importance of the trade in fish and fisheries products, particularly for developing countries;

40. *Recalls* that, in “The future we want”, States committed themselves to observing the need to ensure access to fisheries and the importance of access to markets by subsistence, small-scale and artisanal fisherfolk and women fish workers, as well as Indigenous Peoples and their communities, particularly in developing countries, especially small island developing States;

41. *Notes* that the Committee on Fisheries encouraged the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to provide capacity-development and technical support to small-scale fisheries, including by addressing socioeconomics, gender dimensions, and post-harvest and data-collection challenges in the sector;

42. *Urges* States and relevant international and national organizations to provide for the participation of small-scale fishery stakeholders in related policy development and fisheries management strategies in order to achieve long-term sustainability for such fisheries, consistent with the duty to ensure the proper conservation and management of fisheries resources, and encourages States to consider promoting, as appropriate, participatory management schemes for small-scale fisheries in accordance with national laws, regulations and practices, as well as the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

43. *Encourages* States to implement actions to highlight the role of and support small-scale and artisanal fisheries and aquaculture;

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44. *Welcomes* action taken by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and a number of regional organizations to support the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication through regional plans of action, dedicated working groups and other initiatives;

45. *Encourages* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to continue promoting dialogue on small-scale and artisanal fisheries and aquaculture, and to consider including these issues as a standing agenda item of the Committee on Fisheries and its subcommittees, as relevant;

46. *Encourages* States, either directly or through competent and appropriate subregional, regional or global organizations and arrangements, to analyse, as appropriate, the impact of fishing for marine species corresponding to low trophic levels;

47. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the initiation of further studies by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations of the impact of industrial fishing activities on species corresponding to low trophic levels;

48. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to assess and consider the potential risk and effects of genetically engineered fish species on the health and sustainability of wild fish stocks and on the biodiversity of the aquatic environment and to provide guidance, consistent with the Code, on managing risk and minimizing harmful impacts in this regard;

49. *Also invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in consultation with other relevant international organizations, including the International Maritime Organization, to promote awareness and cooperation to develop and strengthen capacity to prevent, minimize and mitigate the adverse impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity, including fish stocks;

50. *Calls upon* States to consider the potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts of anthropogenic underwater noise from different activities in the marine environment and to address and mitigate such impacts, taking into account the best available scientific information, the precautionary approach and ecosystem approaches, as appropriate;

## **II**

### **Implementation of the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks**

51. *Welcomes* the most recent accession to the Agreement, and calls upon all States, and entities referred to in the Convention and in article 1, paragraph 2 (b), of the Agreement, that have not done so to ratify or accede to the Agreement and in the interim to consider applying it provisionally;

52. *Calls upon* States parties to the Agreement to effectively implement, as a matter of priority, the provisions of the Agreement through their national legislation and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in which they participate;

53. *Emphasizes* the importance of those provisions of the Agreement relating to bilateral, subregional and regional cooperation in enforcement, and urges continued efforts in this regard;

54. *Urges* States parties to the Agreement, in accordance with article 21, paragraph 4, thereof, to inform, either directly or through the relevant subregional or regional fisheries management organization or arrangement, all States whose vessels fish on the high seas in the same subregion or region of the form of identification issued by those States parties to officials duly authorized to carry out boarding and inspection functions in accordance with articles 21 and 22 of the Agreement;

55. *Also urges* States parties to the Agreement, in accordance with article 21, paragraph 4, thereof, to designate an appropriate authority to receive notifications pursuant to article 21 and to give due publicity to such designation through the relevant subregional or regional fisheries management organization or arrangement;

56. *Invites* regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements which have not yet done so to adopt procedures for high seas boarding and inspection that are consistent with articles 21 and 22 of the Agreement, including, inter alia, those to ensure the safety of the crew and the inspectors;

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57. *Notes* that, in the agreed outcome of the resumed Review Conference on the Agreement, in May 2023, the Conference recommended the development, through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, of high seas boarding and inspection measures where they do not currently exist, effective implementation of such measures where they already exist, and review of the implementation of existing measures, in accordance with articles 21 and 22 of the Agreement;

58. *Calls upon* States, individually and, as appropriate, through subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements with competence over discrete high seas fish stocks, to adopt the measures necessary to ensure the long-term conservation, management and sustainable use of such stocks in accordance with the Convention and consistent with the Code and the general principles set forth in the Agreement;

59. *Invites* States to assist developing States in enhancing their participation in regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements, including by facilitating access to fisheries for straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks, in accordance with article 25, paragraph 1 (b), of the Agreement, taking into account the need to ensure that such access benefits the developing States concerned and their nationals;

60. *Urges* States parties to the Agreement, directly or through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to take into account the special requirements of developing States, including small island developing States as highlighted in the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, in giving effect to the duty to cooperate in the establishment of conservation and management measures for straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks, including the need to ensure, where appropriate, in accordance with article 24, paragraph 2 (c), of the Agreement, that such measures do not transfer a disproportionate burden of conservation action onto developing States, and notes in this regard ongoing efforts to better develop a common understanding of this concept;

61. *Calls upon* States and international financial institutions and organizations of the United Nations system to provide assistance according to Part VII of the Agreement, including, if appropriate, the development of special financial mechanisms or instruments to assist developing States, in particular the least developed among them and small island developing States, to enable them to develop their national capacity to exploit fisheries resources, including developing their domestically flagged fishing fleet, value-added processing and the expansion of their economic base in the fishing industry, consistent with the duty to ensure the proper conservation and management of fisheries resources;

62. *Notes with appreciation*, in this regard, the ongoing United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement project of assistance, a three-year capacity-building programme funded through the Assistance Fund established under Part VII of the Agreement, implemented by the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat (the Division) in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

63. *Urges* States, intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions, national institutions and non-governmental organizations, as well as natural and juridical persons, to make voluntary financial contributions to the Assistance Fund established under Part VII of the Agreement;

64. *Encourages* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Division to continue their efforts to publicize the availability of assistance through the Assistance Fund;

65. *Encourages* accelerated progress by States, individually and, as appropriate, through subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, regarding the recommendations of the Review Conference on the Agreement, held in New York from 22 to 26 May 2006,<sup>63</sup> and the identification of emerging priorities;

66. *Encourages* States, individually and, as appropriate, through subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to consider implementing, as appropriate, the recommendations of the

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<sup>63</sup> See [A/CONF.210/2006/15](#), annex.

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resumed Review Conference held in New York from 24 to 28 May 2010,<sup>64</sup> from 23 to 27 May 2016<sup>65</sup> and from 22 to 26 May 2023;<sup>66</sup>

67. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his updated report submitted to the resumed Review Conference in accordance with paragraph 60 of resolution 74/18 of 10 December 2019 to assist the Review Conference in discharging its mandate under article 36, paragraph 2, of the Agreement;<sup>67</sup>

68. *Acknowledges*, in particular, the commitments made at the resumed Review Conference held in 2016 to the continued implementation of the Agreement through the application of the precautionary approach and ecosystem approaches to fisheries management, the urgent improvement of the status of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks, strengthened interaction of the science-policy interface and the strong emphasis on collaboration, at all levels, for improved global fisheries outcomes;

69. *Recalls* that the resumed Review Conference agreed to continue the informal consultations of States parties to the Agreement and keep the Agreement under review through the resumption of the Review Conference at a date not earlier than 2028;

70. *Also recalls* paragraph 6 of resolution 56/13 of 28 November 2001 and the recommendation of the resumed Review Conference in 2016 that the informal consultations of States parties to the Agreement be dedicated, on an annual basis, to the consideration of specific issues arising from the implementation of the Agreement, with a view to improving understanding, sharing experiences and identifying best practices for the consideration of States parties, as well as the General Assembly and the Review Conference;

71. *Takes note* of the reports of the resumed Review Conference on the Agreement and of the sixteenth round of informal consultations of States parties to the Agreement,<sup>68</sup> which served as a preparatory meeting for the resumed Review Conference;

72. *Recalls its request*, in paragraph 73 of resolution 77/118, for the Secretary-General to convene the seventeenth round of informal consultations of States parties to the Agreement for three days in 2024, and decides that the seventeenth round should focus its discussions on the topic “Sustainable fisheries management in the face of climate change”;

73. *Encourages* greater participation, including by competent international organizations, at the forthcoming seventeenth round of informal consultations of States parties to the Agreement;

74. *Requests* the Secretary-General to invite States parties to the Agreement and, as observers, States and entities referred to in the Convention and in article 1, paragraph 2 (b), of the Agreement not parties to the Agreement, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other relevant organizations, bodies, funds and programmes within the United Nations system, the secretariats of relevant organizations and conventions and other relevant intergovernmental organizations and bodies, in particular subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements and related regional intergovernmental marine science organizations, and relevant non-governmental organizations, in accordance with past practice, to attend the seventeenth round of informal consultations of States parties to the Agreement, while relevant scientific institutions may request an invitation to participate in the consultations as observers;

75. *Invites* the chairperson of the informal consultations of States parties to the Agreement to circulate widely, through the Secretariat, an informal summary of the discussions at the seventeenth round;

76. *Requests* the Secretary-General to convene the eighteenth round of informal consultations of States parties to the Agreement for three days in 2025;

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<sup>64</sup> See [A/CONF.210/2010/7](#), annex.

<sup>65</sup> See [A/CONF.210/2016/5](#), annex.

<sup>66</sup> See [A/CONF.210/2023/6](#), annex.

<sup>67</sup> [A/CONF.210/2023/1](#).

<sup>68</sup> Document ICSP16/UNFSA/INF.3. Available at [www.un.org/depts/los/convention\\_agreements/fish\\_stocks\\_agreement\\_states\\_parties.htm](http://www.un.org/depts/los/convention_agreements/fish_stocks_agreement_states_parties.htm).

77. *Reaffirms its request* that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations initiate arrangements with States for the collection and dissemination of data on fishing on the high seas by vessels flying their flag at the subregional and regional levels where no such arrangements exist;

78. *Also reaffirms its request* that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations revise its global fisheries statistics database to provide information on straddling fish stocks, highly migratory fish stocks and discrete high seas fish stocks on the basis of where the catch is taken;

79. *Recalls* that the Committee on Fisheries, at its thirty-third session, emphasized, in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the need to ensure comparability and consistency of reporting indicators at global, regional and national levels, while minimizing the burden on its members;<sup>69</sup>

80. *Recognizes* that the Review Conference is the competent intergovernmental forum for assessing the effectiveness of the Agreement by reviewing its implementation;

### **III**

#### **Related fisheries instruments**

81. *Emphasizes* the importance of the effective implementation of the provisions of the Compliance Agreement, and urges continued efforts in this regard;

82. *Notes*, in this regard, the release by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations of the study of the implementation of the Compliance Agreement<sup>70</sup> and the call by the Committee on Fisheries at its thirty-fifth session to consider options to strengthen effective implementation and enforcement;

83. *Calls upon* all States and other entities referred to in article X, paragraph 1, of the Compliance Agreement that have not yet become parties to that Agreement to do so as a matter of priority and, in the interim, to consider applying it provisionally;

84. *Urges* States and subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to implement and promote the application of the Code within their areas of competence;

85. *Urges* States to develop and implement, as a matter of priority, national and, as appropriate, regional plans of action to put into effect the international plans of action of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

86. *Encourages* States, in this regard, to maintain their commitment in reporting on their implementation of the Code, reiterates the importance of responding to the web-based questionnaire of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for monitoring the implementation of the Code and the international plans of action and strategies, and notes that the information collected could also be relevant to the implementation of related targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

87. *Recalls* the call by the Ministerial Conference on Fishing Vessel Safety and Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, held in October 2019 in Torremolinos, Spain, to those States that have not yet become parties to the Cape Town Agreement to consider doing so by the tenth anniversary of its adoption on 11 October 2022;

88. *Encourages*, in this regard, States to consider signing, ratifying, accepting, approving or acceding as soon as possible to the Cape Town Agreement of 2012 on the Implementation of the Provisions of the Torremolinos Protocol of 1993 relating to the Torremolinos International Convention for the Safety of Fishing Vessels, 1977;

89. *Notes* that the Committee on Fisheries, at its thirty-fifth session, welcomed the capacity-building work on decent working conditions and safety at sea of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, with an emphasis on reducing accidents and fatalities among small-scale fishers, fishing vessel safety standards and the promotion of insurance and social protection in fisheries, and requested the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to increase its support to developing countries on fishing safety matters and to take a leading role in the establishment of a repository for fisher safety data and accident and mortality information;

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<sup>69</sup> See Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document C 2019/23.

<sup>70</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document COFI/2022/SBD.19.



#### IV

#### **Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing**

90. *Emphasizes once again its serious concern* that illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing remains one of the greatest threats to fish stocks and marine ecosystems and continues to have serious and major implications for the conservation and management of ocean resources, as well as the food security and the economies of many States, particularly developing States, and renews its call upon States to comply fully with all existing obligations and to combat such fishing and urgently to take all steps necessary to implement the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing;

91. *Recalls* that, in “The future we want”, States acknowledged that illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing deprive many countries of a crucial natural resource and remain a persistent threat to their sustainable development and recommitted to eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing as advanced in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and to prevent and combat those practices, including by developing and implementing national and regional action plans in accordance with the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, implementing, in accordance with international law, effective and coordinated measures by coastal States, flag States, port States, chartering nations and the States of nationality of the beneficial owners and others who support or engage in illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing by identifying vessels engaged in such fishing and by depriving offenders of the benefits accruing from it, as well as by cooperating with developing countries to systematically identify needs and build capacity, including support for monitoring, control, surveillance, compliance and enforcement systems;

92. *Notes with satisfaction* the development of an increasing number of national plans of action to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and calls upon States that have not yet done so to consider developing such plans;

93. *Urges* flag States to strengthen effective jurisdiction and control over vessels flying their flag, and to exercise due diligence, including by developing or amending national rules and regulations, where needed, in order to ensure that such vessels do not engage in illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, while reaffirming the importance, under international law, including as reflected in the Convention, of the responsibilities of flag States regarding fishing vessels flying their flag, including with respect to safety at sea and labour conditions on fishing vessels;

94. *Urges* States to effectively exercise jurisdiction and control over their nationals, including beneficial owners, and vessels flying their flag, in order to prevent and deter them from engaging in illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities or supporting vessels engaging in illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities, including those vessels listed by regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements as engaged in those activities, and to facilitate mutual assistance to ensure that such actions can be investigated and proper sanctions imposed;

95. *Encourages* States that have not yet done so to establish penalties for non-compliance by vessels involved in fishing or fishing-related activities and their nationals, as appropriate, in accordance with applicable national law and consistent with international law, that are adequate in severity for effectively securing compliance, deterring further violations and depriving offenders of the benefits from their illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities;

96. *Urges* States to take effective measures, at the national, subregional, regional and global levels, to deter the activities, including illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, of any vessel which undermines conservation and management measures that have been adopted by subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in accordance with international law;

97. *Recognizes* the importance of transparency and the use of technology in fisheries, as part of policies to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing;

98. *Calls upon* States not to permit vessels flying their flag to engage in fishing on the high seas or in areas under the national jurisdiction of other States, unless duly authorized by the authorities of the States concerned and in accordance with the conditions set out in the authorization, and to take specific measures, including deterring the reflagging of vessels by their nationals, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention, the Agreement and the Compliance Agreement, to control fishing operations by vessels flying their flag;

99. *Urges* States, individually and collectively through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to develop appropriate processes to assess the performance of States with respect to implementing the obligations regarding fishing vessels flying their flag set out in relevant international instruments;

100. *Reaffirms* the need to strengthen, where necessary, the international legal framework for intergovernmental cooperation, in particular at the subregional and regional levels, in the management of fish stocks and in combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, in a manner consistent with international law, and for States and entities referred to in the Convention and in article 1, paragraph 2 (b), of the Agreement to collaborate in efforts to address these types of fishing activities;

101. *Urges* regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to further coordinate measures for combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities, such as through the development of a common list of vessels identified as engaged in illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing or the mutual recognition of the illegal, unreported and unregulated vessel lists established by each organization or arrangement;

102. *Reaffirms its call upon* States to take all necessary measures consistent with international law, without prejudice to a State's sovereignty over ports in its territory and to reasons of force majeure or distress, including the prohibition of vessels from accessing their ports followed by a report to the flag State concerned, when there is clear evidence that they are or have been engaged in or have supported illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, or when they refuse to give information either on the origin of the catch or on the authorization under which the catch has been made;

103. *Reaffirms* paragraph 53 of its resolution [64/72](#) of 4 December 2009 with regard to eliminating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing by vessels flying "flags of convenience" and requiring that a "genuine link" be established between States and fishing vessels flying their flags, and urges States operating open registry to effectively control all fishing vessels flying their flag, as required by international law, or otherwise stop open registry for fishing vessels;

104. *Notes* the challenges posed by vessels determined under international law to be without nationality that are fishing, including conducting fishing-related activities, on the high seas and that such vessels operate without governance and oversight, undermine relevant legal frameworks and are engaging in illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities as defined in the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and encourages States to take necessary measures where appropriate, consistent with international law, in order to prevent and deter vessels without nationality from engaging in or supporting illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, such as enacting domestic legislation, including on enforcement, sharing information and prohibiting the landing and preventing trans-shipment, at sea or in port, of fish and fish products by such vessels;

105. *Encourages* States, either directly or through competent and appropriate subregional, regional or global organizations and arrangements, to consider adopting rules, consistent with international law, to ensure that chartering arrangements and practices related to fishing vessels enable compliance with and enforcement of relevant conservation and management measures, so as not to undermine efforts to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing;

106. *Recognizes* the need for enhanced port State measures to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and urges States to cooperate, in particular at the regional level and through subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to adopt all necessary port measures, consistent with international law taking into account article 23 of the Agreement, and to further promote the development and application of standards at the regional level;

107. *Welcomes* the recent ratifications of and accessions to the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, and encourages States and regional economic integration organizations that have not yet done so to consider ratifying, accepting, approving or acceding to that Agreement, noting the importance of major port States and flag States becoming parties at their earliest convenience;

108. *Encourages* States that are party to the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing to fully implement that Agreement and to adopt, through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements of which they are members, port State measures consistent with that Agreement, noting that that Agreement establishes minimum standards and does not preclude the adoption of more stringent measures, as appropriate, in accordance with international law;

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109. *Acknowledges*, in this regard, the convening of the Fourth Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, which was held in Bali, Indonesia, from 8 to 12 May 2023, and which, inter alia, adopted the “Bali Strategy”, which provides guidance to the parties moving forward in strengthening the implementation of that Agreement, and agreed on the operationalization of the Global Information Exchange System as an essential tool for strengthening implementation of that Agreement and relevant international instruments;

110. *Notes* the ongoing capacity-development programme of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations aimed at facilitating and supporting the implementation of the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing and related instruments, which contributes to the development of national capacity of both parties and non-parties, including the strengthening of the legal, institutional, operational and enforcement capacity of developing States with a view to maximizing the benefits of its implementation, and which, as of 1 July 2023, delivered activities in 55 countries;

111. *Also notes* the important role that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Maritime Organization and International Labour Organization Joint Ad Hoc Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing and Related Matters, including on measures to attain safe, healthy and fair working conditions and improve safety at sea, plays in engaging multiple agencies and stakeholders, and notes that the Committee on Fisheries, at its thirty-fifth session, and the Governing Body of the International Labour Organization, at its 344th session,<sup>71</sup> endorsed the revised terms of reference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Maritime Organization and International Labour Organization Joint Ad Hoc Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing and Related Matters;

112. *Acknowledges* the efforts of the Indian Ocean Rim Association member States in developing a guideline to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the Indian Ocean, initiated by Indonesia and France, aiming to achieve sustained growth and balanced development for the livelihood of coastal States in the Indian Ocean region;

113. *Encourages* States, with respect to vessels flying their flag, and port States, to make every effort to share data on landings and catch quotas, and in this regard encourages regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to consider developing open databases containing such data for the purpose of enhancing the effectiveness of fisheries management;

114. *Notes* that the Committee on Fisheries, at its thirty-fifth session, welcomed the preparation by the secretariat of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations of additional guidance documents on methodologies to estimate the magnitude of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and on the use of indicators to evaluate and track performance in combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and looked forward to the new guidance document on estimating impacts of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing;

115. *Calls upon* States to take all measures necessary to ensure that vessels flying their flag do not engage in the trans-shipment of fish caught by fishing vessels engaged in illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, through adequate regulation, monitoring and control of trans-shipment of fish at sea, including through additional national measures applicable to vessels flying their flag to prevent such trans-shipment in line with the Voluntary Guidelines for Trans-shipment developed under the auspices of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;<sup>72</sup>

116. *Urges* States, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to adopt and implement internationally agreed market-related measures in accordance with international law, including principles, rights and obligations established in World Trade Organization agreements, as called for in the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing;

117. *Encourages* work to increase awareness of the Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes,<sup>73</sup> and encourages States and relevant stakeholders to implement these Guidelines when developing catch documentation schemes and to use them as a reference in related activities, with special attention to the prevention, deterrence and elimination of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and recalls the publication of the technical

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<sup>71</sup> See International Labour Organization, document GB.344/Decisions.

<sup>72</sup> Available at [www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc5602t](http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc5602t).

<sup>73</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document C 2017/REP, appendix C.

guidelines entitled *Understanding and Implementing Catch Documentation Schemes: A Guide for National Authorities*;

118. *Also encourages* information-sharing regarding emerging market- and trade-related measures by States and other relevant actors with appropriate international forums, given the potential implications of these measures for all States, consistent with the established plan of work of the Committee on Fisheries, and taking into account the Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fish Trade of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

119. *Acknowledges* the development of participatory surveillance activities at sea involving fishing communities in West Africa as a cost-effective way of detecting illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing;

120. *Notes* the concern expressed by the Committee on Fisheries at the proliferation of private standards and ecolabelling schemes potentially leading to the creation of trade barriers and restrictions, and also notes the work by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to develop an evaluation framework to assess the conformity of public and private ecolabelling schemes through the Guidelines for the Ecolabelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Marine Capture Fisheries;

121. *Also notes* the concerns about possible connections between transnational organized crime and illegal fishing in certain regions of the world, and encourages States, including through the appropriate international forums and organizations, to study the causes and methods of and contributing factors to illegal fishing to increase knowledge and understanding of those possible connections, and to make the findings publicly available, and in this regard takes note of the study issued by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on transnational organized crime in the fishing industry, bearing in mind the distinct legal regimes and remedies under international law applicable to illegal fishing and transnational organized crime;

## **V**

### **Monitoring, control and surveillance and compliance and enforcement**

122. *Calls upon* States, in accordance with international law, to strengthen the implementation of or, where they do not exist, adopt comprehensive monitoring, control and surveillance measures and compliance and enforcement schemes individually and within those regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements in which they participate, in order to provide an appropriate framework for promoting compliance with agreed conservation and management measures, and further urges enhanced coordination among all relevant States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in these efforts;

123. *Welcomes* the fact that the Committee on Fisheries has urged its members to start implementing the Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance<sup>74</sup> as soon as possible, and urges all flag States to implement those Guidelines as soon as possible, including, as a first step, by carrying out a voluntary assessment;

124. *Encourages* further work by competent international organizations, including subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to develop guidelines on flag State control of fishing vessels;

125. *Urges* States, individually and through relevant regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to establish mandatory vessel monitoring, control and surveillance systems, in particular to require that vessel monitoring systems be carried by all vessels fishing on the high seas as soon as practicable, recalling that, in paragraph 62 of resolution 63/112 of 5 December 2008, it urged that large-scale fishing vessels be required to carry vessel monitoring systems no later than December 2008, and to share information on fisheries enforcement matters;

126. *Encourages* States, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to strengthen or establish rules and regulations on and promote the use of the best available technology, including, where appropriate, electronic monitoring systems to ensure effective monitoring, control and surveillance as well as compliance with relevant conservation and management measures;

127. *Notes* the call by the Committee on Fisheries, at its thirty-fifth session, for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to initiate a technical workshop for its members to discuss issues related to vessel tracking, subject to external funding;

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<sup>74</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document COFI/2014/4.2/Rev.1, appendix II.

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128. *Calls upon* States, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements, to strengthen or establish, consistent with national and international law, positive or negative lists of vessels fishing within the areas covered by relevant regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in order to promote compliance with conservation and management measures and to identify products from illegal, unreported and unregulated catches, and encourages improved coordination among all States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in sharing and using this information, taking into account the forms of cooperation with developing States as set out in article 25 of the Agreement and, as appropriate, articles 4 and 6 of the Compliance Agreement;

129. *Encourages* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in cooperation with States, regional economic integration organizations, the International Maritime Organization and, as appropriate, regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to expedite efforts to develop and manage a comprehensive global record of fishing vessels, refrigerated transport vessels and supply vessels, including with a unique vessel identifier system, using, as a first step, the International Maritime Organization Ship Identification Number Scheme for fishing vessels of 100 gross tonnage and above, adopted by the Assembly of the International Maritime Organization in its resolution A.1078(28) of 4 December 2013;

130. *Welcomes* the continued development of the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, including its efforts to keep it cost-effective, and encourages States, including through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to provide the necessary data and regular updates to the Global Record;

131. *Encourages*, in this regard, broader participation in the Global Record, reiterating the importance for States to upload and routinely update information on their fleets and for States to use all available vessel data, including from the Global Integrated Shipping Information System platform, when providing their vessel data to the Global Record;

132. *Welcomes* the decision by the International Maritime Organization, in resolution A.1117(30) of 6 December 2017, to extend, beyond the first phase of the Global Record, the International Maritime Organization Ship Identification Number Scheme to fishing vessels of steel and non-steel hull construction and to all motorized inboard fishing vessels of less than 100 gross tonnage down to a size limit of 12 metres in length overall authorized to operate outside waters under the national jurisdiction of the flag State, and welcomes the fact that several regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements have made provisions for the International Maritime Organization number to be compulsory in their convention areas for all eligible vessels, and encourages those regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements which have not yet done so to do the same;

133. *Requests* States and relevant international bodies to develop, in accordance with international law, more effective measures to trace fish and fishery products to enable importing States to identify fish or fishery products caught in a manner that undermines international conservation and management measures agreed in accordance with international law, taking into account the special requirements of developing States and the forms of cooperation with developing States as set out in article 25 of the Agreement, and at the same time to recognize the importance of market access, in accordance with provisions 11.2.4, 11.2.5 and 11.2.6 of the Code, for fish and fishery products caught in a manner that is in conformity with such international measures;

134. *Requests* States to take the necessary measures, consistent with international law, to help to prevent fish and fishery products caught in a manner that undermines applicable conservation and management measures adopted in accordance with international law from entering international trade;

135. *Encourages* States to establish and undertake cooperative surveillance and enforcement activities in accordance with international law to strengthen and enhance efforts to ensure compliance with conservation and management measures, and prevent and deter illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing;

136. *Urges* States, directly and through regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements, to develop and adopt effective monitoring, control and surveillance measures for trans-shipment, as appropriate, in particular at-sea trans-shipment, including on the high seas, in order to, inter alia, monitor compliance, to collect and verify fisheries data, and to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities, in accordance with international law;

137. *Takes note*, in this regard, that the Committee on Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, at its thirty-fourth session, expressed concern on the risks of inadequately regulated, controlled

and monitored trans-shipment in relation to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and welcomed the in-depth global study on trans-shipment by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

138. *Recalls*, in this regard, the adoption in 2022 of the Voluntary Guidelines for Trans-shipment by the Technical Consultation on Voluntary Guidelines for Trans-shipment of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, calls for their implementation, including through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, and notes in this regard the regional workshops organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to raise awareness and promote the Voluntary Guidelines for Trans-shipment;

139. *Expresses its appreciation* for financial contributions from States to improve the capacity of the existing voluntary International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Network for Fisheries-related Activities, and encourages States to join and actively participate in the Network and to consider supporting, when appropriate, its transformation in accordance with international law into an international unit with dedicated resources to further assist Network members, taking into account the forms of cooperation with developing States as set out in article 25 of the Agreement;

## **VI**

### **Fishing overcapacity**

140. *Calls upon* States to commit themselves to urgently reducing the capacity of the world's fishing fleets to levels commensurate with the sustainability of fish stocks, through the establishment of target levels and plans or other appropriate mechanisms for ongoing capacity assessment, while avoiding the transfer of fishing capacity to other fisheries or areas in a manner that undermines the sustainable management of fish stocks, including those areas where fish stocks are overexploited or in a depleted condition, and recognizing in this context the legitimate rights of developing States to develop their fisheries for straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks consistent with article 25 of the Agreement, article 5 of the Code and paragraph 10 of the International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

141. *Calls upon*, in this regard, States, individually or through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to develop and implement a range of measures to adjust fishing intensity, including fishing capacity where relevant, to levels commensurate with the sustainability of fish stocks, and including capacity assessment and capacity management plans providing incentives for voluntary reduction, which take into account all aspects that contribute to fishing capacity, considering, inter alia, engine power, fishing gear technology, fish detection technology and storage space, and also to improve transparency on fishing capacity, including by identifying, sharing and publicizing relevant information in this regard, subject to confidentiality requirements;

142. *Reiterates its call upon* States, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to ensure that the urgent actions required in the International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity are undertaken expeditiously and that its implementation is facilitated without delay;

143. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to report on the state of progress in the implementation of the International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity, as provided for in paragraph 48 of the Plan of Action;

144. *Calls upon* States, individually and, as appropriate, through subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements with competence to regulate highly migratory species, urgently to address global fishing capacity for tunas, inter alia, in a way that recognizes the legitimate rights of developing States, in particular small island developing States, to participate in and benefit from such fisheries, taking into account the recommendations of the 2010 Joint Tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations International Workshop on RFMO Management of Tuna Fisheries, held in Brisbane, Australia, and the recommendations of the 2011 third joint meeting of tuna regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements;

145. *Encourages* those States which are cooperating to establish subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, taking into account the best scientific information available as well as ecosystem approaches and the precautionary approach, to exercise voluntary restraint of fishing effort levels in those areas that will come under the regulation of the future organizations and arrangements until adequate regional conservation and management measures are adopted and implemented, taking into account the need to ensure the long-term conservation, management and sustainable use of the relevant fish stocks and to prevent significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems;

146. *Recalls* that, in “The future we want”, States reaffirmed their commitment in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation to eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and overcapacity, taking into account the importance of that sector to developing countries, reiterated their commitment to conclude multilateral disciplines on fisheries subsidies that would give effect to the mandates of the World Trade Organization Doha Development Agenda<sup>75</sup> and the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration to strengthen disciplines on subsidies in the fisheries sector, including through the prohibition of certain forms of fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation, taking into account the importance of the sector to development priorities, poverty reduction and livelihood and food security concerns, and encouraged one another to further improve the transparency and reporting of existing fisheries subsidies programmes through the World Trade Organization and, given the state of fisheries resources, and without prejudicing the Doha and Hong Kong ministerial mandates on fisheries subsidies or the need to conclude those negotiations, to eliminate subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing and to refrain from introducing new such subsidies or from extending or enhancing existing ones;

147. *Also recalls* the adoption in 2022 of the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies by the World Trade Organization,<sup>76</sup> and the establishment of the voluntary Fisheries Funding Mechanism of the World Trade Organization, which is envisioned to support developing and least developed countries in implementing that Agreement, notes that the Agreement is open for acceptance, and encourages World Trade Organization members to deposit their instruments of acceptance to bring it into force as soon as possible;

148. *Notes* that the World Trade Organization shall continue negotiations on the outstanding issues on fisheries subsidies with a view to making recommendations at its thirteenth Ministerial Conference for additional provisions that would achieve a comprehensive agreement on fisheries subsidies, including through further disciplines on certain forms of fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing States and least developed States should be an integral part of these negotiations;

## **VII**

### **Large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing**

149. *Expresses concern* that, despite the adoption of General Assembly resolution [46/215](#), the practice of large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing still exists and remains a threat to living marine resources;

150. *Urges* States, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to adopt effective measures, or strengthen existing measures, to implement and enforce the provisions of resolution [46/215](#) and subsequent resolutions on large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing in order to eliminate the use of large-scale pelagic drift nets in all seas and oceans, which means that efforts to implement resolution [46/215](#) should not result in the transfer to other parts of the world of drift nets that contravene the resolution;

151. *Also urges* States, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to adopt effective measures, or strengthen existing measures, to implement and enforce the present global moratorium on the use of large-scale pelagic drift nets on the high seas, and calls upon States to ensure that vessels flying their flag that are duly authorized to use large-scale drift nets in waters under their national jurisdiction do not use such gear for fishing while on the high seas;

## **VIII**

### **Fisheries by-catch and discards**

152. *Urges* States, subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements and other relevant international organizations that have not done so to take action, including with consideration of the interests of developing coastal States and, as appropriate, subsistence fishing communities, to minimize by-catch, as well as to reduce or eliminate catch by lost or abandoned gear, fish discards and post-harvest losses, including of juvenile fish, consistent with international law and relevant international instruments, including the Code, and in particular to

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<sup>75</sup> See [A/C.2/56/7](#), annex.

<sup>76</sup> World Trade Organization, document WT/MIN(22)/33, annex.



consider measures including, as appropriate, technical measures related to fish size, mesh size or gear, discards, closed seasons and areas and zones reserved for selected fisheries, particularly artisanal fisheries, the establishment of mechanisms for communicating information on areas of high concentration of juvenile fish, taking into account the importance of ensuring the confidentiality of such information, and support for studies and research that will minimize by-catch of juvenile fish, and to ensure that these measures are implemented so as to optimize their effectiveness;

153. *Encourages*, in this regard, States, individually or through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, as appropriate, to ensure proper implementation and enforcement of the measures that they have taken with regard to by-catch and discards;

154. *Welcomes* the commitment of States in “The future we want” to enhance action to manage by-catch, discards and other adverse ecosystem impacts from fisheries, including by eliminating destructive fishing practices, consistent with international law, the applicable international instruments and relevant General Assembly resolutions and guidelines of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

155. *Calls upon* States, either individually, collectively or through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to further study, develop and adopt effective management measures, taking into account the best available scientific information on fishing methods, including fish aggregating devices, to minimize by-catch;

156. *Also calls upon* States, either individually, collectively or through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to collect the necessary data in order to evaluate and closely monitor the use of large-scale fish aggregating devices and other devices, as appropriate, and their effects on tuna resources and tuna behaviour and associated and dependent species, to improve management procedures to monitor the number, type and use of such devices and to mitigate possible negative effects on the ecosystem, including on juveniles and the incidental by-catch of non-target species, particularly sharks and turtles, notes in this regard the measures adopted by different regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, and encourages regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to continue to work on data collection, evaluation and monitoring of such devices;

157. *Notes*, in this regard, that some regional fisheries management organizations, including the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, have established their own working groups to assess the use and impact of large-scale fish aggregating devices;

158. *Encourages* States, individually or through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to promote, as appropriate, the sustainable use of environmentally friendly fish aggregating devices, while ensuring compliance with measures that they have taken relating to such devices, and promoting the application of sustainable design and manufacturing criteria, such as the use of non-entangling and biodegradable materials to minimize the negative environmental impacts;

159. *Urgently calls upon* States, subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements and, where appropriate, other relevant international organizations to develop and implement effective management measures to reduce the incidence of catch and discards of non-target species, including the utilization of selective fishing gear, where appropriate, and to take appropriate measures to minimize waste, and welcomes in this regard the support of the Committee on Fisheries for the development of a technical guideline of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations addressing the causes of and remedies to food losses and waste;

160. *Calls upon* States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements with the competence to regulate fisheries to urgently implement measures aimed at contributing to minimizing and, where possible, eliminating catches, including incidental catches, of species which are critically endangered;

161. *Calls upon* States and subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to adopt or improve measures to assess the impact of their fisheries on species caught as by-catch and to improve the comprehensiveness and accuracy of information and reporting on species caught as by-catch, including through adequate observer coverage and the use of modern technologies, such as electronic monitoring, and to provide assistance to developing States to meet data-collection and reporting obligations;

162. *Requests* States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, as appropriate, to strengthen or establish data-collection programmes to obtain reliable species-specific estimates of shark, marine turtle, fin-fish, marine mammal and seabird by-catch, and to promote further research on selective fishing gear and practices and on the use of appropriate by-catch mitigation measures;



163. *Encourages* the widest application of the International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations<sup>77</sup> and the Guidelines to Prevent and Reduce Bycatch of Marine Mammals in Capture Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;<sup>78</sup>

164. *Encourages* States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to coordinate in the development and implementation of clear and standardized by-catch data-collection and reporting protocols for non-target species, in particular endangered, threatened and protected species, taking into account best-practice advice from appropriate international organizations and arrangements, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels;<sup>79</sup>

165. *Encourages* States and entities referred to in the Convention and in article 1, paragraph 2 (b), of the Agreement to give due consideration to participation, as appropriate, in subregional and regional instruments and organizations with mandates to conserve non-target species taken incidentally in fishing operations;

166. *Encourages* States to strengthen, if necessary, the capacity of those subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in which they participate to ensure the adequate conservation of non-target species taken incidentally in fishing operations, taking into consideration best practices for non-target species management, and to expedite their ongoing efforts in this regard;

167. *Requests* States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements urgently to implement, as appropriate, the measures recommended in the 2004 Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations and the International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in order to prevent the decline of sea turtles and seabird populations by minimizing by-catch and increasing post-release survival in their fisheries, including through research and development of gear and bait alternatives, promoting the use of available by-catch mitigation technology, and establishing and strengthening data-collection programmes to obtain standardized information to develop reliable estimates of the by-catch of these species;

168. *Urges* States, individually or through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to implement the International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

169. *Requests* States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to continue to take urgent action to reduce the by-catch of seabirds, including albatrosses and petrels, in fisheries by adopting and implementing conservation measures consistent with the 2009 best practices technical guidelines of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to support the implementation of the International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries and taking into account the work of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels and of organizations such as the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources;

## **IX**

### **Subregional and regional cooperation**

170. *Urges* coastal States and States fishing on the high seas, in accordance with the Convention, the Agreement and other relevant instruments, to pursue cooperation in relation to straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks, either directly or through appropriate subregional or regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements, to ensure the effective conservation and management of such stocks;

171. *Urges* States fishing for straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks on the high seas, and relevant coastal States, where a subregional or regional fisheries management organization or arrangement has the competence to establish conservation and management measures for such stocks, to give effect to their duty to cooperate by becoming members of such an organization or participants in such an arrangement, or by agreeing to

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<sup>77</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document FIRO/R957 (En), appendix E.

<sup>78</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries*, No. 1, Supplement No. 4 (Rome, 2021).

<sup>79</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2258, No. 40228.

apply the conservation and management measures established by such an organization or arrangement, or to otherwise ensure that no vessel flying their flag is authorized to access the fisheries resources to which regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements or conservation and management measures established by such organizations or arrangements apply;

172. *Invites*, in this regard, subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to ensure that all States having a real interest in the fisheries concerned may become members of such organizations or participants in such arrangements, in accordance with the Convention, the Agreement and the Code, provided they have shown their interest in and capacity to comply with the measures adopted by the regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements concerned, including their willingness to effectively exercise flag State control, while recognizing the need to enhance the capacity of developing States in this regard;

173. *Encourages* relevant coastal States and States fishing on the high seas for a straddling fish stock or a highly migratory fish stock, where there is no subregional or regional fisheries management organization or arrangement to establish conservation and management measures for such stocks, to cooperate to establish such an organization or enter into another appropriate arrangement to ensure the conservation and management of such stocks, and to participate in the work of the organization or arrangement;

174. *Recalls* the entry into force, on 25 June 2021, of the Agreement to Prevent Unregulated High Seas Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean;

175. *Urges* signatory States and other States whose vessels fish within the area of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Fishery Resources in the South-East Atlantic Ocean<sup>80</sup> for fishery resources covered by that Convention to become parties to that Convention as a matter of priority and, in the interim, to ensure that vessels flying their flags fully comply with the measures adopted;

176. *Encourages* further ratifications of, accessions to, acceptances and approvals of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement;<sup>81</sup>

177. *Also encourages* further ratifications of, accessions to, acceptances and approvals of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean;<sup>82</sup>

178. *Further encourages* further accessions to the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean, and notes the ongoing efforts by the North Pacific Fisheries Commission to develop and implement conservation and management measures and to strengthen cooperation to eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing within the area of that Convention;

179. *Welcomes* the endorsement of the Agreement for the Establishment of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, as amended, by the Commission at its thirty-eighth session, held in Rome from 19 to 24 May 2014, and urges those Contracting Parties to the Commission that need to accept the amended Agreement to do so with a view to its early entry into force;

180. *Notes* the ongoing efforts of the members of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission to strengthen the functioning of the Commission so that it can more effectively discharge its mandate, and invites the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to provide members of the Commission with the necessary assistance to this end;

181. *Encourages* signatory States and States having a real interest to become parties to the Convention for the Strengthening of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission Established by the 1949 Convention between the United States of America and the Republic of Costa Rica;

182. *Notes* the ongoing efforts of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, through its Fisheries Consultative Forum, to address common problems on fisheries management and development in the South-East Asian region;

183. *Urges* further efforts by regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, as a matter of priority, in accordance with international law, to strengthen and modernize their mandates and the measures adopted

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<sup>80</sup> Ibid., vol. 2221, No. 39489.

<sup>81</sup> Ibid., vol. 2835, No. 49647.

<sup>82</sup> Ibid., vol. 2899, No. 50553.

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by such organizations or arrangements, and to implement modern approaches to fisheries management, including responsible conduct of fishing operations as reflected in the Agreement and other relevant international instruments, relying on the best scientific information available and application of the precautionary approach and incorporating an ecosystem approach to fisheries management and biodiversity considerations, including the conservation and management of ecologically related and dependent species and protection of their habitats, where these aspects are lacking, to ensure that they effectively contribute to the long-term conservation and management and sustainable use of living marine resources, and welcomes those regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements that have taken steps in this direction;

184. *Calls upon* regional fisheries management organizations with the competence to conserve and manage highly migratory fish stocks that have not yet adopted effective conservation and management measures in line with the best scientific information available to conserve and manage stocks falling under their mandate to do so urgently;

185. *Urges* States to strengthen and enhance cooperation among existing and developing regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in which they participate, including increased communication and further coordination of measures, such as through the holding of joint consultations, and to strengthen integration, coordination and cooperation by such regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements with other relevant fisheries organizations, regional seas arrangements and other relevant international organizations;

186. *Notes*, in this regard, the enhanced cooperation between the OSPAR Commission established by the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic<sup>83</sup> and the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission;

187. *Urges* the five regional fisheries management organizations with competence to manage highly migratory species to continue to take measures to implement the Course of Actions adopted at the second joint meeting of tuna regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements and to consider the recommendations of the third joint meeting of tuna regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements;

188. *Invites* States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements with competence to manage straddling fish stocks to share experiences and good practices, for example by considering organizing joint meetings, where appropriate;

189. *Invites* States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements with competence to manage deep-sea fisheries to share experiences and good practices, for example, by considering organizing joint meetings, where appropriate;

190. *Urges* regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to improve transparency and to ensure that their decision-making processes are fair and transparent and facilitate the adoption of conservation and management measures in a timely and effective manner, including considering provisions for effective voting and objection procedures, where appropriate, to rely on the best scientific information available, incorporate the precautionary approach and ecosystem approaches, and address participatory rights, including through, inter alia, the development of transparent criteria for allocating fishing opportunities which reflects, where appropriate, the relevant provisions of the Agreement, taking due account, inter alia, of the status of the relevant stocks and the respective interests in the fishery;

191. *Recognizes* that performance reviews of regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements have proven to be an effective tool for strengthening the performance of such organizations and arrangements, and are critical to improve the sustainability of fish stocks covered by such organizations and arrangements and notes that the fourteenth round of informal consultations of States parties to the Agreement focused on the topic “Performance reviews of regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements”,<sup>84</sup>

192. *Welcomes* the fact that a number of regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements have completed performance reviews, and encourages the implementation, as appropriate, of the recommendations of their respective reviews as a matter of priority;

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<sup>83</sup> Ibid., vol. 2354, No. 42279.

<sup>84</sup> See document ICSP14/UNFSA/INF.3. Available at [www.un.org/depts/los/convention\\_agreements/ICSP14/ReportICSP14.pdf](http://www.un.org/depts/los/convention_agreements/ICSP14/ReportICSP14.pdf).

193. *Urges* States, through their participation in regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements that have not done so, to undertake, on an urgent basis, performance reviews of those regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, initiated either by the organization or arrangement itself or with external partners, including in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, using transparent criteria based on the provisions of the Agreement and other relevant instruments, and taking into account the best practices of regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements and, as appropriate, any set of criteria developed by States or other regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements, and encourages that such performance reviews include some element of independent evaluation and propose means for improving the functioning of the regional fisheries management organization or arrangement, as appropriate;

194. *Calls upon* States, through their participation in regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to undertake performance reviews of those regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements on a regular basis, to make the results publicly available, to implement the recommendations of such reviews and to strengthen the comprehensiveness of those reviews over time, as necessary;

195. *Recalls* that, in “The future we want”, States recognized the need for transparency and accountability in fisheries management by regional fisheries management organizations and the efforts already made by those regional fisheries management organizations that had undertaken independent performance reviews, called upon all regional fisheries management organizations to regularly undertake such reviews and make the results publicly available, encouraged implementation of the recommendations of such reviews and recommended that the comprehensiveness of those reviews be strengthened over time, as necessary;

196. *Urges* States to cooperate, taking into account those performance reviews, to develop best-practice guidelines for regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements and to apply, to the extent possible, those guidelines to organizations and arrangements in which they participate;

197. *Encourages* States, individually or through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, as appropriate, to recognize the importance and role of small-scale, artisanal and subsistence fisheries and to support their long-term environmental, economic and social sustainability;

198. *Encourages* the development of regional guidelines for States to use in establishing sanctions for non-compliance by vessels flying their flag and by their nationals, to be applied in accordance with national law, that are adequate in severity for effectively securing compliance, deterring further violations and depriving offenders of the benefits deriving from their illegal activities, as well as in evaluating their systems of sanctions to ensure that they are effective in securing compliance and deterring violations;

199. *Recognizes* the importance of ensuring transparency of reporting of fishing activities within regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in order to facilitate efforts to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, as well as the importance of respecting the reporting obligations within those organizations and arrangements, notes in this regard the measures adopted by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas<sup>85</sup> and the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission,<sup>86</sup> and encourages other regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to consider establishing similar measures;

## **X**

### **Responsible fisheries in the marine ecosystem**

200. *Encourages* States, individually and through relevant international bodies, to improve the understanding of the causes and impacts of forced labour and human trafficking in the fishing and aquaculture industries, including processing and related industries, and to further consider actions to combat these practices, including raising awareness of the issue;

201. *Highlights* the importance of safety at sea and working conditions in the fisheries sector, welcomes in this regard the close cooperation between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organization and the International Maritime Organization, including with regard to their joint work on codes and guidelines in relation to fishing vessel safety, including through the Joint Ad Hoc Working Group on Illegal,

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<sup>85</sup> International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, recommendation 11–16.

<sup>86</sup> Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, resolutions 12/07 and 13/07.

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Unreported and Unregulated Fishing and Related Matters, as also recognized by the Committee on Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, at its thirty-fourth session, and reiterates the Committee's request that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations further strengthen international cooperation on occupational health and safety issues in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors and promote decent work for fishers and fish workers;

202. *Recalls* that the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188) and the Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) are relevant instruments that ensure decent working conditions in fisheries and other maritime sectors, calls upon flag States to effectively implement their duty under the Convention with respect to labour conditions, taking into account applicable international instruments and national laws, and in this regard encourages States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) and the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188), and to implement the Guidelines for port State control officers carrying out inspections under the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188) and the Guidelines on flag State inspection of working and living conditions on board fishing vessels;

203. *Encourages* States to establish, as appropriate, including through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements of which they are members, standards for decent working conditions for crew, inspectors and observers within the fisheries within their competence, in accordance with international instruments to which they are party;

204. *Urges* States, individually or through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to enhance their efforts to apply an ecosystem approach to fisheries, taking into account paragraph 30 (d) of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

205. *Acknowledges* the importance of adequate training for fishers to improve safety at sea and the importance, in this regard, of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel, 1995, and encourages States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to that Convention;

206. *Encourages* States, individually or through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements and other relevant international organizations, to work to ensure that fisheries and other ecosystem data collection is performed in a coordinated and integrated manner, facilitating incorporation into global observation initiatives, where appropriate;

207. *Calls upon* States and regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements, working in cooperation with other relevant organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and the World Meteorological Organization, to adopt, as appropriate, measures to protect ocean data buoy systems moored in areas beyond national jurisdiction from actions that impair their operation;

208. *Encourages* States to increase scientific research on marine ecosystems in accordance with international law;

209. *Recognizes* that the science-policy interface is vital to the effective implementation of the provisions of the Convention and the Agreement by providing the best available scientific information for the conservation and management of living marine resources;

210. *Urges* States, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to strengthen the science-policy interface in order to further improve the application of the ecosystem approach to fisheries management and to address uncertainties and changes such as those related to the impacts of climate change in support of the development of adaptive fisheries management strategies;

211. *Calls upon* States, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other specialized agencies, subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, where appropriate, and other appropriate intergovernmental bodies to cooperate in achieving sustainable aquaculture, including through information exchange, developing equivalent standards on such issues as aquatic animal health and human health and safety concerns, assessing the potential positive and negative impacts of aquaculture, including socioeconomics, on the marine and coastal environment, including biodiversity, and adopting relevant methods and techniques to minimize and mitigate adverse effects, and in this regard encourages the implementation of the 2007 Strategy and Outline Plan for Improving Information on Status and Trends of Aquaculture of the Food and Agriculture

Organization of the United Nations as a framework for the improvement and understanding of aquaculture status and trends;

212. *Calls upon* States to take action immediately, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, and consistent with the precautionary approach and ecosystem approaches, to continue to implement the 2008 International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-Sea Fisheries in the High Seas of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (the Guidelines) in order to sustainably manage fish stocks and protect vulnerable marine ecosystems, including seamounts, hydrothermal vents and cold water corals, from fishing practices with significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems, recognizing the immense importance and value of deep-sea ecosystems and the biodiversity they contain, as documented in the first World Ocean Assessment;

213. *Recalls*, in this regard, that, in “The future we want”, States committed to enhance actions to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems from significant adverse impacts, including through the effective use of impact assessments, consistent with international law, the applicable international instruments and relevant General Assembly resolutions and guidelines of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

214. *Reaffirms* the importance of paragraphs 80 to 90 of resolution [61/105](#), paragraphs 113 to 127 of resolution [64/72](#), paragraphs 121 to 136 of resolution [66/68](#) of 6 December 2011 and paragraphs 156, 171 to 188 and 219 of resolution [71/123](#) of 7 December 2016 addressing the impacts of bottom fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems and the long-term sustainability of deep-sea fish stocks and the actions called for in those resolutions, and emphasizes the need for full implementation by all States and relevant regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements of their commitments under those paragraphs on an urgent basis;

215. *Urges* States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to ensure that their actions in sustainably managing deep-sea fisheries and implementing paragraphs 80 and 83 to 87 of resolution [61/105](#), paragraphs 113 and 119 to 124 of resolution [64/72](#), paragraphs 121, 129, 130 and 132 to 134 of resolution [66/68](#) and paragraphs 156, 171 to 188 and 219 of resolution [71/123](#) are consistent with the Guidelines;

216. *Recalls* that nothing in the paragraphs of resolutions [61/105](#), [64/72](#), [66/68](#) and [71/123](#) addressing the impacts of bottom fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems prejudices the sovereign rights of coastal States over their continental shelf or the exercise of the jurisdiction of coastal States with respect to their continental shelf under international law as reflected in the Convention, in particular article 77 thereof;

217. *Notes*, in this regard, the adoption by coastal States of conservation measures regarding their continental shelf to address the impacts of bottom fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems, as well as their efforts to ensure compliance with those measures;

218. *Reiterates* the importance of marine scientific research for the sustainable management of deep-sea fishery resources, including target fish stocks and non-target species, and to protect marine ecosystems, including the prevention of significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems;

219. *Welcomes* the important progress made by States, regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements and those States participating in negotiations to establish a regional fisheries management organization or arrangement competent to regulate bottom fisheries to implement paragraphs 80 and 83 to 87 of resolution [61/105](#), paragraphs 113, 117 and 119 to 124 of resolution [64/72](#), paragraphs 121, 126, 129, 130 and 132 to 134 of resolution [66/68](#) and paragraphs 156, 171, 175, 177 to 188 and 219 of resolution [71/123](#), and address the impacts of bottom fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems, including that reflected in the summary of discussions from the two-day United Nations workshop addressing the impacts of bottom fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems and the long-term sustainability of deep-sea fish stocks, but notes with renewed concern the uneven implementation of those paragraphs listed above and that, in particular, bottom fishing continues to occur in certain areas beyond national jurisdiction without an impact assessment having been completed in the 17 years since the adoption of resolution [61/105](#), in which the General Assembly called for such assessments to be undertaken by 31 December 2008;

220. *Recognizes* the need for further progress with regard to obtaining more biological information on the species that comprise vulnerable marine ecosystems, including their associated and dependent species, the assessment of significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems, and protecting and conserving biodiversity, including beyond vulnerable marine ecosystems, as well as the consistent application of the Guidelines;

221. *Calls upon*, in this regard, States, regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements and those States participating in negotiations to establish a regional fisheries management organization or arrangement competent to regulate bottom fisheries to identify and overcome barriers to the implementation of the relevant paragraphs of General Assembly resolutions 64/72, 66/68 and 71/123 such as data availability, especially with regard to baseline data and the spatial distribution and connectivity of vulnerable marine ecosystems, including their associated and dependent species, while recognizing the importance of international collaboration for this purpose, further recognizing that effective management of bottom fisheries is crucial to ensure the long-term sustainability of the sector;

222. *Calls upon*, in this regard, States, regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements with the competence to regulate deep-sea fisheries, and States participating in negotiations to establish such organizations or arrangements to take, in particular, the following urgent actions regarding bottom fishing in areas beyond national jurisdiction:

(a) To use, as applicable, the full set of criteria in the Guidelines to identify where vulnerable marine ecosystems occur or are likely to occur, as well as for assessing significant adverse impacts on such ecosystems, including their associated and dependent species;

(b) To ensure that impact assessments, including for cumulative impacts of activities covered by the assessment, are conducted for all types of bottom-fishing activities consistent with the Guidelines, particularly paragraph 47 thereof, are reviewed periodically and are revised thereafter whenever a substantial change in the fishery has occurred or there is relevant new information, and that, where such impact assessments have not been undertaken, they are carried out as a priority before authorizing bottom-fishing activities;

(c) To ensure that the precautionary approach is applied, including in the utilization of impact assessments to inform management decisions and consideration of significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems, including their associated and dependent species;

(d) To ensure that conservation and management measures adopted by States and regional fisheries organizations and arrangements are based on and updated on the basis of the best available scientific information, noting in particular the need to improve the effective implementation of thresholds and move-on rules;

223. *Recognizes* that different types of marine scientific research, such as seabed mapping, mapping of vulnerable marine ecosystems based on information from the fishing fleet, on-site camera observations from remote vehicles, benthic ecosystem modelling, comparative benthic studies and predictive modelling have resulted in the identification of areas where vulnerable marine ecosystems are known or are likely to occur and in the adoption of conservation and management measures to prevent significant adverse impacts on such ecosystems, including the closure of areas to bottom fishing in accordance with paragraph 119 (b) of resolution 64/72;

224. *Encourages*, in this regard, States, regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements with the competence to manage bottom fisheries, and States participating in negotiations to establish such organizations or arrangements, to consider the results available from different types of marine scientific research, including, as appropriate, those listed in paragraph 223 above, concerning the identification of areas containing vulnerable marine ecosystems, and to adopt conservation and management measures to prevent significant adverse impacts from bottom fishing on such ecosystems, consistent with the Guidelines, or to close such areas to bottom fishing until such conservation and management measures are adopted, as well as to continue to undertake further marine scientific research, for the above-mentioned purposes, in accordance with international law, as reflected in Part XIII of the Convention;

225. *Encourages*, in this regard, States, regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements with the competence to manage deep-sea fisheries, and States participating in negotiations to establish such organizations or arrangements to continue to improve the best available science, carry out further marine scientific research to address the remaining knowledge gaps, in particular with regard to fish stock assessments to improve understanding of the connectivity of populations of deep-sea fish species and to base and update conservation and management measures on the best available scientific information, in accordance with international law, as reflected in Part XIII of the Convention;

226. *Notes with concern* that vulnerable marine ecosystems may also be impacted by human activities other than bottom fishing, and encourages in this regard States and competent international organizations to consider taking action to address such impacts;



227. *Calls upon* States, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to take into account the potential impacts of climate change and ocean acidification in taking measures to manage deep-sea fisheries and protect vulnerable marine ecosystems, including by identifying areas, based on scientific information, where deep-water species and vulnerable marine ecosystems are likely to better survive such impacts, and establishing measures to support their resilience;

228. *Also calls upon* States, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements with the competence to regulate deep-sea fisheries, to adopt conservation and management measures, including monitoring, control and surveillance measures, on the basis of the best available scientific information, including stock assessments, to improve the robustness of such measures, to ensure the long-term sustainability of deep-sea fish stocks and non-target species and the rebuilding of depleted stocks, consistent with the Guidelines and, where scientific information is uncertain, unreliable or inadequate, to ensure that conservation and management measures are established consistent with the precautionary approach, in particular with regard to vulnerable, threatened or endangered species;

229. *Recognizes*, in particular, the special circumstances and requirements of developing States and the specific challenges that they may face in giving full effect to certain technical aspects of the Guidelines, and that implementation by such States of paragraphs 83 to 87 of resolution 61/105, paragraph 119 of resolution 64/72, paragraph 129 of resolution 66/68 and paragraph 180 of resolution 71/123 and the Guidelines should proceed in a manner that gives full consideration to section 6 of the Guidelines on the special requirements of developing countries;

230. *Also recognizes* the need to enhance the capacity of developing States, including with regard to stock assessments, impact assessments, scientific and technical knowledge and training, and encourages States to provide technical and financial support to developing countries to address their special requirements and challenges in implementing the Guidelines;

231. *Welcomes* the substantial ongoing work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations related to the management of deep-sea fisheries in the high seas and the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems, including the publication of the technical paper entitled “Vulnerable marine ecosystems: processes and practices in the high seas”, affirms the importance of the work undertaken pursuant to paragraphs 135 and 136 of resolution 66/68, and notes in particular the support provided by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to States in implementing the Guidelines;

232. *Recalls* its decision, in paragraph 223 of resolution 77/118, to conduct, in 2026, a further review of the actions taken by States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in response to paragraphs 113, 117 and 119 to 124 of resolution 64/72, paragraphs 121, 126, 129, 130 and 132 to 134 of resolution 66/68 and paragraphs 181, 203 to 207, 209, 210, 213, 215 to 222 and 257 of resolution 77/118, with a view to ensuring the effective implementation of the measures therein and to make further recommendations, where necessary, and to precede that review with a two-day workshop;

233. *Encourages* accelerated progress to establish criteria on the objectives, establishment and effective management of marine protected areas for fisheries purposes, and in this regard also encourages the application of the technical guidelines on marine protected areas and fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and urges involvement, coordination and cooperation among all relevant international organizations and bodies;

234. *Also encourages* efforts to establish guidance on the objectives, establishment and management of other effective area-based conservation measures for fisheries purposes, and encourages coordination and cooperation for this purpose among all relevant international organizations and bodies;

235. *Welcomes* the determination by the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization of management measures to protect vulnerable marine habitats as “other effective area-based conservation measures”, and encourages other regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements which have not already done so to undertake evidence-based analysis of management measures to determine if they would qualify as other effective area-based conservation measures, as appropriate;

236. *Acknowledges* the work by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to continue the consultative process to develop and disseminate practical guidance, led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, on other effective area-based conservation measures;



## I. Resolutions adopted without reference to a Main Committee

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237. *Notes* the decision by the fifth Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities<sup>87</sup> to hold no further sessions of the periodic Intergovernmental Review, while recognizing the continued relevance and valuable role of the Global Programme of Action and its three global partnerships, namely the Global Partnership on Marine Litter, the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management and the Global Wastewater Initiative, to safeguard marine ecosystems, including fish stocks, against sources of land-based pollution, including plastics and excess nutrients, and physical degradation, taking into account the increase in oceanic dead zones;

238. *Calls upon* States, either individually, collectively or through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to further study, develop and adopt effective management measures, and disseminate information in that regard, taking into account the best available scientific information, on fishing methods, gear types and uses to minimize mortality and other harms caused by abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear;

239. *Acknowledges* the serious environmental, as well as economic and social, impacts on the marine environment caused by abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear, and encourages States, and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, as appropriate, to take action to reduce such gear, noting the recommendations of the 2009 report by the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

240. *Reaffirms* the importance that it attaches to paragraphs 77 to 81 of resolution 60/31 of 29 November 2005 concerning the issue of lost, abandoned or otherwise discarded fishing gear and related marine debris and the adverse impacts that such debris and derelict fishing gear have on, inter alia, fish stocks, habitats and other marine species, and urges accelerated progress by States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in implementing those paragraphs of the resolution;

241. *Recalls*, in this regard, that the Committee on Fisheries, at its thirty-fourth session, encouraged the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to continue promoting the Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear and the provision of capacity development at regional and national levels;

242. *Encourages* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to actively participate in the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, and provide relevant technical and scientific information, including based on its Voluntary Guidelines;

243. *Recalls* annex V to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto, in which it is stated, inter alia, that the accidental loss or discharge of fishing gear which poses a significant threat to the marine environment or navigation, shall be reported to the State whose flag the ship is entitled to fly, and, where the loss or discharge occurs within waters subject to the jurisdiction of a coastal State, also to that coastal State;<sup>88</sup>

244. *Notes* the decision of the Marine Environmental Protection Committee of the International Maritime Organization, at its seventy-eighth session, to develop draft amendments to annex V to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto, and associated guidelines to make the marking of fishing gear mandatory, using a goal-based approach;

245. *Encourages* further studies, including by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, on the impacts of underwater noise on fish stocks and fishing catch rates, as well as associated socioeconomic effects;

246. *Calls upon* States, including through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to play an active role in global efforts to conserve and sustainably use living marine resources, so as to contribute to marine biological diversity;

247. *Encourages* States, either individually or through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, as appropriate, to identify any spawning and nursery areas for fish stocks under their jurisdiction or

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<sup>87</sup> [A/51/116](#), annex II.

<sup>88</sup> International Maritime Organization, resolution MEPC.201(62).

competence and, where required, to adopt science-based measures to conserve such stocks during these critical life stages;

248. *Expresses concern* about the continuing influx of sargassum seaweed into the waters of the Caribbean and its impact on aquatic resources, fisheries, shorelines, waterways and tourism and the general well-being of coastal communities, and encourages States and relevant regional organizations to coordinate efforts to better understand the causes and impacts of the influx, and to eliminate extraordinary amounts of sargassum washed up along the coastline using environmentally sound techniques, as well as to work on joint solutions to maintain and protect the livelihoods of fishers and fishing communities and find ways of beneficially utilizing the seaweed and environmentally friendly ways of disposing of sargassum washed up on shore;

249. *Recognizes* the wide range of impacts of ocean acidification on marine ecosystems, and calls upon States to tackle the causes of ocean acidification and to further study its impacts;

250. *Emphasizes* the importance of developing adaptive marine resource management strategies and enhancing capacity-building to implement such strategies in order to enhance the resilience of marine ecosystems to minimize the wide range of impacts on marine organisms and threats to food security caused by ocean acidification, in particular the impacts on the ability of calciferous plankton, coral reefs, shellfish and crustaceans to build shells and skeletal structures and the threats that this could pose to protein supply;

## **XI**

### **Capacity-building**

251. *Reiterates* the crucial importance of cooperation by States directly or, as appropriate, through the relevant subregional and regional organizations, and by other international organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations through its FishCode programme, including through financial and/or technical assistance, in accordance with the Agreement, the Compliance Agreement, the Code and its associated international plans of action, to increase the capacity of developing States to achieve the goals and implement the actions called for in the present resolution;

252. *Welcomes* the ongoing work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in developing guidance on, and assisting in the implementation of, the strategies and measures required for the creation of an enabling environment for sustainable small-scale fisheries, and encourages studies for creating possible alternative livelihoods for coastal communities;

253. *Recalls* that, in “The future we want”, States recognized the importance of building the capacity of developing countries to be able to benefit from the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and seas and their resources, and in this regard emphasized the need for cooperation in marine scientific research to implement the provisions of the Convention and the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development, as well as for the transfer of technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology;

254. *Also recalls* that, in “The future we want”, States urged the identification and mainstreaming by 2014 of strategies that further assist developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, in developing their national capacity to conserve, sustainably manage and realize the benefits of sustainable fisheries, including through improved market access for fish products from developing countries;

255. *Encourages* increased capacity-building and technical assistance by States, international financial institutions and relevant intergovernmental organizations and bodies for fishers, in particular small-scale and artisanal fishers, in developing countries, and in particular small island developing States, consistent with environmental sustainability, in recognition of the fact that food security and livelihoods may depend on fisheries;

256. *Encourages* States to strengthen international cooperation to assist developing countries in developing and implementing new sustainable aquaculture development strategies, which contributes to ensuring food security, nutrition, livelihoods, adaptation to climate change and the promotion of poverty reduction and eradication;

257. *Also encourages* States to cooperate closely, directly or through the United Nations system, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, with a view to enhancing the capacity-building of developing States, including coastal States, in particular small island developing States, in the field of fisheries and aquaculture through education and training;

## I. Resolutions adopted without reference to a Main Committee

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258. *Recognizes*, in this regard, the work of the United Nations University Fisheries Training Programme in Iceland and its contribution to training for developing States, in particular small island developing States, and emphasizes the need for the continuation and strengthening of this training for developing States;

259. *Acknowledges* the continuous efforts of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to provide learning opportunities through free e-learning courses on a variety of topics, including: port State measures to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing; climate change adaptation and mitigation in fisheries and aquaculture; food loss and waste in fish value chains; the fisheries performance assessment toolkit; securing sustainable small-scale fisheries; and the ecosystem approach to fisheries, with the overall goal of strengthening the capacity of countries to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

260. *Encourages* the international community to enhance the opportunities for sustainable development in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States and coastal African States, by encouraging greater participation of those States in authorized fisheries activities being undertaken within areas under their national jurisdiction, in accordance with the Convention, by distant-water fishing nations in order to achieve better economic returns for developing countries from their fisheries resources within areas under their national jurisdiction and an enhanced role in regional fisheries management, as well as by enhancing the ability of developing countries to develop their own fisheries, as well as to participate in high seas fisheries, including access to such fisheries, in conformity with international law, in particular the Convention and the Agreement, and taking into account article 5 of the Code;

261. *Welcomes*, in accordance with the decisions taken by the parties to the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing at their meetings, the establishment by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations of a trust fund under Part 6 of that Agreement to assist developing States parties, in particular the least developed among them and small island developing States parties, in the implementation of that Agreement, and the reiterated call by the parties to make the multilateral-partner Port State Measures Agreement Part 6 trust fund administered by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations operational, and invites States, intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions, regional economic integration organizations, national institutions, non-governmental organizations, foundations as well as natural and juridical persons to consider making voluntary financial contributions to the fund;

262. *Requests* distant-water fishing nations, when negotiating access agreements and arrangements with developing coastal States, to do so on an equitable and sustainable basis and to take into account their legitimate expectation to fully benefit from the sustainable use of the natural resources of their exclusive economic zones, to ensure that vessels flying their flag comply with the laws and regulations of the developing coastal States adopted in accordance with international law and to give greater attention to fish processing and fish-processing facilities within the national jurisdiction of the developing coastal State to assist in the realization of the benefits from the development of fisheries resources and also to the transfer of technology and assistance for monitoring, control and surveillance and compliance and enforcement within areas under the national jurisdiction of the developing coastal State providing fisheries access, taking into account the forms of cooperation set out in article 25 of the Agreement and article 5 of the Code;

263. *Encourages*, in this regard, greater transparency regarding fisheries access agreements, including by making them publicly available, subject to confidentiality requirements;

264. *Welcomes* the publication by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations of *Mapping Distant-Water Fisheries Access Arrangements*, analysing fishing access arrangements from an economic angle to facilitate the identification of opportunities to enhance the trade of fisheries-related services, particularly for developing countries;

265. *Encourages* States, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to provide greater assistance and to promote coherence in such assistance for developing States in designing, establishing and implementing relevant agreements, instruments and tools for the conservation and sustainable management of fish stocks, including in designing and strengthening their domestic regulatory fisheries policies and those of regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements in their regions, and the enhancement of research and scientific capabilities through existing funds, such as the Assistance Fund under Part VII of the Agreement, bilateral assistance, regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements assistance funds, the FishCode programme, the World Bank's global programme on fisheries and the Global Environment Facility;

266. *Calls upon* States to promote, through continuing dialogue and the assistance and cooperation provided in accordance with articles 24 to 26 of the Agreement, further ratifications of or accessions to the Agreement by seeking to address, inter alia, the issue of lack of capacity and resources that might stand in the way of developing States becoming parties;

267. *Encourages* States, regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements and other relevant bodies to assist developing States in the implementation of the actions called for in paragraphs 80 and 83 to 87 of resolution 61/105, paragraphs 113, 117 and 119 to 124 of resolution 64/72, paragraphs 121, 126, 129, 130 and 132 to 134 of resolution 66/68 and paragraphs 156, 171, 175 and 177 to 188 of resolution 71/123;

268. *Urges* States and regional economic integration organizations, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to mainstream efforts to assist developing States, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, with other relevant international development strategies with a view to enhancing international coordination to enable them to develop their national capacity to exploit fishery resources, consistent with the duty to ensure the conservation and management of those resources, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to fully mobilize and coordinate the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, including at the level of the regional economic commissions, within their respective mandates;

269. *Requests* States and regional fisheries management organizations to develop strategies to further assist developing States, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, in fully realizing the benefits from the catch of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks and in strengthening regional efforts to sustainably conserve and manage such stocks and, in this regard, to make available such information;

## **XII**

### **Cooperation within the United Nations system**

270. *Requests* the relevant parts of the United Nations system, international financial institutions and donor agencies to support increased enforcement and compliance capabilities for regional fisheries management organizations and their member States;

271. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to continue its cooperative arrangements with United Nations agencies on the implementation of the international plans of action;

## **XIII**

### **Activities of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea**

272. *Expresses* its appreciation to the Secretary-General for the activities of the Division, which reflect the high standard of assistance provided to Member States by the Division;

273. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to carry out the responsibilities and functions entrusted to him by the Convention, the Agreement and the related resolutions of the General Assembly and to ensure the allocation of appropriate resources to the Division for the performance of its activities under the approved budget for the Organization;

## **XIV**

### **Seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly**

274. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all States, relevant intergovernmental organizations, the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and relevant non-governmental organizations;

275. *Notes* the desire to further improve the efficiency of and the effective participation of delegations in the informal consultations concerning the annual General Assembly resolution on sustainable fisheries, decides that the informal consultations on this resolution will be held in a single round of consultations in November for a period of six days, requests the Secretary-General to provide support to the consultations through the Division, and invites States to submit proposals for inclusion in the text of the resolution to the Coordinator of the informal consultations no later than five weeks before the start of the consultations;

276. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “Oceans and the law of the sea”, the sub-item entitled “Sustainable fisheries, including through the 1995 Agreement for the

Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and related instruments”, and to consider the possibility of including this sub-item in future provisional agendas on a biennial basis.

## RESOLUTION 78/69

Adopted at the 44th plenary meeting, on 5 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 140 to 1, with 3 abstentions,\* on the basis of draft resolution [A/78/L.15](#), sponsored by: Albania, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe

\* *In favour:* Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe

*Against:* Türkiye

*Abstaining:* Colombia, El Salvador, Syrian Arab Republic

### 78/69. Oceans and the law of the sea

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* its annual resolutions on the law of the sea and on oceans and the law of the sea, including resolution [77/248](#) of 30 December 2022, as well as other relevant resolutions concerning the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (the Convention),<sup>89</sup>

*Recalling*, in this regard, resolution [77/321](#) of 1 August 2023 on the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction,

*Having considered* the reports of the Secretary-General,<sup>90</sup> the report of the intergovernmental conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction at its fifth session,<sup>91</sup> the letter dated 30 June 2023 from the President of the conference to the President of the General Assembly,<sup>92</sup> the report on the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process for Global

<sup>89</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.

<sup>90</sup> [A/78/67](#) and [A/78/339](#).

<sup>91</sup> [A/CONF.232/2023/5](#).

<sup>92</sup> [A/77/945](#).

Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects (the Regular Process),<sup>93</sup> the report on the work of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (the Informal Consultative Process) at its twenty-third meeting,<sup>94</sup> and the reports of the thirty-third Meeting and the resumed thirty-third Meeting of States Parties to the Convention,<sup>95</sup>

*Recognizing* the pre-eminent contribution provided by the Convention to the strengthening of peace, security, cooperation and friendly relations among all nations in conformity with the principles of justice and equal rights and to the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples of the world, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, as well as to the sustainable development of the oceans and seas,

*Emphasizing* the universal and unified character of the Convention, and reaffirming that the Convention sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out and is of strategic importance as the basis for national, regional and global action and cooperation in the marine sector, and that its integrity needs to be maintained, as recognized also by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in chapter 17 of Agenda 21,<sup>96</sup>

*Noting with satisfaction* that, in 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”,<sup>97</sup> as endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, States recognized that oceans, seas and coastal areas form an integrated and essential component of the Earth’s ecosystem and are critical to sustaining it, and that international law, as reflected in the Convention, provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources, and stressed the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and seas and of their resources for sustainable development, including through their contributions to poverty eradication, sustained economic growth, food security and creation of sustainable livelihoods and decent work, while at the same time protecting biodiversity and the marine environment and addressing the impacts of climate change,

*Recalling* that, in “The future we want”, States underscored that broad public participation and access to information and judicial and administrative proceedings were essential to the promotion of sustainable development and that sustainable development required the meaningful involvement and active participation of regional, national and subnational legislatures and judiciaries, and all major groups, and, in this regard, that they agreed to work more closely with major groups and other stakeholders and encouraged their active participation, as appropriate, in processes that contribute to decision-making, planning and implementation of policies and programmes for sustainable development at all levels,

*Noting* that, in “The future we want”, States stressed the importance of the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the achievement of sustainable development and recognized the importance of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples<sup>98</sup> in the context of global, regional, national and subnational implementation of sustainable development strategies, and in this regard recognizing the importance of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the context of the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean and its resources,

*Guided* by the use of, where available, the relevant traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and of local communities in the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean and its resources,

*Recalling* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>99</sup> and in this regard reaffirming the commitment to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, as reflected in

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<sup>93</sup> [A/78/77](#).

<sup>94</sup> [A/78/129](#).

<sup>95</sup> [SPLOS/33/15](#) and [SPLOS/33/19](#).

<sup>96</sup> *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 II.

<sup>97</sup> Resolution 66/288, annex.

<sup>98</sup> Resolution 61/295, annex.

<sup>99</sup> Resolution 70/1.

Goal 14 of the 2030 Agenda, which is important to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals contained in the 2030 Agenda,

*Recalling also* its resolution [76/296](#) of 21 July 2022, in which it endorsed the declaration entitled “Our ocean, our future, our responsibility” adopted by the high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, held in Lisbon from 27 June to 1 July 2022, as well as its resolution [71/312](#) of 6 July 2017, in which it endorsed the declaration entitled “Our ocean, our future: call for action” adopted by the Conference held in New York from 5 to 9 June 2017, and in this regard reaffirming the important role of the declarations in demonstrating the collective determination to act decisively and urgently to improve the health, productivity, sustainable use and resilience of the ocean and its ecosystem,

*Recalling further* its decision to convene the high-level 2025 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, co-hosted by Costa Rica and France in June 2025, to support the implementation of Goal 14,

*Recognizing* the important contributions of the interactive dialogues and voluntary commitments made in the context of the high-level 2022 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 to accelerate the effective and timely implementation of Goal 14,

*Recognizing also* paragraphs 64 and 65 of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, adopted by the Conference, which was held from 13 to 16 July 2015,<sup>100</sup>

*Welcoming* the ocean-related outcomes of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme, especially the resolutions on ending plastic pollution: towards an international legally binding instrument,<sup>101</sup> on nature-based solutions for supporting sustainable development,<sup>102</sup> on the sound management of chemicals and waste,<sup>103</sup> on biodiversity and health,<sup>104</sup> and on sustainable nitrogen management,<sup>105</sup>

*Conscious* that the problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and need to be considered as a whole through an integrated, interdisciplinary, intersectoral and participatory approach, and reaffirming the need to improve cooperation and coordination at the national, regional and global levels, in accordance with the Convention, to support and supplement the efforts of each State in promoting the implementation and observance of the Convention and the integrated management and sustainable development of the oceans and seas,

*Recognizing* that the realization of the benefits of the Convention could be enhanced by international cooperation, technical assistance and advanced scientific knowledge, as well as by funding and capacity-building, and reiterating the essential need for cooperation, in accordance with States’ capabilities, including through capacity-building and transfer and development of marine technology, inter alia, in relation to the exploration, exploitation, conservation and management of marine resources, the protection and preservation of the marine environment, marine scientific research and other activities in the marine environment compatible with the Convention, to ensure that all States, especially developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as coastal African States, are able both to implement the Convention and to benefit from the sustainable development of the oceans and seas, as well as to participate fully in global and regional forums and processes dealing with oceans and law of the sea issues, while recognizing the need to also address the particular challenges faced by developing middle-income countries,

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<sup>100</sup> Resolution [69/313](#), annex.

<sup>101</sup> [UNEP/EA.5/Res.14](#).

<sup>102</sup> [UNEP/EA.5/Res.5](#).

<sup>103</sup> [UNEP/EA.5/Res.7](#).

<sup>104</sup> [UNEP/EA.5/Res.6](#).

<sup>105</sup> [UNEP/EA.5/Res.2](#).



*Emphasizing* the need to strengthen the ability of competent international organizations to contribute, at the global, regional, subregional and bilateral levels, through cooperation programmes with Governments, to the development of national capacity in marine science and the sustainable management of the oceans and their resources,

*Recalling* that marine science is important for eradicating poverty, contributing to food security, conserving the world's marine environment and resources, helping to understand, predict and respond to natural events and promoting the sustainable development of the oceans and seas, by improving knowledge, through sustained research efforts and the evaluation of monitoring results, and applying such knowledge to management and decision-making,

*Expressing deep concern* at the adverse economic, social and environmental impacts of the physical alteration and destruction of marine habitats that may result from land-based and coastal development activities, in particular those land reclamation activities that are carried out in a manner that has a detrimental impact on the marine environment,

*Reiterating its serious concern* at the current and projected adverse effects of climate change, including rising seawater temperature, ocean deoxygenation, and sea level rise, as well as ocean acidification, on the marine environment and marine biodiversity, and emphasizing the urgency of addressing these adverse effects, considering also the importance of preserving the role of the ocean as a carbon sink,

*Noting with concern*, in this regard, the findings by the World Meteorological Organization, in its *Greenhouse Gas Bulletin No. 19*, that, in 2022, carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere were at 417.9 plus or minus 0.2 parts per million, which represents an increase of 2.2 parts per million, a relative increase of 0.53 per cent, over the period 2021–2022, and the findings in its *State of the Global Climate 2022* that the global mean temperature in 2022 was about 1.15 degrees Celsius above the 1850 to 1900 baseline,

*Noting with concern also* that the World Meteorological Organization, in its *State of the Global Climate 2022*, highlighted that the past eight years, from 2015 to 2022, were the eight warmest on record, while ocean heat content reached its highest recorded levels, and that the world also continued to see increasing rising of sea levels, concentrations of greenhouse gases and ocean acidification, while the cryosphere continued its contraction,

*Expressing concern* that climate change continues to increase the severity and incidence of coral bleaching throughout tropical seas and weakens the ability of reefs to withstand ocean acidification, which could have serious and irreversible negative effects on marine organisms, particularly corals, as well as to withstand other pressures, including overfishing and pollution,

*Reiterating its deep concern* at the vulnerability of the environment and the fragile ecosystems of the polar regions particularly affected by the observed and projected adverse effects of climate change and ocean acidification,

*Recognizing* the need for a more integrated and ecosystem-based approach to, further study of and the promotion of measures for enhanced cooperation, coordination and collaboration relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction,

*Recognizing also* that hydrographic surveys and nautical charting are critical to the safety of navigation and life at sea, environmental protection, including the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems, and the economics of the global shipping industry, and encouraging further efforts towards electronic charting, which not only provides significantly increased benefits for safe navigation and management of ship movement, but also provides data and information that can be used for sustainably managed fisheries and sustainably managed aquaculture activities and other sectoral uses of the marine environment, the delimitation of maritime boundaries and environmental protection, and noting that, under the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974,<sup>106</sup> ships on international voyages are required to carry an electronic chart display and information system, in accordance with the implementation schedule as set out in that Convention,

*Noting with concern* threats to maritime safety and security, including piracy, armed robbery at sea, smuggling and terrorist acts against shipping, offshore installations and other maritime interests, and the continuing problem of transnational organized crime committed at sea, including illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,

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<sup>106</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1184, No. 18961.



the smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons and illicit trafficking in firearms, and noting the deplorable loss of life and adverse impact on international trade, energy security and the global economy resulting from such activities,

*Noting* the importance of the delineation by coastal States of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles in accordance with the Convention and of the role of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (the Commission) in that regard,

*Reaffirming* the importance of the work of the Commission for coastal States and for the international community,

*Noting with concern* the projected timetable of the work of the Commission on the submissions already received by it and those yet to be received,

*Taking note* of the letter dated 11 April 2023 from the Chair of the Commission addressed to the President of the thirty-third Meeting of States Parties,<sup>107</sup>

*Recalling* its decision, in resolutions 57/141 of 12 December 2002 and 58/240 of 23 December 2003, to establish a regular process under the United Nations for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socioeconomic aspects, both current and foreseeable, building on existing regional assessments, as recommended by the World Summit on Sustainable Development,<sup>108</sup> and noting the need for cooperation among all States to this end, and recalling further its decisions, most recently in resolution 77/248, regarding the Regular Process, as established under the United Nations and accountable to the General Assembly,

*Reaffirming* the cross-cutting role of ocean science in Sustainable Development Goal 14 of the 2030 Agenda,

*Reaffirming also* its decision, in resolution 72/73 of 5 December 2017, to proclaim the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development for the 10-year period beginning on 1 January 2021, within existing structures and available resources,

*Recognizing* the importance and the contribution of the work of the Informal Consultative Process established by the General Assembly in its resolution 54/33 of 24 November 1999 to facilitate the annual review of developments in ocean affairs by the Assembly,

*Reaffirming* the importance of the work of the International Seabed Authority (the Authority) in accordance with the Convention and the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 (the Part XI Agreement),<sup>109</sup>

*Reaffirming also* the importance of the work of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (the Tribunal) in accordance with the Convention,

## **I**

### **Implementation of the Convention and related agreements and instruments**

1. *Reaffirms* the unified character of the Convention and the vital importance of preserving its integrity;
2. *Calls upon* all States that have not done so, in order to fully achieve the goal of universal participation, to become parties to the Convention and the Part XI Agreement;
3. *Calls upon* States that have not done so, in order to achieve the goal of universal participation, to become parties to the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (the Fish Stocks Agreement);<sup>110</sup>
4. *Calls upon* States to harmonize their national legislation with the provisions of the Convention and, where applicable, relevant agreements and instruments, to ensure the consistent application of those provisions and to ensure

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<sup>107</sup> SPLOS/33/10.

<sup>108</sup> See *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 2, annex.

<sup>109</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1836, No. 31364.

<sup>110</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2167, No. 37924.

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also that any declarations or statements that they have made or make when signing, ratifying or acceding to the Convention do not purport to exclude or to modify the legal effect of the provisions of the Convention in their application to the State concerned and to withdraw any such declarations or statements;

5. *Calls upon* States Parties to the Convention that have not yet done so to deposit with the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, in the case of the outer limit lines of the continental shelf, also with the Secretary-General of the Authority, copies of charts or lists of geographical coordinates, as provided for in the Convention, preferably using the generally accepted and most recent geodetic datums;

6. *Notes*, in this regard, the ongoing efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to improve the existing geographic information system for the deposit by States of charts and geographical coordinates concerning maritime zones, including lines of delimitation, submitted pursuant to the Convention, and to give due publicity thereto, and re-emphasizes the importance of the completion of these efforts through wide participation and reviews by Member States of the technical standards for the collection, storage and dissemination of the deposited information, developed by the International Hydrographic Organization, in cooperation with the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat (the Division), which are not legally binding, in order to ensure compatibility among geographic information systems, electronic nautical charts and other systems;

7. *Recalls* the note on the practice of the Secretary-General in respect of the deposit of charts and/or lists of geographical coordinates of points under the Convention<sup>111</sup> and the *Guidelines on deposit with the Secretary-General of charts and lists of geographical coordinates of points under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea* prepared by the Secretariat;<sup>112</sup>

8. *Emphasizes* that underwater archaeological, cultural and historical heritage needs to be protected and preserved, further emphasizes the duty of States under article 303, paragraph 1, of the Convention to protect objects of an archaeological and historical nature found at sea and to cooperate for this purpose, and urges all States, in accordance with the Convention, to cooperate, directly or through competent international bodies, in taking measures to protect and preserve such objects, and calls upon States to work together on such diverse challenges and opportunities as the appropriate relationship between salvage law and scientific management and conservation of underwater cultural heritage, increasing technological abilities to discover and reach underwater sites, looting, destruction, illicit trafficking, and growing underwater tourism;

9. *Calls upon* States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage,<sup>113</sup> and notes in particular the rules annexed to that Convention, which address the relationship between salvage law and scientific principles of management, conservation and protection of underwater cultural heritage among Parties, their nationals and vessels flying their flag;

## II

### Capacity-building

10. *Recognizes* the importance of assisting developing States, in particular the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as coastal African States, in implementing the Convention, urges States, international financial institutions, donor agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and natural and juridical persons to make voluntary financial or other contributions to the trust funds, as referred to in resolutions 55/7 of 30 October 2000, 57/141, and 64/71 of 4 December 2009, established for this purpose, and expresses its appreciation to those that have contributed;<sup>114</sup>

11. *Emphasizes* that capacity-building is essential to ensure that States, especially developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as coastal African States, are able to fully implement the Convention, benefit from the sustainable development of the oceans and seas and participate fully in global and regional forums on ocean affairs and the law of the sea;

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<sup>111</sup> SPLOS/30/12.

<sup>112</sup> Available at [https://www.un.org/Depts/los/doalos\\_publications/publicationtexts/DepositGuidelinesEnglish.pdf](https://www.un.org/Depts/los/doalos_publications/publicationtexts/DepositGuidelinesEnglish.pdf).

<sup>113</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2562, No. 45694.

<sup>114</sup> See [www.un.org/depts/los/general\\_assembly/SGReportTrustFunds1August202231July2023.pdf](http://www.un.org/depts/los/general_assembly/SGReportTrustFunds1August202231July2023.pdf).

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12. *Also emphasizes* the need to address the particular challenges faced by developing middle-income countries through capacity-building;

13. *Calls for* capacity-building initiatives to take into account the needs of developing countries, and calls upon States, international organizations and donor agencies to make efforts to ensure the sustainability of such initiatives;

14. *Recalls*, in this regard, that, in “The future we want”, States recognized the importance of building the capacity of developing countries to be able to benefit from the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and seas and their resources, and in this regard emphasized the need for cooperation in marine scientific research to implement the provisions of the Convention and the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development, as well as for the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms;

15. *Recognizes* that promoting the voluntary transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms and conducted on fair and reasonable terms and conditions is an essential aspect of building capacity in marine science where due regard should be given to the needs and priorities of developing States, further encourages States to use the Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology adopted by the Assembly of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its twenty-second session, in 2003, and recalls the important role of the secretariat of that Commission in the implementation and promotion of the Criteria and Guidelines;

16. *Emphasizes* the need for international cooperation for capacity-building, including cross-sectoral cooperation, at national, regional and global levels, to address, in particular, gaps in capacity-building in ocean affairs and the law of the sea, including marine science and meteorological sciences;

17. *Calls upon* donor agencies and international financial institutions to keep their programmes systematically under review to ensure the availability in all States, particularly in developing States, of the economic, legal, navigational, scientific, technical and management skills necessary for the full implementation of the Convention and the objectives of the present resolution, as well as the sustainable development of the oceans and seas nationally, regionally and globally, and in so doing to bear in mind the interests and needs of landlocked developing States;

18. *Encourages* intensified efforts to build capacity for developing countries, in particular for the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as coastal African States, to improve aids to navigation and search and rescue services, hydrographic services and the production of nautical charts, including electronic charts, as well as the mobilization of resources and building of capacity with support from international financial institutions and the donor community;

19. *Calls upon* States and international organizations, including through bilateral, regional and global cooperation programmes, technical partnerships and fellowships, to continue in a sustainable and comprehensive way to support, promote and strengthen capacity-building activities, in particular in developing countries, in the field of marine scientific research by, inter alia, training personnel to develop and enhance relevant expertise, providing the necessary equipment, facilities and vessels and transferring environmentally sound technologies and methodologies, taking into account the need to improve capacities in the field of taxonomy;

20. *Calls upon* States and international institutions, including through bilateral, regional and global cooperation programmes, technical partnerships and fellowships, to support and strengthen capacity-building activities in developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, to develop their maritime administration and appropriate legal frameworks to establish or enhance the necessary infrastructure, legislative, enforcement and monitoring capabilities to promote effective compliance with and implementation and enforcement of their responsibilities under international law;

21. *Also calls upon* States and international institutions, including through bilateral, regional and global cooperation programmes, technical partnerships and fellowships, to support and strengthen capacity-building activities in developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, in the area of mitigation of and adaptation to climate change impacts on the ocean, including protection of coasts against sea level rise and through ecosystem-based approaches and nature-based solutions;

22. *Invites* States, in particular those States with advanced technology and marine capabilities, to explore prospects for improving cooperation with and assistance to developing States, in particular least developed countries,

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landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as coastal African States, with a view to better integrating into national policies and programmes sustainable and effective development in the marine sector;

23. *Calls upon* States and international institutions, including through bilateral, regional and global cooperation programmes, technical partnerships and fellowships, to develop and strengthen capacity-building activities in and to transfer to developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, on mutually agreed terms, and taking into account the Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, environmentally sound technologies and methodologies to study and minimize the impacts of ocean acidification, and notes in this regard the international scientific cooperation through the Ocean Acidification International Coordination Centre of the International Atomic Energy Agency and within the Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network;

24. *Emphasizes* the need to focus on strengthening South-South cooperation as an additional way to build capacity and as a cooperative mechanism to further enable countries to set their own priorities and needs and to foster actions to implement such cooperation;

25. *Recognizes with appreciation* the important contribution to capacity-building in the field of the law of the sea by the Rhodes Academy of Oceans Law and Policy, a cooperative undertaking by the University of Virginia School of Law, the Aegean Institute of the Law of the Sea and Maritime Law, the Law of the Sea Institute of Iceland, the Max Planck Foundation for International Peace and the Rule of Law, the Netherlands Institute for the Law of the Sea of Utrecht University, the Centre for International Law of the National University of Singapore, and the University of New Hampshire School of Marine Science and Ocean Engineering, which enjoys associate sponsorship of the Korea Maritime Institute and the Ankara University National Center for the Sea and Maritime Law and offers a prominent three-week summer course annually in Rhodes, Greece, and has graduated 1,088 students from more than 120 countries;

26. *Also recognizes with appreciation* the important contribution to capacity-building in the field of the law of the sea by the Summer Academy of the International Foundation for the Law of the Sea at the Tribunal;

27. *Further recognizes with appreciation* the important contribution of the Korea Maritime Institute to the trust fund to support the internship programmes at the Tribunal since 2011 and its continued efforts, in cooperation with the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea, to provide education and training for capacity-building of developing countries through the Yeosu Academy of the Law of the Sea programme;

28. *Recognizes* the holding of the regional courses on the continental shelf in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, jointly organized by the African Institute of International Law and the University of the Faroe Islands, and their continuing important contribution to capacity-building, particularly in developing countries;

29. *Also recognizes* the importance of the work of the Malta-based International Maritime Law Institute of the International Maritime Organization, as a centre of education and training of specialists in maritime law, including government legal advisers and other high-level officials, mainly from developing States, confirms its effective capacity-building role in the field of international maritime law, shipping law and marine environmental law, and urges States, intergovernmental organizations and financial institutions to make voluntary financial contributions to the budget of the Institute which runs annually;

30. *Further recognizes* the importance of the World Maritime University of the International Maritime Organization, as a centre of excellence for maritime education and research, confirms its effective capacity-building role in the field of maritime transportation, policy, administration, management, safety, security and environmental protection, as well as its role in the international exchange and transfer of knowledge, notes the role of the World Maritime University-Sasakawa Global Ocean Institute, and urges States, intergovernmental organizations and other bodies to make voluntary financial contributions to the University's Endowment Fund;

31. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Tribunal in holding regional workshops, including the latest workshop on the role of the Tribunal in the settlement of disputes relating to the law of the sea, held in France on 1 and 2 June 2023, in cooperation with the Institute for Peace and Development at Côte d'Azur University and with the support of Cyprus, France and the Korea Maritime Institute;

32. *Also welcomes* the efforts of the Tribunal in holding capacity-building workshops, including the latest workshop, on the settlement of disputes under the Convention for the legal advisers from the African region, held at the Tribunal from 2 to 7 July 2023, sponsored by the Government of the Republic of Korea;

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33. *Further welcomes* ongoing activities for capacity-building so as to address maritime security and protection of the marine environment of developing States, and encourages States and international financial institutions to provide additional funding for capacity-building programmes, including for transfer of technology, including through the International Maritime Organization and other competent international organizations;

34. *Recognizes* the considerable need to provide sustained capacity-building assistance, including on financial and technical aspects, by relevant international organizations and donors to developing States, with a view to further strengthening their capacity to take effective measures against the multiple facets of international criminal activities at sea, in line with the relevant international instruments, including the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto;<sup>115</sup>

35. *Also recognizes* the need to build the capacity of developing States to raise awareness of and support the implementation of improved waste management practices, noting the particular vulnerability of small island developing States to the impact of marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities and marine debris and nutrient pollution;<sup>116</sup>

36. *Acknowledges* the importance of capacity-building for developing States, in particular the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as coastal African States, for the protection of the marine environment and the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources;

37. *Encourages* States to consider additional opportunities for capacity-building at the regional level;

38. *Takes note* of the second edition of the *Global Ocean Science Report* of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, which assesses the status of and trends in ocean science capacity around the world;

39. *Also takes note* of the Capacity Development Strategy (2023–2030) of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, which recognizes capacity development as one of the six functions of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Medium-Term Strategy (2022–2029), enabling all Member States to participate in, and benefit from, ocean research and services that are vital to sustainable development and human welfare on the planet;<sup>117</sup>

40. *Calls upon* States to continue to assist developing States, and especially the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as coastal African States, at the bilateral and, where appropriate, multilateral levels, in the preparation of submissions to the Commission regarding the establishment of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles, including the assessment of the nature and extent of the continental shelf of a coastal State, and recalls that coastal States can make requests to the Commission for scientific and technical advice in the preparation of data for their submissions, in accordance with article 3 of annex II to the Convention;

41. *Recognizes* the importance of the trust fund established pursuant to resolution 55/7, and referred to in annex II thereto,<sup>118</sup> in providing developing States with all relevant forms of financial and technical assistance in complying with the requirements relating to their submissions to the Commission;

42. *Calls upon* the Division to continue to disseminate information on relevant procedures related to the trust fund established for the purpose of facilitating the preparation of submissions to the Commission and to continue its dialogue with potential beneficiaries with a view to providing financial support to developing countries for activities to facilitate their submissions in accordance with the requirements of article 76 of the Convention and with the rules of procedure<sup>119</sup> and the Scientific and Technical Guidelines of the Commission;<sup>120</sup>

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<sup>115</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2225, 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.

<sup>116</sup> See 2012 Guidelines for the Development of a Regional Reception Facilities Plan, International Maritime Organization, resolution MEPC.221(63).

<sup>117</sup> See Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, document IOC/A-32/Decisions, decision A-32/4.3.

<sup>118</sup> See the terms of reference, guidelines and rules of the voluntary trust fund established by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/7 for the purpose of facilitating the preparation of submissions to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf for developing States, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as amended by the Assembly in its resolutions 58/240, 70/235 and 73/124.

<sup>119</sup> CLCS/40/Rev.1.

<sup>120</sup> CLCS/11, CLCS/11/Corr.1, CLCS/11/Add.1 and CLCS/11/Add.1/Corr.1.

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43. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with States and relevant international organizations and institutions, to continue to support training and other activities to assist developing States in the preparation and presentation of their submissions to the Commission;

44. *Recognizes with appreciation* the contribution of the Division to capacity-building activities at the national and regional levels, in particular the work of the Division in promoting wider appreciation of the Convention and in assisting with its implementation, through the provision of information, advice and assistance to States and intergovernmental organizations, as well as the support of the Division for Member State implementation of the relevant parts of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the implementation by the Division of the programmes of assistance, funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, to meet the strategic capacity needs of developing States in the field of ocean governance and the law of the sea;

45. *Notes with appreciation* the joint delivery of regional online trainings for East Africa, West Africa, the Pacific and the Indian Ocean region on ocean affairs and the law of the sea, including the development of a self-paced e-learning platform by the Division and other partners under the PROBLUE Ocean Governance Capacity-Building Training Programme (World Bank);

46. *Notes* the partnership between the Division and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission on a training programme on marine scientific research under the Convention, and encourages States, relevant international organizations and other donors to consider supporting the initiative;

47. *Invites* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with Member States, international financial institutions, donor agencies and intergovernmental organizations, to endeavour to expand the capacity-building activities of the Division in order to meet the increased need for assistance to developing States;

48. *Invites* States, international financial institutions, donor agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and natural and juridical persons to support the capacity-building activities of the Division, including by making earmarked voluntary contributions to the trust fund established by the Secretary-General for the Office of Legal Affairs to support the promotion of international law, and expresses its appreciation to those that have contributed;

49. *Recognizes with appreciation* the important contribution to the capacity-building of developing countries and the promotion of the law of the sea made by the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea, which was established by the General Assembly in 1981 in honour of the first President of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, expresses its appreciation to States that have made contributions to the voluntary trust fund for the Fellowship, notes that the financial state of the Fellowship remains a concern and that contributions are encouraged to ensure that at least one fellowship can be awarded annually, expresses its commitment to further promote the importance of the Fellowship, and urges States, international financial institutions, donor agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and natural and juridical persons to make voluntary financial contributions in support of the Fellowship;

50. *Also recognizes with appreciation* the important contribution of the United Nations-Nippon Foundation Fellowship Programme and the Strategic Needs Fellowship Programme to human resources development for Member States, particularly developing Member States, in the field of ocean affairs and the law of the sea and related disciplines, as well as the fostering of global interlinkages and continuing capacity development through the alumni programme;

51. *Encourages* competent international organizations, the United Nations Development Programme and international financial institutions and funds to consider expanding their programmes within their respective fields of competence for assistance to developing countries and to coordinate their efforts, and recognizes the funding available from the Global Environment Facility, as well as other funds allocated for projects relating to oceans;

## **III**

### **Meeting of States Parties**

52. *Welcomes* the reports of the thirty-third Meeting and the resumed thirty-third Meeting of States Parties to the Convention;

53. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide services to the thirty-third Meeting of States Parties to the Convention, including documentation, to convene the thirty-fourth Meeting of States Parties from 10 to 14 June

2024, with full conference services, including documentation, as required, and to convene the thirty-fifth Meeting of States Parties for five days in 2025, with full conference services, including documentation, as required;

#### **IV**

##### **Peaceful settlement of disputes**

54. *Notes with satisfaction* the continued and significant contribution of the Tribunal to the settlement of disputes by peaceful means in accordance with Part XV of the Convention, and underlines the important role and authority of the Tribunal concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention and the Part XI Agreement;

55. *Pays tribute* to the important and long-standing role of the International Court of Justice with regard to the peaceful settlement of disputes concerning the law of the sea;

56. *Notes* that States parties to an international agreement relating to the purposes of the Convention may submit to, inter alia, the Tribunal or the International Court of Justice any dispute concerning the interpretation or application of that agreement submitted in accordance with that agreement, and also notes the possibility, provided for in the Statutes of the Tribunal and the Court, to submit disputes to a chamber;

57. *Encourages* States Parties to the Convention that have not yet done so to consider making a written declaration, choosing from the means set out in article 287 of the Convention for the settlement of disputes concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention and the Part XI Agreement, bearing in mind the comprehensive character of the dispute settlement mechanism provided for in Part XV of the Convention;

58. *Recalls* the successful completion of the first compulsory conciliation under annex V to the Convention, pursuant to section 3 of Part XV, in 2018, which assisted the parties in reaching agreement on a treaty establishing their maritime boundaries,<sup>121</sup> and calls upon States to consider all means to peacefully settle disputes in accordance with international law;

#### **V**

##### **The Area**

59. *Reiterates* the importance of the ongoing elaboration and standardization by the Authority, pursuant to article 145 of the Convention, of rules, regulations and procedures to ensure the effective protection of the marine environment, for, inter alia, the protection and conservation of the natural resources of the Area and for the prevention of damage to the flora and fauna of the marine environment from harmful effects that may arise from activities in the Area;

60. *Welcomes* the progress of the work of the Authority on draft regulations for exploitation of mineral resources in the Area, but also notes the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on the meetings within its premises in 2020 and 2021, and in this regard encourages the Authority to continue its work on the draft regulations as a matter of priority and to provide sufficient opportunities and time for substantive consideration and discussion of the draft regulations as well as the relevant standards and guidelines, and emphasizes the ongoing need for openness and transparency and for the draft regulations to ensure that any exploitation activities would take place with the effective protection of the marine environment in accordance with the Convention;

61. *Notes* the adoption by the Council of decisions [ISBA/28/C/9](#), [ISBA/28/C/24](#) and [ISBA/28/C/25](#) at its twenty-eighth session;

62. *Also notes* the decisions adopted to create the position of interim director general of the Enterprise<sup>122</sup> and the supplementary budget for the period 2023–2024 to cover the costs associated with the establishment of the position;<sup>123</sup>

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<sup>121</sup> See [A/73/368](#), para. 19.

<sup>122</sup> [ISBA/28/C/10](#) and [ISBA/28/C/23](#).

<sup>123</sup> See [ISBA/28/A/15](#).



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63. *Further notes* the conclusion of an agreement of cooperation between the International Labour Organization and the Authority, approved by the Council at the second part of its twenty-eighth session;<sup>124</sup>

64. *Notes* the endorsement by the Assembly, at the twenty-eighth session of the Authority, of the memorandum of understanding between the Authority and the International Relations Institute of Cameroon concerning the establishment of a curriculum on the law of the sea and Part XI of the Convention,<sup>125</sup> and of a memorandum of understanding between the Authority and the National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries of Egypt concerning the establishment of a joint regional training and research centre;<sup>126</sup>

65. *Also notes* that the Council and the Assembly accepted the amendments to the statute of the International Civil Service Commission adopted by the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session in its resolution [77/256 A](#) of 30 December 2022;<sup>127</sup>

66. *Further notes* the decisions adopted on the development of binding environmental threshold values and on the commissioning of a study on the internalization of environmental costs of exploitation activities in the Area;<sup>128</sup>

67. *Recalls* the relevance of the advisory opinion on the responsibilities and obligations of States sponsoring persons and entities with respect to activities in the Area, issued by the Seabed Disputes Chamber of the Tribunal on 1 February 2011;<sup>129</sup>

68. *Recognizes* the importance of the responsibilities entrusted to the Authority by articles 143 and 145 of the Convention, which refer to marine scientific research in the Area and protection of the marine environment, respectively;

69. *Notes* the decision of the Assembly to extend the current strategic plan of the Authority for the period 2019–2023 for two years, the request to the Secretary-General of the Authority to review and update the high-level action plan for the period 2019–2023 as necessary for the same period, and the decision to include the periodic review of the international regime of the Area pursuant to article 154 of the Convention as an agenda item for the twenty-ninth session of the Assembly, in 2024, with a view to adopting a decision;<sup>130</sup>

70. *Also notes* the Authority database (DeepData), which aims to serve as the principal repository of all data and information relating to activities in the Area;

71. *Encourages* the Authority to continue its work towards the standardization of marine bathymetric information collected in the Area, in cooperation with relevant international organizations, including the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and the International Hydrographic Organization, particularly under the Seabed 2030 project;<sup>131</sup>

72. *Notes* the progress made in the development of environmental management plans for the Area, and encourages the Authority to continue advancing on the development of regional environmental management plans in priority areas in the Area, such as the northern Mid-Atlantic Ridge, the Indian Ocean and the North-West Pacific, as well as notes the efforts of the Authority to continue its work on a revised standardized framework, including the standardized procedure and template;<sup>132</sup>

## VI

### Effective functioning of the Authority and the Tribunal

73. *Commends* the progress in the work of the Authority;

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<sup>124</sup> See [ISBA/28/C/16](#).

<sup>125</sup> See [ISBA/28/A/12](#).

<sup>126</sup> See [ISBA/28/A/13](#).

<sup>127</sup> See [ISBA/28/A/14](#).

<sup>128</sup> [ISBA/27/C/42](#) and [ISBA/27/C/43](#).

<sup>129</sup> See [ISBA/17/A/9](#).

<sup>130</sup> See [ISBA/28/A/16](#).

<sup>131</sup> See [ISBA/23/A/2](#).

<sup>132</sup> See [ISBA/26/C/10](#), [ISBA/27/C/37](#) and [ISBA/28/C/27](#).



74. *Also commends* the work of the Tribunal since its establishment;

75. *Appeals* to all States Parties to the Convention to pay their assessed contributions to the Tribunal in full and on time, and also appeals to States Parties in arrears with their contributions to fulfil their obligations without delay;

76. *Expresses serious concern* about the number of States Parties to the Convention in arrears with their assessed contributions to the Authority, appeals to all States Parties to the Convention to pay their assessed contributions to the Authority in full and on time, and urges them to fulfil their obligations without delay, in particular those States whose exercise of voting rights has been suspended by virtue of article 184 of the Convention, and invites the Secretary-General of the Authority to continue his efforts to recover arrears, including bilateral efforts;<sup>133</sup>

77. *Notes* that there remains room for improvement in the level of attendance at the Assembly, and urges all members of the Authority to participate in the meetings of the Assembly;

78. *Expresses its appreciation* to the donors that have made contributions to the voluntary trust funds of the Authority, and encourages Member States, observers, contractors and other stakeholders to contribute financially to these trust funds;<sup>134</sup>

79. *Notes with serious concern* the depleted balance of the voluntary trust fund established pursuant to the decision of the Authority at its eighth session<sup>135</sup> for the purpose of defraying the cost of participation of members of the Legal and Technical Commission from developing countries and members of the Finance Committee from developing countries in the meetings of the Commission and of the Committee, notes the appeals to members and other possible donors to make contributions to that fund, and to contractors to consider making a payment of 6,000 United States dollars on a voluntary basis, and expresses its appreciation to those that have made contributions to the voluntary trust fund;<sup>136</sup>

80. *Expresses its appreciation* to States that have made contributions to the endowment fund for marine scientific research in the Area established by the Authority at its twelfth session,<sup>137</sup> for the purpose of promoting and encouraging the conduct of collaborative marine scientific research in the Area, and encourages States, observers, contractors and other stakeholders to make additional contributions to this fund;<sup>138</sup>

81. *Emphasizes* the importance of the rules and staff regulations of the Tribunal in promoting the recruitment of a geographically representative staff in the Professional and higher categories, and welcomes the actions taken by the Tribunal in observance of those rules and regulations;

82. *Calls upon* States that have not done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the Tribunal<sup>139</sup> and to the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the Authority;<sup>140</sup>

## VII

### The continental shelf and the work of the Commission

83. *Recalls* that, in accordance with the Convention, coastal States shall submit information on the limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles to the Commission, which shall make recommendations to coastal States on matters related to the establishment of the outer limits of their continental shelf, and that such limits established by the coastal State on the basis of these recommendations shall be final and binding;

84. *Also recalls* that, in accordance with article 77, paragraph 3, of the Convention, the rights of the coastal State over the continental shelf do not depend on occupation, effective or notional, or on any express proclamation;

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<sup>133</sup> See [ISBA/26/A/19](#).

<sup>134</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>135</sup> See [ISBA/8/A/11](#).

<sup>136</sup> See [ISBA/26/A/19](#).

<sup>137</sup> See [ISBA/12/A/11](#).

<sup>138</sup> See [ISBA/26/A/19](#).

<sup>139</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2167, No. 37925.

<sup>140</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2214, No. 39357.

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85. *Notes with satisfaction* that a considerable number of States Parties to the Convention have submitted information to the Commission regarding the establishment of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles, as well as preliminary information indicative of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles and a description of the status of preparation and intended date of submission, and also notes with satisfaction that additional submissions referred to in preliminary information have been filed with the Commission;

86. *Also notes with satisfaction* the progress in the work of the Commission<sup>141</sup> and that it is giving current consideration to a number of submissions that have been made regarding the establishment of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles;

87. *Takes note* of the 40 recommendations made by the Commission on the submissions of 32 coastal States, and welcomes the fact that summaries of recommendations are being made publicly available in accordance with paragraph 11.3 of annex III to the rules of procedure of the Commission;

88. *Notes* that the consideration by the Commission of submissions by coastal States in accordance with article 76 of and annex II to the Convention is without prejudice to the application of other parts of the Convention by States Parties;

89. *Calls attention* to the considerable number of submissions yet to be considered by the Commission and the demands that this places on its members and the secretariat as provided by the Division, and emphasizes the need to ensure that the Commission can perform its functions expeditiously, efficiently and effectively with its full membership and maintain its high level of quality and expertise;

90. *Reiterates its invitation* to the Commission to continue meeting for a total of 21 weeks per year by holding three sessions of seven weeks each, with no two sessions being sequential, for the remainder of its current five-year term of office, and further notes that more than nine subcommissions are actively considering submissions;

91. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations to continue to take appropriate measures, within overall existing resource levels, to further strengthen the capacity of the Division, serving as the secretariat of the Commission, in order to ensure enhanced support and assistance to the Commission and its subcommissions in their consideration of submissions, as required by paragraph 9 of annex III to the rules of procedure of the Commission, in particular its human resources, taking into account the need for simultaneous work on several submissions;

92. *Urges* the Secretary-General to continue to provide all necessary secretariat services to the Commission in accordance with article 2, paragraph 5, of annex II to the Convention;

93. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take appropriate and timely measures to ensure secretariat services for the Commission and its subcommissions for the extended duration of time requested in the decisions of the twenty-first and twenty-sixth Meetings of States Parties to the Convention;

94. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, consequently, to continue to allocate appropriate and sufficient resources to the Division to provide adequate services and assistance to the Commission in view of the number of its working weeks;

95. *Notes* that the Meeting of States Parties to the Convention, in its decisions regarding the conditions of service of the members of the Commission,<sup>142</sup> reaffirmed the obligation of States under the Convention whose experts were serving on the Commission to defray the expenses of the experts they had nominated while the experts are in performance of Commission duties, including the provision of medical coverage, and urged those States to do their utmost to ensure the full participation of those experts in the work of the Commission, including the meetings of subcommissions, in accordance with the Convention;

96. *Also notes* the request of the thirty-third Meeting of States Parties to the Convention that the consideration of the conditions of service of the members of the Commission continue within the open-ended working group established by the twenty-third Meeting of States Parties to the Convention, and emphasizes the urgency of finding appropriate solutions;<sup>143</sup>

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<sup>141</sup> See CLCS/55/2, CLCS/56/1, CLCS/57/2 and CLCS/58/2.

<sup>142</sup> SPLOS/276 and SPLOS/286.

<sup>143</sup> See SPLOS/33/15.

97. *Further notes* the decision of the thirty-third Meeting of States Parties to the Convention to adopt a pattern of elections and of the commencement of the term of office of members of the Commission, according to which the Meeting will continue holding elections of members of the Commission one year before the expiration of the five-year term of office of the sitting members, in the light of the administrative and logistical benefits;<sup>144</sup>

98. *Emphasizes* the importance of the voluntary trust funds established pursuant to resolution 55/7, for the purpose of facilitating the preparation of submissions to the Commission and providing assistance to developing States to meet the travel and daily subsistence allowance costs associated with meeting with the Commission, and for the purpose of facilitating the participation of members of the Commission from developing States in the meetings of the Commission, and expresses its appreciation for the contributions made to these trust funds;

99. *Reiterates its serious concern* regarding the persistent underfunding of the trust fund established pursuant to resolution 55/7 for the purpose of facilitating the participation of members of the Commission from developing States in the meetings of the Commission, and urges States, including those that have already received recommendations from the Commission, in addition to international financial institutions, donor agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and natural and juridical persons, to make additional contributions to this fund;

100. *Authorizes* the use, as appropriate, of the trust fund referred to in paragraph 99 above, and in accordance with the purpose of its terms of reference, to defray the cost of the participation of the Chair of the Commission, when nominated by a developing country, in the Meetings of States Parties to the Convention;

101. *Takes note* of the written information, provided by the Secretary-General in response to the request in paragraph 81 of resolution 69/245 of 29 December 2014, on options for mechanisms to provide medical insurance coverage to members of the Commission, including costs, and the information provided by the Secretariat during the twenty-seventh, twenty-eighth, twenty-ninth and thirty-first Meetings of States Parties to the Convention;

102. *Recalls* its decision that, on an exceptional basis and without setting a precedent for other agenda items, the members of the Commission have the option to join the Headquarters medical insurance scheme upon payment of the full cost of the premium, and hereby authorizes the use of the trust fund referred to in paragraph 99 above by the Secretary-General to reimburse the full costs of the premium paid by the members of the Commission from developing States, subject to the availability of funds following the allocation of the required funds to cover the costs of travel and daily subsistence allowance of the members of the Commission from developing States for the sessions of the Commission during the annual insurance coverage period (1 July–30 June);

103. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General, in case the full costs of the Headquarters medical insurance scheme have not been reimbursed, as an interim measure and subject to the availability of funds following the allocation of the required funds to cover the costs of travel and daily subsistence allowance of the members of the Commission from developing States for the sessions of the Commission in 2024, to reimburse those members for the costs of medical travel insurance and short-term medical insurance from that trust fund on a session-by-session basis and subject to a reasonable limit that the Secretary-General shall determine, based on the information regarding medical travel insurance available;

104. *Expresses its intention* to continue to consider options for mechanisms to provide medical insurance coverage to members of the Commission and, if necessary, to further review the terms of reference for the trust fund referred to in paragraph 99 above;

105. *Emphasizes* the continued need for members of the Commission to have suitable working space for their work at the sessions of the Commission and its subcommissions, recognizes, with regard to the long-term accommodation discussions, that, owing to its exceptional character, the Commission has special requirements for its working space, including the need for fit-for-purpose working space, adequate technical equipment and climate control, and needs to remain located within the same premises as the Division, and emphasizes that, in the context of any relocation of the Division or any change in its working space, full regard will be paid to these special requirements of the Commission;

106. *Takes note* of the requests by the Commission for upgrades to the existing technical facilities of the Division, as contained in the annex to the letter dated 11 April 2023 from the Chair of the Commission addressed to

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<sup>144</sup> [SPLOS/33/12](#).

the President of the thirty-third Meeting of States Parties,<sup>145</sup> and requests the Secretary-General to provide the requested upgrades with a view to facilitating the work of the Commission;

107. *Approves* the convening by the Secretary-General of the sixtieth, sixty-first and sixty-second sessions of the Commission, in New York, from 22 January to 8 March 2024, from 8 July to 23 August 2024 and from 7 October to 22 November 2024, respectively, with full conference services, including documentation, for the plenary parts of these sessions,<sup>146</sup> also approves the convening by the Secretary-General of the sixty-third, sixty-fourth and sixty-fifth sessions of the Commission in 2025, in New York, with full conference services, including documentation, for the plenary parts of these sessions, as well as any resumed sessions as may be required by the Commission, and requests the Secretary-General to make every effort to meet these requirements within overall existing resources;

108. *Expresses its firm conviction* about the importance of the work of the Commission, carried out in accordance with the Convention as well as in accordance with its rules of procedure, including with respect to the participation of coastal States in relevant proceedings concerning their submissions, and recognizes the continued need for active interaction between coastal States and the Commission;

109. *Expresses its appreciation* to States that have exchanged views in order to increase understanding of issues, including expenditures involved, arising from the application of article 76 of the Convention, thus facilitating the preparation of submissions by States, in particular developing States, to the Commission, and encourages States to continue to exchange views;

110. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with Member States, to continue to support workshops or symposiums on scientific and technical aspects of the establishment of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles, taking into account the need to strengthen capacity-building for developing countries in preparing their submissions;

## **VIII**

### **Maritime safety and security and flag State implementation**

111. *Encourages* States to ratify or accede to international agreements addressing the safety and security of navigation, as well as maritime labour, and to adopt the necessary measures consistent with the Convention and other relevant international instruments aimed at implementing and enforcing the rules contained in those agreements, and emphasizes the need for capacity-building for and assistance to developing States;

112. *Recognizes* that the legal regimes governing maritime safety and maritime security may have common and mutually reinforcing objectives that may be interrelated and could benefit from synergies, and encourages States to take this into account in their implementation;

113. *Emphasizes* the need for further efforts to promote a culture of safety and security in the shipping industry and to address the shortage of adequately trained personnel, and urges the development and strengthening of capacity-building activities and the provision of knowledge and skills through the required education and training, promoted in particular by the International Maritime Organization in collaboration with other relevant international organizations and agencies, as appropriate;

114. *Also emphasizes* that safety and security measures should be implemented in support of and with minimal negative effects on seafarers and fishers, especially in relation to their working conditions, and welcomes the ongoing cooperation between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Labour Organization in relation to decent work and employment in fisheries and aquaculture and on child labour in fisheries and aquaculture, as well as the work that has been conducted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on the issue of trafficking in persons on fishing vessels and the International Labour Organization on the issue of forced labour on fishing vessels;

115. *Reiterates* the importance of the fair treatment of crew members and its influence on maritime safety, and welcomes the consideration by the International Maritime Organization of the fair treatment of seafarers, recalls the adoption by the Organization on 4 December 2013 of resolution A.1090(28) on the fair treatment of crew members

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<sup>145</sup> [SPLOS/33/10](#).

<sup>146</sup> From 29 January to 2 February 2024 and from 26 February to 1 March 2024 during the sixtieth session, and from 5 to 9 August 2024 and from 19 to 23 August 2024 during the sixty-first session.

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in respect of shore leave and access to shore-side facilities, and welcomes the provision on shore leave, which entered into force on 1 January 2018, in the Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic,<sup>147</sup> and the adoption by the International Maritime Organization on 31 March 2023 of Guidelines on how to deal with seafarer abandonment cases;<sup>148</sup>

116. *Notes* the adoption by the Assembly of the International Maritime Organization on 9 December 2021 of resolution A.1170(32), proclaiming an International Day for Women in Maritime, to be observed on 18 May every year;

117. *Invites* States that have not yet done so to become parties to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978,<sup>149</sup> as amended, and the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel, 1995;

118. *Encourages* States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188), the Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention (Revised), 2003 (No. 185)<sup>150</sup> and the Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) of the International Labour Organization, as well as to the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006,<sup>151</sup> as amended, calls upon States to effectively implement their obligations under those instruments, and emphasizes the need to provide to States, at their request, technical cooperation and assistance in this regard;

119. *Invites* States to ratify or accede to the Cape Town Agreement of 2012 on the Implementation of the Provisions of the Torremolinos Protocol of 1993 relating to the Torremolinos International Convention for the Safety of Fishing Vessels, 1977;

120. *Welcomes* ongoing cooperation between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Maritime Organization and the International Labour Organization relating to the safety of fishers and fishing vessels, and underlines the urgent need for continued work in that area, and notes the revised terms of reference for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Maritime Organization and International Labour Organization Joint Ad Hoc Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing and Related Matters;<sup>152</sup>

121. *Notes* the adoption by the Assembly of the International Maritime Organization on 15 December 2021 of resolution A.1160(32) on comprehensive action to address seafarers' challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic and the adoption of recommendations, by the Joint Action Group to review the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the world's transport workers and the global supply chain, to provide more effective means of action to the ongoing issues affecting the transportation sector during the COVID-19 pandemic and in similar future public health emergencies of international concern;<sup>153</sup>

122. *Also notes* that the ad hoc United Nations inter-agency task force, convened pursuant to a resolution of the Special Tripartite Committee of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended, concerning the implementation and practical application of that Convention during the COVID-19 pandemic,<sup>154</sup> to examine the implementation and practical application of that Convention during the pandemic, including its impact on seafarers' fundamental rights and on the shipping industry<sup>155</sup> has continued to meet;

123. *Recalls* that, in its resolution A.1117(30) of 6 December 2017, the Assembly of the International Maritime Organization revised the International Maritime Organization Ship Identification Number Scheme to expand its

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<sup>147</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 591, No. 8564.

<sup>148</sup> Maritime Organization, document LEG 110/18/1, annex 1.

<sup>149</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1361, No. 23001.

<sup>150</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2304, No. 41069.

<sup>151</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2952, No. 51299.

<sup>152</sup> International Labour Organization, document GB.344/POL/2(Rev.1), appendix III.

<sup>153</sup> International Labour Organization, document JAG-TSC/2023.

<sup>154</sup> International Labour Organization, document STCMLC/Part I/2021/2.

<sup>155</sup> International Labour Organization, document GB.342/Decisions, para. 8.1 (c).

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voluntary application to a wider scope of vessels with a view to enhancing maritime safety and pollution prevention and to facilitate the prevention of maritime fraud;

124. *Also recalls* that all actions taken to combat threats to maritime security must be in accordance with international law, including the principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and the Convention;

125. *Recognizes* the crucial role of international cooperation at the global, regional, subregional and bilateral levels in combating, in accordance with international law, threats to maritime security, including piracy, armed robbery against ships at sea and terrorist acts against shipping, offshore installations, submarine cables and pipelines and other critical infrastructure and maritime interests, through bilateral and multilateral instruments and mechanisms aimed at monitoring, preventing and responding to such threats, the enhanced sharing of information among States relevant to the detection, prevention and suppression of such threats, and the prosecution of offenders with due regard to national legislation, and the need for sustained capacity-building to support such objectives, and in this regard welcomes activities related to maritime security under the thirtieth Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Forum, held on 14 July 2023;

126. *Encourages* African Member States of the United Nations that have not yet done so to consider ratifying the Charter on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa (Lomé Charter) to facilitate its entry into force;

127. *Acknowledges* the work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in promoting international cooperation and strengthening capacity to combat the problem of transnational organized crime committed at sea;

128. *Notes with concern* that piracy and armed robbery at sea affect a wide range of vessels engaged in maritime activities, and expresses grave concern at the threats posed by piracy and armed robbery at sea to the safety and welfare of seafarers and other persons;

129. *Emphasizes* the importance of promptly reporting incidents to enable accurate information on the scope of the problem of piracy and armed robbery against ships at sea and, in the case of armed robbery against ships at sea, by affected vessels to the coastal State, underlines the importance of effective information-sharing with States potentially affected by incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships at sea, notes with appreciation the important role of the International Maritime Organization and the important contribution of the Information Sharing Centre of the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia, based in Singapore, which aspires to be recognized as a centre of excellence within its purpose and mandate, and notes the Maritime Domain Awareness for Trade – Gulf of Guinea mechanism, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations covering the high-risk area, the Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre, based in Madagascar, and the Regional Maritime Centre for Operational Coordination in Seychelles;

130. *Urges* all States, in cooperation with the International Maritime Organization, to actively combat piracy and armed robbery at sea by adopting measures, including those relating to assistance with capacity-building through training of seafarers, port staff and enforcement personnel in the prevention, reporting and investigation of incidents, by bringing the alleged perpetrators to justice, in accordance with international law, and by adopting national legislation, as well as by providing enforcement vessels and equipment and guarding against fraudulent ship registration;

131. *Encourages* States to ensure effective implementation of international law applicable to combating piracy, as reflected in the Convention, calls upon States to take appropriate steps under their national law to facilitate, in accordance with international law, the apprehension and prosecution of those who are alleged to have committed acts of piracy, including the financing or facilitation of such acts, also taking into account other relevant instruments that are consistent with the Convention, and encourages States to cooperate, as appropriate, with a view to developing their national legislation in this regard;

132. *Invites* all States, the International Maritime Organization, the International Labour Organization and other relevant international organizations and agencies to adopt or recommend, as appropriate, measures to protect the interest and welfare of seafarers, fishers and passengers who are victims of pirates, after their release from captivity, including their post-incident care and reintegration into society;

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133. *Notes* the compilation of national legislation on piracy on the website of the Division, and encourages the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Division to continue to cooperate with the International Maritime Organization with a view to assisting Member States, upon request, in developing their national laws on piracy;

134. *Recognizes* continued national, bilateral and trilateral initiatives, as well as regional cooperative mechanisms, in accordance with international law, to address piracy, including the financing or facilitation of acts of piracy, and armed robbery at sea, and calls upon States to give immediate attention to adopting, concluding and implementing cooperation agreements at the regional level on combating piracy and armed robbery against ships;

135. *Expresses serious concern* at the inhuman conditions hostages taken at sea face in captivity and also the adverse impact on their families, calls for the immediate release of all hostages taken at sea, and stresses the importance of cooperation among Member States on the issue of hostage-taking at sea;

136. *Welcomes* the continued reduction in the number of incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships as well as hijackings off the coast of Somalia since 2011<sup>156</sup> resulting from efforts at the global and regional levels;

137. *Notes* the continued efforts within the Contact Group on Illicit Maritime Activities in the Western Indian Ocean following the adoption of Security Council resolution [1851 \(2008\)](#) of 16 December 2008, including at its twenty-fifth plenary session, chaired by Kenya, in May 2023, and commends the contributions of all States in the efforts to fight piracy off the coast of Somalia;

138. *Recognizes* the primary responsibility of the Federal Government of Somalia in combating piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia, acknowledges the importance of a comprehensive and sustainable settlement of the situation in Somalia, and emphasizes the need to address the underlying causes of piracy and to assist Somalia and States in the region, at their request, in strengthening institutional capacity to fight piracy and tackle its underlying causes, including the financing or facilitation of acts of piracy, and armed robbery against ships off the coast of Somalia and to bring to justice those involved in such acts;

139. *Notes* the International Maritime Organization guidelines, interim guidance and interim recommendations to shipowners, ship operators and shipmasters, private maritime security companies, as well as flag States and port and coastal States on measures to prevent and mitigate Somalia-based piracy;

140. *Notes with concern* that the continuing limited capacity and domestic legislation to facilitate the custody and prosecution of suspected pirates after their capture has hindered more robust international action against pirates off the coast of Somalia;

141. *Encourages* States to ensure that ships flying their flag apply ship security measures approved in accordance with national and international law;

142. *Notes* the efforts made by the shipping industry to cooperate with the efforts by States regarding piracy off the coast of Somalia, in particular in assisting ships that navigate in that area, and also notes the holding of a high-level meeting on the implementation of the Code of Conduct concerning the Repression of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden (Djibouti Code of Conduct)/Jeddah Amendment, in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, from 22 to 24 November 2022;<sup>157</sup>

143. *Remains concerned* about piracy and armed robbery at sea in the Gulf of Guinea, with crew members kidnapped, but welcomes the decline in incidents of piracy and armed robbery at sea in that region,<sup>158</sup> notes the adoption by the Security Council of resolutions [2018 \(2011\)](#) of 31 October 2011, [2039 \(2012\)](#) of 29 February 2012 and [2634 \(2022\)](#) of 31 May 2022 and the statement by the President of the Council of 25 April 2016,<sup>159</sup> supports the efforts to address this problem at the global and regional levels, including the adoption of resolution MSC.489(103) on recommended action to address piracy and armed robbery in the Gulf of Guinea, by the Maritime Safety

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<sup>156</sup> See International Chamber of Commerce-International Maritime Bureau, "Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships Report", January–March 2023.

<sup>157</sup> See International Maritime Organization, document MSC 107/8.

<sup>158</sup> See International Chamber of Commerce-International Maritime Bureau, "Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships Report", January–March 2023.

<sup>159</sup> [S/PRST/2016/4](#); see *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1 August 2015–31 December 2016 (S/INF/71)*.



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Committee of the International Maritime Organization at its 103rd session,<sup>160</sup> recalls the primary role of States in the region to counter the threat and address the underlying causes of piracy and armed robbery at sea in the Gulf of Guinea, welcomes the adoption in Yaoundé on 25 June 2013 of the Code of Conduct concerning the Repression of Piracy, Armed Robbery against Ships and Illicit Maritime Activity in West and Central Africa, and calls upon States in the region to continue to strengthen implementation of the Code of Conduct as soon as possible and consistent with international law, in particular the Convention;

144. *Urges* States to ensure the full implementation of resolution A.1159(32) of 15 December 2021 of the Assembly of the International Maritime Organization on prevention and suppression of piracy, armed robbery against ships and illicit maritime activity in the Gulf of Guinea;

145. *Calls upon* States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation<sup>161</sup> and the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf,<sup>162</sup> invites States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the 2005 Protocol to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation<sup>163</sup> and the 2005 Protocol to the 1988 Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf,<sup>164</sup> and urges States parties to take appropriate measures to ensure the effective implementation of those instruments through the adoption of legislation, where appropriate;

146. *Calls upon* States to effectively implement the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code and the amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea,<sup>165</sup> and to work with the International Maritime Organization to promote safe and secure shipping while ensuring freedom of navigation;

147. *Urges* all States, in cooperation with the International Maritime Organization and other relevant international organizations and agencies, to improve the protection of offshore installations, submarine cables and pipelines and other critical infrastructure by adopting measures related to the prevention, reporting and investigation of acts of violence against such infrastructure, in accordance with international law, and by implementing such measures through national legislation to ensure proper and adequate enforcement;

148. *Emphasizes* the progress in regional cooperation, including the efforts of littoral States, on the enhancement of safety, security and environmental protection in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore, and the effective functioning of the Cooperative Mechanism on Safety of Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (the Cooperative Mechanism) to promote dialogue and facilitate close cooperation between the littoral States, user States, shipping industries and other stakeholders in line with article 43 of the Convention, notes with appreciation the convening of the fourteenth Cooperation Forum in Singapore on 31 July and 1 August 2023, the fourteenth Project Coordination Committee Meeting in Singapore on 4 August 2023, the forty-sixth Tripartite Technical Experts Group Meeting in Singapore on 2 and 3 August 2023 and the twenty-eighth Aids to Navigation Fund Committee Meeting in Indonesia on 14 and 15 June 2023, also notes with appreciation the important role of the Information Sharing Centre of the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia, based in Singapore, and calls upon States to give immediate attention to adopting, concluding and implementing cooperation agreements at the regional level;

149. *Recognizes* that some transnational organized criminal activities threaten legitimate uses of the oceans and endanger the lives of people at sea, as well as the livelihoods and security of coastal communities;

150. *Notes* that transnational organized criminal activities are diverse and may be interrelated in some cases and that criminal organizations are adaptive and take advantage of the vulnerabilities of States, in particular coastal and small island developing States in transit areas, and calls upon States and relevant intergovernmental organizations

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<sup>160</sup> International Maritime Organization, document MSC 103/21/Add.1, annex 9.

<sup>161</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1678, No. 29004.

<sup>162</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>163</sup> International Maritime Organization, document LEG/CONF.15/21.

<sup>164</sup> International Maritime Organization, document LEG/CONF.15/22.

<sup>165</sup> International Maritime Organization, documents SOLAS/CONF.5/32 and SOLAS/CONF.5/34, and document MSC 81/25/Add.1, annex 2, resolution MSC.202(81), introducing the long-range identification and tracking of ships system.



to increase cooperation and coordination at all levels to detect and suppress the smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons and illicit trafficking in firearms, in accordance with international law;

151. *Recognizes* the importance of enhancing international cooperation at all levels to fight transnational organized criminal activities, including illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, within the scope of the United Nations instruments against illicit drug trafficking, as well as the smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons and illicit trafficking in firearms and criminal activities at sea falling within the scope of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto;

152. *Encourages* States to cooperate at the bilateral, regional and global levels to prevent, combat and eradicate illicit trafficking in protected species of wild fauna and flora, which contributes to biodiversity loss and damage to ecosystems and livelihoods, where such trafficking occurs via maritime routes, through, inter alia, the use of applicable international legal instruments as appropriate, such as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,<sup>166</sup> the United Nations Convention against Corruption<sup>167</sup> and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora,<sup>168</sup> and reiterates its call upon Member States expressed in its resolution 71/326 of 11 September 2017 to make illicit trafficking in protected species of wild fauna and flora a serious crime, in accordance with their national legislation and as defined in article 2 (b) and article 3, paragraph 1 (b), of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, in order to ensure that, where the offence is transnational in nature and involves an organized criminal group, effective international cooperation can be afforded under the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime to prevent and combat transnational organized crime, and encourages States to implement the International Maritime Organization guidelines for the prevention and suppression of the smuggling of wildlife on ships engaged in international maritime traffic;

153. *Notes with grave concern* the recent proliferation of, and endangerment of lives through, the smuggling of migrants by sea, underscores the necessity to address such situations in accordance with applicable international law, and encourages States, acting nationally or through relevant global or regional organizations, as appropriate, to provide technical assistance and capacity-building to flag, port and coastal States, upon request, to enhance their capabilities to prevent smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons by sea;

154. *Calls upon* States, in that context, to take measures in accordance with relevant international obligations to prevent and combat all forms of trafficking in persons, to identify victims of human trafficking, including among migrant flows, and to provide trafficking victims with appropriate protection and assistance, according to their national law and policy;

155. *Calls upon* States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,<sup>169</sup> the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,<sup>170</sup> and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,<sup>171</sup> and to take appropriate measures to ensure their effective implementation;

156. *Calls upon* States to ensure freedom of navigation, the safety of navigation and the rights of transit passage, archipelagic sea lanes passage and innocent passage in accordance with international law, in particular the Convention;

157. *Welcomes* the work of the International Maritime Organization relating to the protection of shipping lanes of strategic importance and significance, and in particular in enhancing safety, security and environmental protection in straits used for international navigation, and calls upon that Organization, States bordering straits and user States to continue their cooperation to keep such straits safe, secure and environmentally protected and open to international navigation at all times, consistent with international law, in particular the Convention;

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<sup>166</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

<sup>167</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

<sup>168</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 993, No. 14537.

<sup>169</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2241, No. 39574.

<sup>170</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2326, No. 39574.

<sup>171</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2237, No. 39574.

158. *Calls upon* user States and States bordering straits used for international navigation to continue to cooperate by agreement on matters relating to navigational safety, including safety aids for navigation, and the prevention, reduction and control of pollution from ships, and welcomes developments in this regard;

159. *Calls upon* States that have accepted the amendments to regulation XI-1/6 of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974,<sup>172</sup> to implement the Code of International Standards and Recommended Practices for a Safety Investigation into a Marine Casualty or Marine Incident,<sup>173</sup> which took effect on 1 January 2010, and, in particular, to comply with the mandatory conduct of a marine safety investigation into very serious marine casualties and submission of a marine safety investigation report to the International Maritime Organization to identify trends and develop knowledge and risk-based recommendations;

160. *Recognizes* the important work of the International Hydrographic Organization and regional hydrographic commissions, calls upon States that have not yet done so to consider becoming members of that Organization, urges all its members to actively facilitate and consider in a timely manner, in accordance with applicable rules and procedures, applications of States that wish to become members of that Organization and regional hydrographic commissions, and further urges all States to work with that Organization, to increase the coverage of hydrographic information on a global basis to enhance capacity-building and technical assistance and to promote safe navigation, particularly through the production and use of accurate electronic navigational charts, especially in areas used for international navigation, in ports and where there are vulnerable or protected marine areas;

161. *Also recognizes* the importance of navigational and meteorological warning services based on marine meteorological data for the safety of ships and lives at sea and the optimization of navigation routes, and notes the collaboration between the World Meteorological Organization, the International Hydrographic Organization and the International Maritime Organization for the enhancement of these services and their extension to the Arctic region;

162. *Encourages* States to continue their efforts in the implementation of all areas of the Action Plan for the Safety of Transport of Radioactive Material, approved by the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency in March 2004;

163. *Also encourages* States to ensure effective implementation of the International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code, the International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes Code, the International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships carrying Liquefied Gases in Bulk and the International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships carrying Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk;

164. *Notes* that cessation of the transport of radioactive materials through the regions of small island developing States is an ultimate desired goal of small island developing States and some other countries, and recognizes the right of freedom of navigation in accordance with international law; that States should maintain dialogue and consultation, in particular under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency and the International Maritime Organization, with the aim of improved mutual understanding, confidence-building and enhanced communication in relation to the safe maritime transport of radioactive materials; that States involved in the transport of such materials are urged to continue to engage in dialogue with small island developing States and other States to address their concerns; and that these concerns include the further development and strengthening, within the appropriate forums, of international regulatory regimes to enhance safety, disclosure, liability, security and compensation in relation to such transport;

165. *Acknowledges*, in the context of paragraph 164 above, the potential environmental and economic impacts of maritime incidents and accidents on coastal States, in particular those related to the transport of radioactive materials, and emphasizes the importance of effective liability regimes in that regard;

166. *Invites* States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the Nairobi International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks, 2007;<sup>174</sup>

167. *Requests* States to take appropriate measures with regard to ships flying their flag or of their registry to address hazards that may be caused by wrecks and drifting or sunken cargo to navigation or the marine environment;

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<sup>172</sup> International Maritime Organization, document MSC 84/24/Add.1, annex 3, resolution MSC.257(84).

<sup>173</sup> *Ibid.*, annex 1, resolution MSC.255(84).

<sup>174</sup> International Maritime Organization, document LEG/CONF.16/19.

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168. *Calls upon* States to ensure that masters on ships flying their flag take the steps required by relevant instruments<sup>175</sup> to provide assistance to persons in distress at sea, and urges States to cooperate and to take all measures necessary to ensure the effective implementation of the amendments to the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue<sup>176</sup> and to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea<sup>177</sup> relating to the delivery of persons rescued at sea to a place of safety, as well as of the associated Guidelines on the Treatment of Persons Rescued at Sea;<sup>178</sup>

169. *Urges* all States to cooperate with each other in inquiries relating to incidents of oil spills at sea, in line with relevant international law, including as reflected in article 94 of the Convention, and for this purpose to share, when requested by the affected coastal State in the context of such inquiries, any available information on the maritime traffic of ships that fly their flags and that sailed in the impacted maritime areas;

170. *Recognizes* that all States must fulfil their search and rescue responsibilities in accordance with international law, including the Convention, and in that regard encourages States and relevant international organizations to strengthen cooperation on maritime search and rescue activities at the international and regional levels in accordance with international agreements, including the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979;<sup>179</sup>

171. *Reaffirms* the ongoing need for the International Maritime Organization and other relevant organizations to assist, in particular, developing States both to increase and improve their search and rescue capabilities, including, as appropriate, through the establishment of additional rescue coordination centres and regional sub-centres, and to take effective action to address, to the extent feasible, the issue of unseaworthy ships and small craft within their national jurisdiction, and emphasizes in this regard the importance of cooperation for these purposes, including within the framework of the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979;

172. *Notes* the ongoing work of the International Maritime Organization, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other relevant actors in relation to disembarkation of persons rescued at sea, underscores in this regard the need to implement all relevant and applicable international instruments and the importance of cooperation among States as provided for in those instruments, and emphasizes in particular the importance of full respect for the principle of non-refoulement in accordance with applicable international law;

173. *Invites* States to implement the Revised Guidelines on the Prevention of Access by Stowaways and the Allocation of Responsibilities to Seek the Successful Resolution of Stowaway Cases, adopted by the Maritime Safety Committee of the International Maritime Organization in its resolution MSC.448(99) of 24 May 2018 and by the Facilitation Committee of that Organization in its resolution FAL.13(42) of 8 June 2018;

174. *Calls upon* States to continue to cooperate in developing comprehensive approaches to international migration and development, including through dialogue on all their aspects;

175. *Recognizes* that submarine cables and pipelines are vitally important to the global economy and the national security of all States, conscious that these cables and pipelines are susceptible to intentional and accidental damage, and calls upon States to take measures to protect submarine cables and pipelines and to fully address issues relating to these cables and pipelines, in accordance with international law, as reflected in the Convention;

176. *Encourages* greater dialogue and cooperation among States and the relevant regional and global organizations through workshops and seminars on the protection, and laying and maintenance of submarine cables and pipelines to promote the security of such critical infrastructure;

177. *Also encourages* the adoption by States of laws and regulations necessary to provide that the breaking or injury, or conduct calculated or likely to result in such breaking or injury, of submarine cables or pipelines beneath the high seas done wilfully or through culpable negligence shall be a punishable offence, and further calls upon States to

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<sup>175</sup> Convention on International Civil Aviation, 1944, annex 12; International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974; International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979, as amended; United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982; and International Convention on Salvage, 1989.

<sup>176</sup> International Maritime Organization, document MSC 78/26/Add.1, annex 5, resolution MSC.155(78).

<sup>177</sup> *Ibid.*, annex 3, resolution MSC.153(78).

<sup>178</sup> International Maritime Organization, document MSC 78/26/Add.2, annex 34, resolution MSC.167(78).

<sup>179</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1405, No. 23489.

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enforce such laws against ships flying their flag or a person subject to their jurisdiction, in accordance with international law, as reflected in the Convention;

178. *Affirms* the importance of the laying and maintenance, including the repair, of submarine cables and pipelines, undertaken in conformity with international law, as reflected in the Convention, and calls upon States to refrain from impeding the laying or maintenance of submarine cables and pipelines in a manner contrary to the provisions of the Convention, and to respect the relevant rights and duties of coastal States in the relevant maritime zones in this regard, as reflected in the Convention;

179. *Reaffirms* that flag, port and coastal States all bear responsibility for ensuring the effective implementation and enforcement of international instruments relating to maritime security and safety, in accordance with international law, in particular the Convention, and that flag States have primary responsibility that requires further strengthening, including through increased transparency of ownership of vessels and the monitoring of organizations authorized to carry out surveys and issue certificates on their behalf, taking into account the Code for Recognized Organizations;<sup>180</sup>

180. *Urges* flag States without an effective maritime administration and appropriate legal frameworks to establish or enhance the necessary infrastructure, legislative and enforcement capabilities to ensure effective compliance with and implementation and enforcement of their responsibilities under international law, in particular the Convention, and, until such action is taken, to consider declining the granting of the right to fly their flag to new vessels, suspending their registry or not opening a registry, and calls upon flag and port States to take all measures consistent with international law necessary to prevent the operation of substandard vessels;

181. *Notes* the ongoing work of the International Maritime Organization on measures to prevent the fraudulent registration and fraudulent registries of ships, including its encouragement of International Maritime Organization member States and all relevant stakeholders to promote actions for the prevention and suppression of fraudulent registration and fraudulent registries of ships and other fraudulent acts in the maritime sector;

182. *Recognizes* that international shipping rules and standards adopted by the International Maritime Organization in respect of maritime safety, efficiency of navigation and the prevention and control of marine pollution, complemented by best practices of the shipping industry, have led to a significant reduction in maritime accidents and pollution incidents;

183. *Notes* that audits of Member States under the International Maritime Organization Member State Audit Scheme became mandatory in January 2016 under nine mandatory International Maritime Organization instruments and are being carried out in accordance with the Framework and the Procedures for the International Maritime Organization Member State Audit Scheme and using the International Maritime Organization Instruments Implementation Code (III Code) as the audit standard;<sup>181</sup>

184. *Encourages* States and competent international organizations and bodies to support the effective implementation of the requirements of the International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters (Polar Code), adopted by the International Maritime Organization under the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea and the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto, as amended,<sup>182</sup> including relevant requirements of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended,<sup>183</sup> and notes in this regard the adoption by the International Maritime Organization of amendments to the Polar Code to incorporate new requirements for ships that are operating in polar waters concerning safety of navigation and voyage planning, which are expected to enter into force on 1 January 2026;<sup>184</sup>

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<sup>180</sup> International Maritime Organization, resolutions MSC.349(92) and MEPC.237(65).

<sup>181</sup> See International Maritime Organization, Assembly resolutions A.1018(26), A.1067(28), A.1068(28) and A.1070(28).

<sup>182</sup> International Maritime Organization, document MEPC 62/24/Add.1, annex 19, resolution MEPC.203(62).

<sup>183</sup> International Maritime Organization, resolutions MSC.385(94) and MEPC.264(68) and related amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (resolution MSC.386(94)) and the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (resolution MEPC.265(68)).

<sup>184</sup> International Maritime Organization, resolution MSC.538(107).

185. *Notes* the ongoing work of the International Maritime Organization on matters related to passenger ship safety, and encourages States and competent international organizations and bodies to support continued efforts, including technical cooperation activities, to improve passenger ship safety;

186. *Also notes* the ongoing work of the International Maritime Organization regarding maritime autonomous surface ships, including development of a non-mandatory, goal-based instrument for maritime autonomous surface ships;<sup>185</sup>

187. *Recognizes* that maritime safety can also be improved through effective port State control, the strengthening of regional arrangements and increased coordination and cooperation among them and increased transparency and information-sharing, making ample use of information systems, such as the International Maritime Organization Global Integrated Shipping Information System,<sup>186</sup> including among safety and security sectors;

188. *Encourages* flag States to take appropriate measures sufficient to achieve or maintain recognition by intergovernmental arrangements that recognize satisfactory flag State performance, including, as appropriate, satisfactory port State control examination results on a sustained basis, with a view to improving quality shipping and furthering flag State implementation of relevant instruments under the International Maritime Organization as well as relevant goals and objectives of the present resolution;

189. *Notes with appreciation* the important contribution of the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities to the improvement and harmonization of marine aids to navigation for the reduction of marine accidents, increased safety of life and property at sea and the protection of the marine environment, and in this regard recalls the adoption of the Convention on the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation and calls upon States that have not yet done so to consider becoming party to that Convention to facilitate its entry into force;

## **IX**

### **Marine environment and marine resources**

190. *Emphasizes once again* the importance of the implementation of Part XII of the Convention in order to protect and preserve the marine environment and its living marine resources against pollution and physical degradation, and calls upon all States to cooperate and take measures consistent with the Convention, directly or through competent international organizations, for the protection and preservation of the marine environment;

191. *Calls upon* States to implement the 2030 Agenda, including Goal 14 to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, and recalls that the Goals and targets are integrated and indivisible;

192. *Notes* the need for actions to support sustainable fisheries and sustainable aquaculture for sufficient, safe and nutritious food, recognizing the central role of healthy oceans in resilient food systems and for achieving the 2030 Agenda;

193. *Reiterates*, in this regard, the call made in the declaration entitled “Our ocean, our future: call for action” for action to be taken on an urgent basis to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development;<sup>187</sup>

194. *Recalls* that, in “The future we want”, States committed themselves to protect and restore the health, productivity and resilience of oceans and marine ecosystems, to maintain their biodiversity, enabling their conservation and sustainable use for present and future generations, and to effectively apply an ecosystem approach and the precautionary approach in the management, in accordance with international law, of activities having an impact on the marine environment, to deliver on all three dimensions of sustainable development;

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<sup>185</sup> See International Maritime Organization, document MSC 105/20.

<sup>186</sup> International Maritime Organization, Assembly resolutions A.1029(26) and A.1074(28).

<sup>187</sup> Resolution 71/312, annex.

195. *Reaffirms* paragraph 119 of resolution 61/222 of 20 December 2006 regarding ecosystem approaches and oceans, including the proposed elements of an ecosystem approach, means to achieve implementation of an ecosystem approach and requirements for improved application of an ecosystem approach, and in this regard:

(a) Notes that continued environmental degradation in many parts of the world and increasing competing demands require an urgent response and the setting of priorities for management actions aimed at conserving ecosystem integrity;

(b) Also notes that ecosystem approaches to ocean management should be focused on managing human activities in order to maintain and, where needed, restore ecosystem health to sustain goods and environmental services, provide social and economic benefits for food security, sustain livelihoods in support of international development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,<sup>188</sup> and conserve marine biodiversity;

(c) Recalls that States should be guided in the application of ecosystem approaches by a number of existing instruments, in particular the Convention, which sets out the legal framework for all activities in the oceans and seas, and its implementing Agreements, as well as other commitments, such as those contained in the Convention on Biological Diversity<sup>189</sup> and the World Summit on Sustainable Development call for the application of an ecosystem approach by 2010, and in this context encourages States to enhance their efforts towards applying such an approach;

(d) Encourages States to cooperate and coordinate their efforts and take, individually or jointly, as appropriate, all measures, in conformity with international law, including the Convention and other applicable instruments, to address impacts on marine ecosystems within and beyond areas of national jurisdiction, taking into account the integrity of the ecosystems concerned;

196. *Encourages* competent organizations and bodies that have not yet done so to incorporate an ecosystem approach into their mandates, as appropriate, in order to address impacts on marine ecosystems;

197. *Acknowledges* the request by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its second session, in paragraph 6 of its resolution 2/10 of 27 May 2016, to the United Nations Environment Programme to step up its work, including through its Regional Seas Programme, on assisting countries and regions in the application of the ecosystem approach to managing the marine and coastal environment, including through enabling intersectoral cooperation in integrated coastal zone management and marine spatial planning;<sup>190</sup>

198. *Encourages* States that have not done so to become parties to regional seas conventions and the protocols thereto addressing the protection and preservation of the marine environment, while noting the role of the United Nations Environment Programme Regional Seas Programme;

199. *Encourages* States, directly or through competent international organizations, to consider the further development and application, as appropriate and consistent with international law, including the Convention, of environmental impact assessment processes covering planned activities under their jurisdiction or control that may cause substantial pollution of or significant and harmful changes to the marine environment, and also encourages the communication of the reports of the results of such assessments to the competent international organizations in accordance with the Convention;

200. *Notes with concern* the impacts of climate change on the ocean and the cryosphere, including extreme sea level events and sea level rise, to which low-lying islands, in particular small island developing States, coasts and coastal communities are particularly exposed;

201. *Also notes with concern* the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in its successive reports, and in this regard refers in particular to its *Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate*, which was accepted by the Intergovernmental Panel at its fifty-first session on 23 September 2019, and its Sixth Assessment Report, including its synthesis report, which was accepted by the Intergovernmental Panel at its fifty-eighth session on 19 March 2023;

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<sup>188</sup> Resolution 55/2.

<sup>189</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

<sup>190</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/71/25)*, annex.

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202. *Recognizes* the importance of improving understanding of the impacts of climate change on oceans and seas, and recalls that, in “The future we want”, States noted that sea level rise and coastal erosion are serious threats for many coastal regions and islands, particularly in developing countries, and in this regard called upon the international community to enhance its efforts to address these challenges, and notes the attention paid to the themes of “The effects of climate change on oceans” and “Sea level rise and its impacts” at the eighteenth and twenty-first meetings, respectively, of the Informal Consultative Process, in 2017 and 2021, which, inter alia, highlighted the urgency of sea level rise for small island developing States and coastal States, including low-lying coastal areas;

203. *Takes note* of the findings of reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, including its *Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C*, that increasing warming amplifies the exposure of small islands, low-lying coastal areas and deltas to the risks associated with sea level rise and extreme sea level events;

204. *Acknowledges* the ongoing work of the open-ended Study Group of the International Law Commission on the topic “Sea-level rise in relation to international law”,<sup>191</sup> and encourages States to share their views on the various aspects of this topic with that Commission;

205. *Recalls* its decision in resolution [77/276](#) of 29 March 2023 to request the International Court of Justice to render an advisory opinion on the obligations of States in respect of climate change;

206. *Welcomes* the Paris Agreement<sup>192</sup> and its early entry into force on 4 November 2016, encourages all its parties to fully implement the Agreement and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change<sup>193</sup> that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, as appropriate, as soon as possible, notes the entry into force of the Doha amendment<sup>194</sup> to the Kyoto Protocol<sup>195</sup> on 31 December 2020, and recognizes the importance of raising awareness of the adverse impact of climate change on the marine environment, marine biodiversity and sea level;

207. *Notes*, in this regard, the decision at the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that future ocean and climate change dialogues will, from 2023, be facilitated by two co-facilitators, selected by Parties biennially, who will be responsible for deciding the topics for and conducting the dialogue, in consultation with Parties and observers, and preparing an informal summary report for consideration at the subsequent session of the Conference of the Parties;

208. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the convening of the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 30 November to 12 December 2023;

209. *Notes with concern* the severe impacts on coastal communities of extreme weather events, such as tropical cyclones and associated storm surges, and encourages cooperative actions by relevant United Nations bodies and organizations, including the World Meteorological Organization and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission with the advice of the Joint WMO-IOC Collaborative Board,<sup>196</sup> to assist States in improving forecasting, including routine and impact-based forecasting and support to decision-making for emergency management, of such events and its application in multi-hazard early warning systems and risk management under a more integrated approach to addressing the impacts of flooding types from multiple sources and severe weather;<sup>197</sup>

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<sup>191</sup> Ibid., *Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/74/10)*; *ibid.*, *Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/76/10)*; *ibid.*, *Seventy-seventh Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/77/10)*; and *ibid.*, *Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/78/10)*.

<sup>192</sup> See [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21, annex.

<sup>193</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

<sup>194</sup> [FCCC/KP/CMP/2012/13/Add.1](#), decision 1/CMP.8.

<sup>195</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2303, No. 30822.

<sup>196</sup> Established through World Meteorological Organization resolution 9 (Cg-18) and Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission resolution XXX-2, which also disbanded the Joint WMO-IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology.

<sup>197</sup> See World Meteorological Organization resolution 15 (Cg-18).

210. *Also notes with concern* the approximately 30 per cent increase in the acidity of ocean surface waters since the beginning of the industrial era<sup>198</sup> and the wide range of impacts associated with the continuing and alarming acidification of the world's oceans, and urges States to make significant efforts to tackle the causes of ocean acidification, recognizing countries' national circumstances and respective capabilities, and to further study and minimize its impacts, to enhance local, national, regional and global cooperation in this regard, including the sharing of relevant information and the development of worldwide capacity, including in developing countries, to measure ocean acidification, and to take steps to make marine ecosystems healthier and, as a result, more resilient, to the extent possible, to the impacts of ocean acidification;

211. *Recognizes* the importance of improving understanding of the impacts of acidification on oceans and seas, and recalls that, in "The future we want", States called for support for initiatives that address ocean acidification and the impacts of climate change on marine and coastal ecosystems and resources and in this regard reiterated the need to work collectively to prevent further ocean acidification, as well as to enhance the resilience of marine ecosystems and of the communities whose livelihoods depend on them, and to support marine scientific research, monitoring and observation of ocean acidification and particularly vulnerable ecosystems, including through enhanced international cooperation in this regard;

212. *Also recognizes* the attention paid to ocean acidification at the fourteenth, eighteenth and nineteenth meetings of the Informal Consultative Process, in 2013, 2017 and 2018, respectively, and commits itself to continue to pay attention to this important issue, including by taking into account the first and second World Ocean Assessments (World Ocean Assessment I and II), the ongoing work of the Ocean Acidification International Coordination Centre of the International Atomic Energy Agency and the scientific cooperation fostered by the Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network;

213. *Notes* the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, notes with concern its findings on the acidification of the oceans and the substantial risks to marine ecosystems, especially polar ecosystems, coral reefs, plankton and other organisms which have a calcareous exoskeleton, or a shell, like crustaceans, and the potentially detrimental consequences for fisheries and livelihoods, as well as the findings of the World Meteorological Organization contained in its annual Greenhouse Gas Bulletin, and notes its decision to foster collaboration with organizations and institutions that address the carbon budget of the ocean,<sup>199</sup> and in this regard encourages States and competent international organizations and other relevant institutions, individually and in cooperation, to urgently pursue further research on ocean acidification, especially programmes of observation and measurement, noting in particular the continued work under the Convention on Biological Diversity, and to increase national, regional and global efforts to address levels of ocean acidity and the negative impact of such acidity on vulnerable marine ecosystems, particularly coral reefs;

214. *Encourages* States, individually or in collaboration with relevant international organizations and bodies, to enhance their scientific activity to better understand the effects of climate change on the marine environment and marine biodiversity, support continued coordination of scientific work to study and minimize the impacts of ocean acidification and develop ways and means of adaptation, taking into account, as appropriate, the precautionary approach and ecosystem approaches;

215. *Notes* the vital role that coastal blue carbon ecosystems, including mangroves, tidal marshes and seagrasses, play in climate adaptation and mitigation through carbon sequestration, and in increasing the resilience of coastal ecosystems to ocean acidification, and the range of other benefits that these ecosystems provide, including sustainable livelihoods, food security and biodiversity conservation, and coastal protection, and encourages States and relevant international institutions and organizations to work collaboratively to protect and restore coastal blue carbon ecosystems;

216. *Recalls* that, in "The future we want", States noted with concern that the health of oceans and marine biodiversity are negatively affected by marine pollution, including marine debris, especially plastic, persistent organic pollutants, heavy metals and nitrogen-based compounds, from a number of marine and land-based sources, including shipping and land run-off, and that States committed to take action to reduce the incidence and impacts of such

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<sup>198</sup> As stated in the 2013 report of Working Group I of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on the physical science basis of climate change.

<sup>199</sup> See World Meteorological Organization resolution 46 (Cg 17).



pollution on marine ecosystems, and encourages States, in accordance with the commitment expressed in this regard, and based on collected scientific data, to take action by 2025 to achieve significant reductions in marine debris to prevent harm to the coastal and marine environment;

217. *Recognizes* the need for better understanding of the sources, amounts, pathways, distribution, trends, nature and impacts of marine debris, especially plastics and microplastics, and to examine possible measures and best available techniques and environmental practices to prevent its accumulation and minimize its levels in the marine environment, and welcomes in this regard the work conducted under the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection, led by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, and its reports entitled *Sources, Fate and Effects of Microplastics in the Marine Environment: A Global Assessment*, *Guidelines for the Monitoring and Assessment of Plastic Litter in the Ocean*, and *Sea-based Sources of Marine Litter*, and the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme entitled *From Pollution to Solution: A Global Assessment of Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution*, launched on 21 October 2021;

218. *Notes* that the *UNEP Frontiers 2016 Report* identifies microplastics as one of six key emerging environmental issues, further notes that the sixth Global Environment Outlook stresses, inter alia, the urgency of addressing ocean plastic pollution and the proven adverse impacts of microplastics to marine ecosystems, and calls upon States to implement resolution 4/6 on marine plastic litter and microplastics, adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme at its fourth session, held in Nairobi from 11 to 15 March 2019;<sup>200</sup>

219. *Welcomes* the request by the United Nations Environment Assembly, in paragraph 2 of its resolution 4/6, to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, subject to the availability of resources and benefiting from the work of existing mechanisms, to immediately strengthen scientific and technological knowledge with regard to marine litter, including marine plastic litter and microplastics;

220. *Also welcomes* the decision of the United Nations Environment Assembly, in paragraph 1 of its resolution 5/14, to convene an intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, with the ambition of completing its work by the end of 2024,<sup>201</sup> and notes that the committee held its first, second and third sessions in Punta del Este, Uruguay, from 28 November to 2 December 2022, in Paris from 29 May to 2 June 2023, and in Nairobi from 13 to 19 November 2023, respectively;

221. *Further welcomes* the activities of relevant United Nations bodies and organizations, in particular the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Maritime Organization and other intergovernmental organizations, to address the sources and impacts of marine debris, including through the Global Partnership on Plastic Pollution and Marine Litter and the GloLitter Partnerships project, as well as actions relating to marine debris taken under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals,<sup>202</sup> in particular the adoption by the Conference of the Parties to that Convention at its twelfth meeting of resolution 12.20 on the management of marine debris, and notes the work of the International Whaling Commission on assessing the impacts of marine debris on cetaceans;

222. *Encourages* States to further develop partnerships with Indigenous Peoples, local communities, including coastal communities, industry and civil society to raise awareness of the extent of the impact of marine debris on the biological diversity, health and productivity of the marine environment and consequent economic loss and to cooperate with other States, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, including coastal communities, industry and civil society, as appropriate, on environmentally sound and cost-effective measures to prevent and reduce, as appropriate, marine debris and microplastics in the marine environment, including through strengthened cooperation under the Global Partnership on Plastic Pollution and Marine Litter;

223. *Recognizes* the attention paid to the theme of “Marine debris, plastics and microplastics” at the seventeenth meeting of the Informal Consultative Process in 2016, and urges States to integrate the issue of marine debris into

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<sup>200</sup> [UNEP/EA.4/Res.6](#).

<sup>201</sup> See [UNEP/EA.5/Res.14](#).

<sup>202</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1651, No. 28395.

national and, as appropriate, regional strategies dealing with waste management, especially in the coastal zone, ports and maritime industries, including recycling, reuse, reduction and disposal, to consider developing an integrated waste management infrastructure and to encourage the development of appropriate economic incentives with the aim of reducing marine debris to address this issue, including the development of cost-recovery systems that provide an incentive to use port reception facilities and discourage ships from discharging marine debris at sea, and support for measures to prevent, reduce and control pollution from any source, including land-based sources, such as community-based coastal and waterway clean-up and monitoring activities, and encourages States to cooperate regionally and subregionally to identify potential sources and coastal and oceanic locations where marine debris aggregates and to develop and implement joint prevention programmes for marine debris and to develop and implement environmentally sound options for recovery programmes, as well as to raise awareness of the issue of marine debris and the need to consider environmentally sound options for its removal;

224. *Notes* the activities carried out by organizations at the regional level to develop and implement regional action plans and other joint prevention and recovery programmes for marine debris, and further notes in this regard the revised Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter adopted at the Ministerial Meeting of the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (Helsinki Commission) in October 2021, the amendments to the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean adopted at the twenty-second Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) and its Protocols in December 2021 in Antalya, Türkiye, the Second Regional Action Plan for the Prevention and Management of Marine Litter in the North-East Atlantic (2022–2030), adopted at the annual meeting of the OSPAR Commission in Copenhagen on 24 April 2022, and a regional plan for integrated management of marine litter in the South-East Pacific, adopted in April 2022 within the framework of the Protocol for the Protection of the South-East Pacific against Pollution from Land-based Sources<sup>203</sup> and the ASEAN Regional Action Plan for Combating Marine Debris in the ASEAN Member States (2021–2025) launched by ASEAN in 2021;

225. *Also notes* the work done under the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) framework to share best practices, enable innovative waste management financing and encourage public-private partnerships in order to prevent and reduce marine debris, including the development of a marine debris monitoring decision framework for APEC economies in January 2023;

226. *Welcomes* the adoption of the Indian Ocean Rim Association Strategic Framework of Action on Marine Debris in the Indian Ocean in November 2022, and encourages the effective implementation by member States of the Indian Ocean Rim Association of the Strategic Framework to comprehensively combat marine plastic debris in the Indian Ocean, with the support of dialogue partners of the Indian Ocean Rim Association and other international and regional organizations;

227. *Also welcomes* the ongoing work of the members of the Group of 20 on the “Osaka Blue Ocean Vision”, which aims to reduce additional pollution by marine plastic litter to zero by 2050, and calls upon other members of the international community to also share the vision;

228. *Notes* the release of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development *Trade and Environment Review 2023: Building a Sustainable and Resilient Ocean Economy beyond 2030*<sup>204</sup> and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development *Review of Maritime Transport 2022: Navigating Stormy Waters*;<sup>205</sup>

229. *Encourages* States that have not yet done so to become parties to international agreements addressing the protection and preservation of the marine environment and its living marine resources against the introduction of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens and marine pollution from all sources, including the dumping of wastes and other matter, and other forms of physical degradation, as well as agreements that provide for preparedness for, response to and cooperation on pollution incidents and that include provisions on liability and compensation for damage resulting from marine pollution, and to adopt the necessary measures consistent with international law, including the Convention, aimed at implementing and enforcing the rules contained in those agreements;

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<sup>203</sup> Ibid., vol. 1648, No. 28327.

<sup>204</sup> United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, document UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2023/1. Available at <https://unctad.org/ter2023>.

<sup>205</sup> United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, document UNCTAD/RMT/2022. Available at <https://unctad.org/rmt2022>.

230. *Recalls* that, in “The future we want”, States noted the significant threat that alien invasive species pose to marine ecosystems and resources and committed to implement measures to prevent the introduction and manage the adverse environmental impacts of alien invasive species, including, as appropriate, those adopted in the framework of the International Maritime Organization;

231. *Encourages* States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships’ Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004,<sup>206</sup> and also encourages States to consider implementing the Guidelines for the control and management of ships’ biofouling to minimize the transfer of invasive aquatic species, adopted by the International Maritime Organization in resolution MEPC.207(62) of 15 July 2011;

232. *Notes* the activities carried out by the United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan and further notes in this regard the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, Preparedness and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022–2031) and the Ballast Water Management Strategy for the Mediterranean Sea (2022–2027), adopted at the twenty-second Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols;

233. *Also notes* the ongoing work of the International Maritime Organization to prevent pollution from ships, including through the designation of Special Areas under the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto, as amended,<sup>207</sup> as well as through its action plan and strategy to address marine litter from ships, and encourages the International Maritime Organization to continue working on the prevention of pollution from ships;

234. *Further notes*, in this regard, the theme for the 2023 World Maritime Day, “MARPOL at 50 – Our commitment goes on”;

235. *Notes* that the global limit of 0.50 per cent on sulphur in fuel oil under annex VI to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships entered into force on 1 January 2020, encourages States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Protocol of 1997 (annex VI – Regulations for the Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships) to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto, as amended, and encourages the effective implementation of that Protocol;<sup>208</sup>

236. *Welcomes* the designation, at the initiative of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, of the Mediterranean Sea, as a whole, as an Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides (Med SOx ECA) pursuant to an amendment to annex VI to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, which is expected to enter into force on 1 May 2024 and take effect from 1 May 2025,<sup>209</sup> and encourages ratification of that annex across the Mediterranean region as soon as possible;

237. *Notes* the ongoing work of the International Maritime Organization and the resolution on International Maritime Organization policies and practices related to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from ships,<sup>210</sup> and in this regard welcomes its adoption of a revised strategy on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from ships (the 2023 IMO Strategy on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships);<sup>211</sup>

238. *Urges* States to cooperate in correcting the shortfall in port waste reception facilities in accordance with the action plan to address the inadequacy of port waste reception facilities developed by the International Maritime Organization;

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<sup>206</sup> International Maritime Organization, document BWM/CONF/36, annex.

<sup>207</sup> International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, annex IV (Regulations for the prevention of pollution by sewage from ships) and annex V (Regulations for the prevention of pollution by garbage from ships).

<sup>208</sup> International Maritime Organization, document MEPC 62/24/Add.1, annex 19, resolution MEPC.203(62).

<sup>209</sup> International Maritime Organization, resolution MEPC.361(79).

<sup>210</sup> International Maritime Organization, Assembly resolution A.963(23).

<sup>211</sup> See International Maritime Organization, resolution MEPC.377(80).

## I. Resolutions adopted without reference to a Main Committee

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239. *Emphasizes* the need for the safe and environmentally sound recycling of ships, notes that the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, 2009<sup>212</sup> will enter into force on 26 June 2025, and encourages States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to that Convention;

240. *Encourages* continued cooperation between the parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal<sup>213</sup> and the International Maritime Organization on regulations on the prevention of pollution from ships;

241. *Notes* the role of the Basel Convention in ensuring that the management of hazardous wastes and other wastes, under the scope of that Convention, including their transboundary movement and disposal, is consistent with the protection of the marine environment;

242. *Notes with concern* the potential for serious environmental consequences resulting from oil spill incidents or pollution incidents involving hazardous or noxious substances, urges States, consistent with international law, to cooperate, directly or through competent international organizations, and share best practices, in the fields of protection of the marine environment, human health and safety, prevention, emergency response and mitigation, and in this regard encourages the undertaking of and collaboration on scientific research, including marine scientific research, to better understand the consequences of marine oil spills or marine spills involving hazardous or noxious substances;

243. *Encourages* States, in accordance with international law, including the Convention and other relevant instruments, either bilaterally or regionally, to jointly develop and promote contingency plans for responding to pollution incidents, as well as other incidents that are likely to have significant adverse effects on the marine environment and biodiversity;

244. *Encourages* States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation, 1990,<sup>214</sup> and the Protocol on Preparedness, Response and Cooperation to Pollution Incidents by Hazardous and Noxious Substances, 2000, of the International Maritime Organization, and in this regard to consider developing and joining regional arrangements to enhance international cooperation for combating major oil and hazardous substances pollution incidents;

245. *Encourages* States to consider becoming parties to the 2010 Protocol to the 1996 International Convention on Liability and Compensation for Damage in Connection with the Carriage of Hazardous and Noxious Substances by Sea,<sup>215</sup>

246. *Recognizes* that most of the pollution load of the oceans emanates from land-based activities and affects the most productive areas of the marine environment, and calls upon States, as a matter of priority, to implement the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities;

247. *Welcomes* the continued work of States, the United Nations Environment Programme and regional organizations in the implementation of the Global Programme of Action, and encourages increased emphasis on the link between fresh water, the coastal zone and marine resources in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, as well as of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development;

248. *Expresses its concern* regarding the spreading of hypoxic dead zones and harmful algal blooms in oceans as a result of eutrophication fuelled by riverine run-off of fertilizers, sewage outfall and reactive nitrogen resulting from the burning of fossil fuels and resulting in serious consequences for ecosystem functioning, and calls upon States to enhance their efforts to reduce eutrophication, particularly by reducing total nutrient pollution from land-based sources and, to this effect, to continue to cooperate within the framework of relevant international organizations, in particular the Global Programme of Action and the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management and Global Wastewater Initiative, including through capacity-building initiatives and efforts to monitor, via the Global Ocean Observing System, stressors such as harmful algal blooms, areas of hypoxia, sargassum seaweed invasions and

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<sup>212</sup> International Maritime Organization, document SR/CONF/45.

<sup>213</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1673, No. 28911.

<sup>214</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1891, No. 32194.

<sup>215</sup> International Maritime Organization, document LEG/CONF.17/10.

jellyfish blooms, to assess their possible linkage to eutrophication and their potential adverse impacts on the marine environment as well as on human health;

249. *Encourages* States that have not yet done so to take, as soon as possible, the domestic measures necessary to enable them to meet their obligations upon ratification and, thereafter, to ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Minamata Convention on Mercury;<sup>216</sup>

250. *Calls upon* all States to ensure that urban and coastal development projects and related land-reclamation activities are carried out in a responsible manner that protects the marine habitat and environment and mitigates the negative consequences of such activities;

251. *Recalls* that, in “The future we want”, States stressed their concern about the potential environmental impacts of ocean fertilization, recalled in this regard the decisions related to ocean fertilization adopted by the relevant intergovernmental bodies, and resolved to continue addressing ocean fertilization with utmost caution, consistent with the precautionary approach;

252. *Encourages* States that have not yet done so to become parties to the 1996 Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972 (the London Protocol);

253. *Recalls* the resolution of the thirtieth Consultative Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972 (the London Convention) and the third Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Protocol, held from 27 to 31 October 2008, on the regulation of ocean fertilization,<sup>217</sup> in which the Contracting Parties agreed, inter alia, that the scope of the London Convention and Protocol includes ocean fertilization activities and that, given the present state of knowledge, ocean fertilization activities other than for legitimate scientific research should not be allowed, and that scientific research proposals should be assessed on a case-by-case basis using an assessment framework that was subsequently developed and adopted in 2010 by the Contracting Parties to the London Convention and Protocol, namely, the Assessment Framework for Scientific Research Involving Ocean Fertilization,<sup>218</sup> and also agreed that, to this end, such other activities should be considered as contrary to the aims of the London Convention and Protocol and should not currently qualify for any exemption from the definition of dumping in article III, paragraph 1 (b), of the London Convention and article 1, paragraph 4.2, of the London Protocol;<sup>219</sup>

254. *Notes* the continued work of the Contracting Parties to the London Convention and Protocol towards a global, transparent and effective control and regulatory mechanism for ocean fertilization activities and other activities that fall within the scope of the London Convention and Protocol and have the potential to cause harm to the marine environment, and notes the resolution adopted by the eighth Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Protocol, held from 14 to 18 October 2013, on the amendment to the London Protocol to regulate the placement of matter for ocean fertilization and other marine geoengineering activities;<sup>220</sup>

255. *Recalls* decision IX/16 C, adopted at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Bonn, Germany, from 19 to 30 May 2008,<sup>221</sup> in which the Conference of the Parties, inter alia, bearing in mind the ongoing scientific and legal analysis occurring under the auspices of the London Convention and Protocol, requested parties and urged other Governments, in accordance with the precautionary approach, to ensure that ocean fertilization activities were not carried out until there was an adequate scientific basis on which to justify such activities, including an assessment of associated risks, and that a global, transparent and effective control and regulatory mechanism was in place for those activities, with the exception of small-scale scientific research studies within coastal waters, and stated that such studies should be authorized only if justified by the need to gather specific scientific data, should be subject to a thorough prior assessment of the potential impacts of the research studies on the marine environment, should be strictly controlled and should not be used for generating and selling carbon offsets or for any other commercial purposes, and takes note of decision X/29, adopted at the tenth

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<sup>216</sup> UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/CONF/4, annex II.

<sup>217</sup> International Maritime Organization, document LC 30/16, annex 6, resolution LC-LP.1 (2008).

<sup>218</sup> International Maritime Organization, document LC 32/15 and Corr.1, annex 5, resolution LC-LP.2 (2010).

<sup>219</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>220</sup> International Maritime Organization, document LC 35/15, annex 4, resolution LP.4(8).

<sup>221</sup> See United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/9/29, annex I.

meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Nagoya, Japan, from 18 to 29 October 2010,<sup>222</sup> in which the Conference of the Parties requested parties to implement decision IX/16 C;

256. *Notes* resolution LP.6(17) of the forty-fourth Consultative Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Convention and seventeenth Meeting of Contracting Parties to London Protocol amending annexes 1 and 2 to the Protocol to remove sewage sludge from the list and assessment of wastes or other matter that may be considered for dumping, which entered into force on 15 January 2023;<sup>223</sup>

## X

### Marine biodiversity

257. *Reaffirms* its central role relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction;

258. *Underscores* that the intergovernmental conference established by resolution 72/249 of 24 December 2017 finalized its work as reflected in resolution 77/321 on the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction, and invites States and regional economic integration organizations to consider this and its implications for the ocean, in particular, on their efforts toward the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction;

259. *Recognizes* the abundance and diversity of marine genetic resources and their value in terms of the benefits, goods and services they can provide;

260. *Also recognizes* the importance of research on marine genetic resources for the purpose of enhancing the scientific understanding, potential use and application, and enhanced management of marine ecosystems;

261. *Notes* the work under the Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity<sup>224</sup> and the Convention on Biological Diversity elaborated programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity,<sup>225</sup> and, while reiterating the central role of the General Assembly relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, notes with appreciation the complementary technical and scientific work done by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

262. *Welcomes* the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and its outcomes, including the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,<sup>226</sup> its 2030 mission to halt and reverse biodiversity loss, and its 2050 vision of living in harmony with nature, and encourages the full and effective implementation of that Framework and its goals and targets relevant to the ocean, and calls upon all States to increase efforts at all levels to achieve those goals and targets;

263. *Recognizes* the ongoing activities of the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in coordinating capacity-building efforts to support developing States in achieving the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in marine and coastal areas;

264. *Reaffirms* the need for States, individually or through competent international organizations, to urgently consider ways to integrate and improve, based on the best available scientific information and the precautionary approach and in accordance with the Convention and related agreements and instruments, the management of risks to the marine biodiversity of seamounts, cold water corals, hydrothermal vents and certain other underwater features;

265. *Invites* parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to implement the voluntary specific workplan on biodiversity in cold water areas within the jurisdictional scope of that Convention, adopted in 2016 by the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to that Convention;<sup>227</sup>

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<sup>222</sup> See United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27, annex.

<sup>223</sup> International Maritime Organization, document LC 44/17, annex 4, resolution LP.6(17).

<sup>224</sup> See A/51/312, annex II, decision II/10.

<sup>225</sup> United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/7/21, annex, decision VII/5, annex I.

<sup>226</sup> See Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity decision 15/4.

<sup>227</sup> United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/13/25, sect. I, decision XIII/11, annex II.



266. *Reiterates its deep concern* at the serious adverse impacts on the marine environment and biodiversity, in particular on vulnerable marine ecosystems and their physical and biogenic structure, including coral reefs, cold water habitats, hydrothermal vents and seamounts, of certain human activities, and calls upon States and international organizations to urgently take further action to address, in accordance with international law, destructive practices that have adverse impacts on marine biodiversity and ecosystems, including seamounts, hydrothermal vents and cold water corals;

267. *Calls upon* States to strengthen, in a manner consistent with international law, in particular the Convention, the conservation and management of marine biodiversity and ecosystems, and national policies in relation to area-based management tools, including marine protected areas;

268. *Recalls* that, in “The future we want”, States reaffirmed the importance of area-based conservation measures, including marine protected areas, consistent with international law and based on best available scientific information, as a tool for conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components;

269. *Reaffirms* the need for States to continue and intensify their efforts, directly and through competent international organizations, to develop and facilitate the use of diverse approaches and tools for conserving and managing vulnerable marine ecosystems, including the possible establishment of marine protected areas, consistent with international law, as reflected in the Convention, and based on the best scientific information available;

270. *Notes* the work of States, relevant intergovernmental organizations and bodies, including the Convention on Biological Diversity, in the assessment of scientific information on and compilation of ecological criteria for the identification of marine areas that may require protection, in the light of the objective of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to develop and facilitate the use of diverse approaches and tools, such as ecosystem approaches and the establishment of marine protected areas consistent with international law, as reflected in the Convention, and based on scientific information, including representative networks;

271. *Recalls* that the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, at its ninth meeting, adopted scientific criteria for identifying ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in need of protection in open-ocean waters and deep-sea habitats and scientific guidance for selecting areas to establish a representative network of marine protected areas, including in open-ocean waters and deep-sea habitats,<sup>228</sup> and notes the ongoing work under the Convention on Biological Diversity on the application of the scientific criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas through the organization of a series of regional workshops;

272. *Also recalls* that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has developed guidance for the identification of vulnerable marine ecosystems and the prevention of significant adverse impacts on them through the International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-Sea Fisheries in the High Seas, and notes its ongoing work to support application of the Guidelines by States and regional fisheries management organizations and to maintain a database of vulnerable marine ecosystems;

273. *Notes* the ongoing work of the International Maritime Organization to identify and designate as Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas marine areas which are recognized for their significance in terms of ecological, socioeconomic or scientific criteria and are vulnerable to damage by international shipping activities,<sup>229</sup> and welcomes the decision of the Marine Environment Protection Committee of the International Maritime Organization at its eightieth session to designate the North-Western Mediterranean Sea as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area;

274. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative under the Convention on Biological Diversity;

275. *Also notes with appreciation* the work undertaken by regional seas conventions for the conservation and sustainable management of marine biodiversity and ecosystems, and further notes with appreciation the adoption of the Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region (Post-2020 SAPBIO) and the Post-2020 Regional Strategy for marine

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<sup>228</sup> United Nations Environment Programme, document [UNEP/CBD/COP/9/29](#), annex I, decision IX/20, annexes I and II.

<sup>229</sup> International Maritime Organization, Revised Guidelines for the Identification and Designation of Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas, Assembly resolution A.982(24).

## I. Resolutions adopted without reference to a Main Committee

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and coastal protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures in the Mediterranean, at the twenty-second Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols;

276. *Acknowledges* the Micronesia Challenge, the Caribbean Challenge Initiative and the Coral Triangle Initiative, which seek to create and link domestic marine protected areas to better facilitate ecosystem approaches, notes the Phoenix Islands Protected Area as a multinational partnership, and reaffirms the need for further international cooperation, coordination and collaboration in support of such initiatives;

277. *Recalls* that, in “The future we want”, States recognized the significant economic, social and environmental contributions of coral reefs, in particular to islands and other coastal States, as well as the significant vulnerability of coral reefs and mangroves to impacts, including from climate change, ocean acidification, overfishing, destructive fishing practices and pollution, and supported international cooperation with a view to conserving coral reef and mangrove ecosystems and realizing their social, economic and environmental benefits, as well as facilitating technical collaboration and voluntary information-sharing;

278. *Emphasizes* the need to mainstream sustainable coral reef management and integrated watershed management into national development strategies, as well as into the activities of relevant United Nations agencies and programmes, international financial institutions and the donor community;

279. *Reiterates its support* for the International Coral Reef Initiative, notes that the thirty-seventh International Coral Reef Initiative General Meeting was held in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, United States of America, from 20 to 23 September 2023, and supports the elaborated programme of work of the Convention on Biological Diversity on marine and coastal biological diversity related to coral reefs under the Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity;

280. *Encourages* States and relevant international institutions to improve efforts to address coral bleaching by, inter alia, improving monitoring to predict and identify bleaching events, supporting and strengthening action taken during such events and improving strategies to manage reefs to support their natural resilience and enhance their ability to withstand other pressures, including ocean acidification;

281. *Encourages* States to cooperate, directly or through competent international bodies, in exchanging information in the event of accidents involving vessels on coral reefs and in promoting the development of economic assessment techniques for both restoration and non-use values of coral reef systems;

282. *Notes* that ocean noise has potential significant adverse impacts on living marine resources, affirms the importance of sound scientific studies in addressing this matter, encourages further research, studies and consideration of the impacts of ocean noise on living marine resources, notes the work of States and competent international organizations in that regard, recognizes the attention paid to the theme of anthropogenic underwater noise at the nineteenth meeting of the Informal Consultative Process in 2018, and requests the Division to continue to compile the peer-reviewed scientific studies it receives from Member States and intergovernmental organizations pursuant to paragraph 107 of resolution [61/222](#) and, as appropriate, to make them, or references and links to them, available on its website;

283. *Calls upon* States to identify appropriate measures and approaches to assess and address the potential socioeconomic and environmental impacts of anthropogenic underwater noise, taking into account the precautionary approach and ecosystem approaches and the best available scientific information;

284. *Encourages* further research into, and testing of, technologies to reduce the impact of underwater noise on marine life;

285. *Encourages* States to continue their work at the International Maritime Organization to enhance understanding of the extent to which improved ship technology, including efficient propeller design, could lead to reduced introduction of underwater noise in the oceans;

286. *Notes* the approval of revised Guidelines for the Reduction of Underwater Noise from Shipping to Address Adverse Impacts on Marine Life by the International Maritime Organization in July 2023, the endorsement of an updated workplan, to include a three-year experience-building phase for the revised Guidelines, and the ongoing work to develop a programme of action to further prevent and reduce underwater radiated noise, draws attention to the recent International Maritime Organization workshop, held on 18 and 19 September 2023, on the relation between energy efficiency and underwater radiated noise from ships, which highlighted synergies in addressing both



environmental issues, and notes with appreciation the GloNoise Partnership project within the International Maritime Organization, which will focus on building capacity in developing States to implement the revised Guidelines;

287. *Encourages* States, acting through the International Maritime Organization or individually, to participate in and share knowledge during the experience-building phase for the revised Guidelines and implement the recommended solutions to address adequately the barriers that have prevented the uptake and implementation of the current Guidelines by the industry;

## **XI**

### **Marine science**

288. *Calls upon* States, individually or in collaboration with each other or with competent international organizations and bodies, to continue to strive to improve understanding and knowledge of the oceans and the deep sea, including, in particular, the extent and vulnerability of deep sea biodiversity and ecosystems, by increasing their marine scientific research activities in accordance with the Convention;

289. *Encourages*, in that regard, relevant international organizations and other donors to consider supporting the Endowment Fund of the Authority in order to promote the conduct of collaborative marine scientific research in the international seabed area by supporting the participation of qualified scientists and technical personnel from developing countries in relevant programmes, initiatives and activities;

290. *Notes with concern* that human-related threats, such as marine debris, ship strikes, underwater noise, persistent contaminants, coastal development activities, oil spills and abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear, together or individually, may have a severe impact on marine life, including at its higher trophic levels, and calls upon States and competent international organizations to cooperate and coordinate their research efforts in this regard so as to prevent and reduce those impacts and preserve the integrity of the whole marine ecosystem, while fully respecting the mandates of relevant international organizations;

291. *Invites* all relevant organizations, funds, programmes and bodies within the United Nations system, in consultation with interested States, to coordinate relevant activities with regional and national marine scientific and technological centres in small island developing States, as appropriate, to ensure the more effective achievement of their objectives in accordance with relevant United Nations small island developing States development programmes and strategies;

292. *Welcomes* the resolution adopted by the Assembly of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission at its twenty-eighth session, held in Paris from 18 to 25 June 2015, regarding the adoption of the Second International Indian Ocean Expedition as an important catalyst project linking Indian Ocean processes to the global ocean and atmosphere, officially launched in Goa, India, on 4 December 2015 for an initial period of five years and continued to at least 2025, invites States to participate in this initiative, and notes that two nodes of the Second International Indian Ocean Expedition Joint Project Office have been established to coordinate operations of the expedition in Perth, Australia, and Hyderabad, India;

293. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, with the advice of the Advisory Body of Experts on the Law of the Sea, on the development of procedures for the implementation of Parts XIII and XIV of the Convention;

294. *Notes* decision A-32/4.4 of the Assembly of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, in which it recognized that the timely and unrestricted international exchange of oceanographic data is essential for the efficient acquisition, integration and use of ocean observations gathered by the countries of the world for a wide variety of purposes, as well as for the advancement of scientific understanding, and in which it adopted the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Data Policy and Terms of Use (2023), which outlines the requirements with respect to sharing, access, preservation and attribution to facilitate the broad use and reuse of ocean metadata, data and products;<sup>230</sup>

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<sup>230</sup> Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, document IOC/A-32/Decisions, decision A-32/4.4.

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295. *Also notes* that the depth of a significant percentage of the world's oceans, seas and waterways has yet to be measured directly and that bathymetric knowledge underpins the safe, sustainable and cost-effective execution of almost every human activity in, on or under the sea;

296. *Welcomes* the work of the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans under the International Hydrographic Organization and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and, in particular, the progress made, in collaboration with the Nippon Foundation, under the Seabed 2030 project towards mapping 100 per cent of the ocean floor by 2030;

297. *Encourages* Member States to consider contributing to mechanisms that encourage the widest possible availability of all bathymetric data, so as to support the sustainable development, management and governance of the marine environment;

298. *Notes with appreciation* the contribution to marine biodiversity research of the Ocean Biodiversity Information System, a free and open-access data holding and sharing facility, hosted by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission;

299. *Welcomes* the increasing attention being focused on oceans as a potential source of renewable energy, and notes in this regard the summary of discussions of the Informal Consultative Process at its thirteenth meeting, in 2012;<sup>231</sup>

300. *Stresses* the importance of the environmental impact assessment process for ocean-based renewable energy projects;

301. *Also stresses* the importance of increasing the scientific understanding of the oceans-atmosphere interface, including through participation in ocean observing programmes and geographic information systems, such as the Global Ocean Observing System, sponsored by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Meteorological Organization and the International Science Council, particularly considering their role in monitoring and forecasting climate change and variability, in supporting Earth system prediction<sup>232</sup> and in the establishment and operation of tsunami warning systems;

302. *Notes* the decision adopted by the Assembly of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission at its thirty-second session to establish an ad hoc intersessional Working Group on Ocean Observations in Areas under National Jurisdiction;<sup>233</sup>

303. *Welcomes* the progress made by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and Member States towards the establishment and operation of regional and national tsunami warning and mitigation systems, also welcomes the continued collaboration of the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations in this effort, further welcomes the development and recent dissemination of the new Enhanced Tsunami Products for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System and the development of Enhanced Tsunami Products for the Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions, which will assist countries in the Pacific and the Caribbean to assess tsunami threats and issue warnings, and encourages Member States to establish and sustain their national warning and mitigation systems, within a global, ocean-related multi-hazard approach, as necessary, to reduce loss of life and damage to national economies and strengthen the resilience of coastal communities to natural disasters, and welcomes the establishment of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Tsunami Programme under the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030), its 10-Year Research, Development and Implementation Plan, including its Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme and Tsunami Ready Coalition, aimed at building resilient communities through awareness and preparedness strategies that will protect life, livelihoods and property from tsunamis in different regions;

304. *Stresses* the need for continued efforts in developing mitigation and preparedness measures for natural disasters, particularly following such tsunami events as that on 11 March 2011 in Japan, those on 28 September and 22 December 2018 in Indonesia, and that on 15 January 2022 following the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcanic eruption in Tonga;

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<sup>231</sup> See [A/67/120](#).

<sup>232</sup> See World Meteorological Organization resolution 47 (Cg-18).

<sup>233</sup> Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, document IOC/A-32/Decisions, decision A-32/4.8.2.

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305. *Notes* the decision adopted by the Assembly of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission at its thirty-second session that warning systems for tsunamis generated by volcanoes should be coordinated and considered as part of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization/Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Global Tsunami and other Ocean-related Hazards Warning and Mitigation System, and also, when possible, as part of Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems;<sup>234</sup>

306. *Takes note* of the sixth Global Environment Outlook, entitled *Healthy Planet, Healthy People*, approved on 24 January 2019, which, inter alia, identifies the principal drivers of change facing oceans and coasts and their impacts;

307. *Recognizes* that ocean data buoys deployed and operated in accordance with international law are critical for improving understanding of climate and ecosystems, forecasting weather, and saving lives by detecting tsunamis, reiterates its serious concern at intentional and unintentional damage to such buoys, and urges States to take necessary action and to cooperate in relevant organizations, including the World Meteorological Organization, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to address damage to ocean data buoys deployed and operated in accordance with international law, including through education and outreach about the importance and purpose of these buoys and by strengthening these buoys against such damage and increasing reporting of such damage;

308. *Recognizes* the attention paid to the themes of ocean science and ocean observing at the twentieth and twenty-second meetings, respectively, of the Informal Consultative Process in 2019 and 2022, and welcomes the steps taken by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission to coordinate the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, a core objective of which is to improve the scientific knowledge base through capacity-building for developing countries with limited capacity and capabilities, in particular small island developing States, least developed countries and landlocked developing countries, on the basis of its implementation plan, in consultation with Member States, specialized agencies, funds, programmes and bodies of the United Nations, as well as other intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and relevant stakeholders;

309. *Takes note* of resolutions EC-55/1 of the Executive Council and A-32/3 of the Assembly of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, in which these bodies took note of the establishment of Decade coordinating mechanisms;<sup>235</sup>

310. *Also takes note* of the development of the Ocean Decade Vision 2030 process aimed at enhancing the strategic delivery of the Decade under its 10 Decade Challenges;<sup>236</sup>

311. *Requests* that the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission continue to regularly consult with, and report to, Member States on the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and its implementation;

312. *Invites* the Secretary-General to continue to inform the General Assembly on the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development through his report on oceans and the law of the sea, on the basis of information to be provided by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission;

313. *Invites* UN-Oceans and its participants to continue to collaborate with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission on the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, and in this regard notes the participation of UN-Oceans members in the Decade Advisory Board, as well as the adoption by the Authority of the action plan in support of the Decade;<sup>237</sup>

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<sup>234</sup> Ibid., decision A-32/3.4.1.

<sup>235</sup> See Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, document IOC/EC-55/Decisions, resolution EC-55/1, and document IOC/A-32/Decisions, resolution A-32/3.

<sup>236</sup> See Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, document IOC/A-32/Decisions, resolution A-32/3.

<sup>237</sup> See [ISBA/26/A/17](#).

## XII

### **Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects**

314. *Reiterates* the need to strengthen the regular scientific assessment of the state of the marine environment in order to enhance the scientific basis for policymaking;

315. *Reaffirms* the principles guiding the Regular Process and its objective and scope, recalls the crucial importance of the Regular Process and its possible inputs for ongoing ocean-related intergovernmental processes, and notes the importance of continuing support and cooperation between the activities of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and those of the Regular Process, and the development of a regulatory regime to organize and control all activities of exploration for, and exploitation of, the resources of the seabed and ocean floor and subsoil thereof beyond the limits of national jurisdiction by the International Seabed Authority;

316. *Also reaffirms* the importance of ensuring that assessments, such as those included in the Global Sustainable Development Report and those prepared under the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the Regular Process, support one another and avoid unnecessary duplication, and recalls the importance of compatibility and synergies between such assessments and assessments at the regional level;

317. *Further reaffirms* that capacity-building is one of the core objectives of the Regular Process, and recalls that, during the third cycle (2021–2025), a coherent programme on capacity-building will be carried out with the aim to develop the capacities of States in strengthening the ocean science-policy interface at the national, regional and global levels;

318. *Recalls* that the Regular Process shall be overseen and guided by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole, and that the Ad Hoc Working Group shall facilitate the delivery of the outputs of the third cycle of the Regular Process as outlined in the programme of work for the third cycle, and endorses the recommendations adopted by the Ad Hoc Working Group at its nineteenth meeting on the progress in the implementation of the programme of work for the third cycle;

319. *Recognizes* the importance of raising awareness of the second World Ocean Assessment and the Regular Process, and welcomes the enhancement of the social media campaign on the Assessment and the wider awareness-raising campaign of the Regular Process;

320. *Recognizes with appreciation* the role of the Co-Chairs and the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole in putting into practice the decisions and guidance of the Ad Hoc Working Group during the intersessional period, requests the Bureau to continue to provide oversight of the delivery of the programme of work for the third cycle of the Regular Process, and recognizes the support provided by the secretariat in that regard;

321. *Welcomes* the designation by States of national focal points, and invites States that have not yet done so to designate national focal points to facilitate the implementation of the programme of work for the third cycle of the Regular Process and beyond;

322. *Also welcomes* the designation of focal points for relevant intergovernmental organizations, and invites the secretariats of relevant United Nations specialized agencies, programmes, funds and bodies and the secretariats of related organizations and conventions that have not yet done so to designate focal points to facilitate the implementation of the programme of work for the third cycle of the Regular Process and beyond;

323. *Invites* the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Maritime Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Meteorological Organization and relevant United Nations system organizations, bodies, funds and programmes, as appropriate, to assist in the implementation of the third cycle of the Regular Process;

324. *Invites* relevant intergovernmental organizations to contribute, as appropriate, to the activities of the third cycle of the Regular Process;

325. *Welcomes* the constitution of the Group of Experts for the third cycle of the Regular Process, which currently consists of 21 members, and notes with appreciation the work being carried out by the members of the Group of Experts in the implementation of the programme of work for the third cycle;

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326. *Recalls* that the Group of Experts for the third cycle of the Regular Process shall comprise a maximum of 25 experts, with no more than five experts per regional group, and encourages regional groups that have appointed fewer than five experts to continue to appoint experts to the Group of Experts, taking into account the need to ensure adequate expertise, gender balance and geographical distribution;

327. *Endorses* the documents developed by the Group of Experts to support the development of the third World Ocean Assessment adopted by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole at its eighteenth meeting;

328. *Encourages* the appointment of experts to the Pool of Experts in accordance with the mechanism, and requests the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole to provide oversight of the establishment of the Pool of Experts;

329. *Welcomes* the regional workshops in support of the third cycle of the Regular Process, held in Santos, Brazil, in May 2023, in Kingston in June 2023, in Mahe, Seychelles, in July–August 2023, in Lisbon in September 2023 and in New York in November 2023, and the capacity-building symposium to be held in Paris in December 2023, which are being held to support the development of the third World Ocean Assessment and strengthen the ocean science-policy interface;

330. *Encourages* efforts to ensure completion of the zero draft of the third World Ocean Assessment for review by Member States in 2024 as outlined in the programme of work for the third cycle of the Regular Process;

331. *Urges* States, international financial institutions, donor agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and natural and juridical persons to make financial contributions to the voluntary trust fund, as well as the special scholarship fund, and to make other contributions to the Regular Process;

332. *Requests* the Secretary-General to convene, in 2024, up to two meetings of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole of no more than two days of total duration each;

## XIII

### Regional cooperation

333. *Notes with appreciation* efforts and initiatives at the regional level, in various regions, to further the implementation of the Convention and to respond, including through capacity-building, to issues related to maritime safety and security, the conservation and sustainable use of living marine resources, the protection and preservation of the marine environment and the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity;

334. *Invites* States and international organizations to enhance their cooperation to better protect the marine environment;

335. *Notes* the Caribbean-focused Assistance Fund, which is intended to facilitate, mainly through technical assistance, the voluntary undertaking of maritime delimitation negotiations between Caribbean States, notes once again the Fund for Peace: Peaceful Settlement of Territorial Disputes, established by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States in 2000 as a primary mechanism, given its broader regional scope, for the prevention and resolution of pending territorial, land border and maritime boundary disputes, and calls upon States and others in a position to do so to contribute to these funds;

336. *Recalls* the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway<sup>238</sup> and the modalities set forth for strengthened action on a range of small island developing States challenges and priorities, including challenges related to the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources, and the preservation of the marine environment, and in this regard welcomes the convening of the high-level midterm review of the SAMOA Pathway in September 2019 and the adoption of its political declaration,<sup>239</sup> which notes the importance of oceans, seas and marine resources to small island developing States and acknowledges their efforts to develop and implement strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean and its resources, and reaffirms its commitment to work with small island developing States towards the full implementation of the SAMOA Pathway to ensure its success;

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<sup>238</sup> Resolution 69/15, annex.

<sup>239</sup> Resolution 74/3.

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337. *Encourages* States and scientific communities to continue to strengthen their cooperation on new knowledge about the linkages between changes in the global climate system and the environment of polar regions;

338. *Acknowledges* the important contributions to scientific understanding of the marine environment and its resources, as well as the scientific advice for their sustainable use, provided by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea in its wide-ranging cooperation with organizations at the regional level under the Convention for the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, 1964,<sup>240</sup> and by the North Pacific Marine Science Organization under the Convention for a North Pacific Marine Science Organization, 1992;

339. *Welcomes* regional cooperation, and in this regard notes the Pacific Oceanscape Framework as an initiative to enhance cooperation among coastal States in the Pacific island region to foster marine conservation and sustainable development;

340. *Recalls*, in this regard, the endorsement of the Pacific Islands Forum leaders on 6 August 2021 at the fifty-first Pacific Islands Forum of a declaration on preserving maritime zones in the face of climate change-related sea level rise, and of the Heads of State and Government of the Alliance of Small Island States on 22 September 2021 of the Leaders' Declaration addressing, inter alia, the relationship between climate change-related sea level rise and Forum and Alliance members' maritime zones in response to long-standing concerns in the face of climate change-related sea level rise;

341. *Notes* the endorsement of the Pacific Islands Forum leaders on 9 November 2023 at the fifty-second Pacific Islands Forum of a declaration on the continuity of statehood and the protection of persons in the face of climate change-related sea level rise addressing, inter alia, the relationship between climate change-related sea level rise and Forum members' statehood, sovereignty and protection of persons;

342. *Notes with appreciation* the various cooperative efforts displayed by States at the regional and subregional levels, and in this regard welcomes initiatives such as the Integrated Assessment and Management of the Gulf of Mexico Large Marine Ecosystem;

343. *Acknowledges* the cooperation among the members of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic and the principles enshrined under that initiative, and notes the adoption of the Mindelo Declaration and the Mindelo Plan of Action during the eighth ministerial meeting of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic, held in Cabo Verde on 17 and 18 April 2023;

344. *Recalls* the decision of the Assembly of the African Union in January 2015 to adopt Agenda 2063, also recalls that the African Union launched the Decade of African Seas and Oceans (2015–2025), and notes that the African Day of the Seas and Oceans is celebrated annually on 25 July;

345. *Also recalls* the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 adopted by the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Vienna from 3 to 5 November 2014,<sup>241</sup> following the comprehensive 10-year review of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries,<sup>242</sup> notes the need for cooperation to address the development needs and challenges faced by landlocked developing countries associated with, inter alia, their lack of direct territorial access to the sea, remoteness and isolation from world markets, in line with the objectives of the Vienna Programme of Action, and recalls the adoption of the road map for the accelerated implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in the remaining five years;

346. *Notes* the adoption of the Leaders' Declaration on the Solidarity of the Archipelagic and Island States Forum at the convening of the first High-Level Meeting of the Archipelagic and Island States Forum in Bali, Indonesia, on 11 October 2023, that expresses the commitment of archipelagic and island nations to collaborate in

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<sup>240</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 652, No. 9344.

<sup>241</sup> Resolution 69/137, annex II.

<sup>242</sup> *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation*, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003 (A/CONF.202/3), annex I.

addressing common maritime and ocean issues, among others, climate change, sustainable ocean-based economy, and the marine environment, to achieve sustainability of the ocean for future generations;

347. *Also notes* the efforts of the Sargasso Sea Commission, led by the Government of Bermuda, to raise awareness of the ecological significance of the Sargasso Sea;

348. *Further notes* the Agreement on Enhancing International Arctic Scientific Cooperation, negotiated under the auspices of the Arctic Council, and notes that its implementation will increase the development of scientific knowledge about the region;

349. *Notes* the cooperation between the OSPAR Commission established by the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic<sup>243</sup> and the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission;

350. *Also notes* the decision adopted by the Assembly of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission at its thirty-second session to establish the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Subcommission for the Central Indian Ocean with the purpose of promoting international cooperation and coordinating programmes in research, services, and capacity development;<sup>244</sup>

#### **XIV**

#### **Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea**

351. *Welcomes* the report of the Co-Chairs on the work of the Informal Consultative Process at its twenty-third meeting, which focused on the theme of new maritime technologies: challenges and opportunities;

352. *Notes* the discussions at the twenty-third meeting of the Informal Consultative Process, from 5 to 9 June 2023, on the theme of new maritime technologies: challenges and opportunities, during which delegations and other participants, inter alia, highlighted the potential benefits of new maritime technologies in addressing threats facing the ocean, facilitating ocean observing, building resilient oceans and coastal communities, mitigating the impacts of climate change, efforts towards reducing the greenhouse gas emissions of the shipping sector, countering pollution, developing renewable energy sources, improving data collection to enhance marine science and achieve the goals of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, and for meeting the targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 14, noted challenges arising with respect to the introduction and use of such technologies, and recognized the vital role of national, regional and global cooperation in ensuring that all States can benefit from the sustainable development of the ocean, including the crucial importance of targeted capacity-building to enable developing States to benefit from the opportunities presented by these new technologies;

353. *Recognizes* the role of the Informal Consultative Process as a unique forum for comprehensive discussions on issues related to oceans and the law of the sea, consistent with the framework provided by the Convention and chapter 17 of Agenda 21, and in integrating knowledge, the exchange of opinions among multiple stakeholders and coordination among competent agencies, and enhancing awareness of topics, including emerging issues, while promoting the three pillars of sustainable development;

354. *Welcomes* the work of the Informal Consultative Process and its contribution to improving coordination and cooperation between States and strengthening the annual debate of the General Assembly on oceans and the law of the sea by effectively drawing attention to key issues and current trends, and also welcomes efforts to improve and focus such work;

355. *Recalls* the need to strengthen and improve the efficiency of the Informal Consultative Process, and encourages States, intergovernmental organizations and programmes to provide guidance to the Co-Chairs to this effect, particularly before and during the preparatory meeting for the Informal Consultative Process;

356. *Decides* to continue the Informal Consultative Process for the next four years, in accordance with resolution 54/33, with a further review of its effectiveness at its eighty-second session;

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<sup>243</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2354, No. 42279.

<sup>244</sup> See Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, document IOC/A-32/Decisions, resolution A-32/1.



357. *Requests* the Secretary-General to convene, in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of resolution 54/33, the twenty-fourth meeting of the Informal Consultative Process, in New York for eight meetings during the week of 18 to 21 June 2024, and to convene the twenty-fifth, twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh meetings for eight meetings each in 2025, 2026 and 2027, respectively, to provide it with the facilities necessary for the performance of its work, including documentation, to also convene informal preparatory meetings, and to arrange for support to be provided by the Division, in cooperation with other relevant parts of the Secretariat, as appropriate;

358. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to provide support for the convening of a twenty-fifth meeting of the Informal Consultative Process for eight meetings in 2025, in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of resolution 54/33, with the facilities necessary for the performance of its work, including documentation;

359. *Expresses its continued serious concern* regarding the lack of resources available in the voluntary trust fund established pursuant to resolution 55/7 for the purpose of assisting developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing States, in attending the meetings of the Informal Consultative Process, and urges States, international financial institutions, donor agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and natural and juridical persons to make additional contributions to the trust fund;

360. *Decides* that those representatives from developing countries who are invited by the Co-Chairs, in consultation with Governments, to make presentations during the meetings of the Informal Consultative Process shall receive priority consideration in the disbursement of funds from the voluntary trust fund established pursuant to resolution 55/7 in order to cover their costs of travel and daily subsistence allowance;

361. *Also decides* that, in its deliberations on the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea, the Informal Consultative Process shall focus its discussions at its twenty-fourth meeting, in 2024, on the theme “The ocean as a source of sustainable food”, and at its twenty-sixth meeting, in 2026, on the theme “Marine ecosystem restoration”;

## **XV**

### **Coordination and cooperation**

362. *Encourages* States to work closely with and through international organizations, funds and programmes, as well as the specialized agencies of the United Nations system and relevant international conventions, to identify emerging areas of focus for improved coordination and cooperation and how best to address these issues;

363. *Expresses its concern* at the desecration of graves at sea and the looting of wrecks of ships constituting such graves, and calls upon States to cooperate, as appropriate, to prevent the looting and desecration of wrecks of ships constituting graves in order to ensure that proper respect is given to all human remains located in maritime waters, consistent with international law, including, as appropriate, the 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage, among parties thereto;

364. *Encourages* bodies established by the Convention to strengthen coordination and cooperation, as appropriate, in fulfilling their respective mandates;

365. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of heads of intergovernmental organizations, the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations engaged in activities relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea, as well as funding institutions, and underlines the importance of their constructive and timely input for the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea and of their participation in relevant meetings and processes;

366. *Welcomes* the work done by the secretariats of relevant United Nations specialized agencies, programmes, funds and bodies and the secretariats of related organizations and conventions to enhance inter-agency coordination and cooperation on ocean issues, including, where appropriate, through UN-Oceans, the inter-agency coordination mechanism on ocean and coastal issues within the United Nations system;

367. *Recognizes* the work undertaken by UN-Oceans, under the revised terms of reference for the work of UN-Oceans, and with the United Nations Legal Counsel/the Division as the focal point of UN-Oceans, requests the focal point to maintain the UN-Oceans website, and in this regard urges States, international financial institutions, donor agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and natural and juridical persons to make financial earmarked contributions to the trust fund established by the Secretary-General for the Office of



Legal Affairs to support the promotion of international law, and authorizes the Secretary-General to disburse funds from such contributions to that trust fund for the purposes of the maintenance of the UN-Oceans website, including an online searchable database for an inventory of the mandates of UN-Oceans members and priorities approved by the respective governing bodies of the participating organizations of UN-Oceans, with a view to identifying possible areas of collaboration and synergy, as well as for travel associated with the performance of the functions of the focal point;

## XVI

### Activities of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea

368. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for the annual reports on oceans and the law of the sea, prepared by the Division, as well as for the other activities of the Division, which reflect the high standard of assistance provided to Member States by the Division;

369. *Notes with satisfaction* the fifteenth observance by the United Nations of World Oceans Day, in 2023,<sup>245</sup> recognizes with appreciation the efforts deployed by the Division in this regard, invites States, international financial institutions, donor agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and natural and juridical persons to support the future observance of World Oceans Day, including by making voluntary financial or other contributions, and invites the Division to continue to promote and facilitate international cooperation on the law of the sea and ocean affairs in the context of the future observance of World Oceans Day, as well as through its participation in other events;

370. *Notes* the continuously growing responsibilities and functions entrusted to the Secretary-General in the Convention and in the related resolutions of the General Assembly, and in this context the unprecedented substantial increase in activities of the Division, in particular in view of the growing number of requests to the Division for additional outputs and servicing of meetings, the provision of technical assistance and capacity-building, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure the allocation of appropriate resources to the Division for the performance of its activities under the approved budget for the Organization;

371. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue the publication activities of the Division, and in particular to publish a combined edition of the Convention, the Part XI Agreement, the Fish Stocks Agreement; and the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction<sup>246</sup> and publish the *Law of the Sea Bulletin*;

## XVII

### Seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly

372. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare reports for consideration by the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session, namely a report on developments and issues relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea, including the implementation of the present resolution, in accordance with resolutions 49/28 of 6 December 1994, 52/26 of 26 November 1997 and 54/33, and a report on the theme that is the focus of the twenty-fourth meeting of the Informal Consultative Process;

373. *Emphasizes* the critical role of the annual reports of the Secretary-General, which integrate information on developments relating to the implementation of the Convention and the work of the Organization, its specialized agencies and other institutions in the field of ocean affairs and the law of the sea at the global and regional levels, and as a result constitute the basis for the annual consideration and review of developments relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea by the General Assembly as the global institution having the competence to undertake such a review;

374. *Notes* that the reports referred to in paragraph 372 above will also be submitted to States Parties pursuant to article 319 of the Convention regarding issues of a general nature that have arisen with respect to the Convention;

375. *Also notes* the desire to further improve the efficiency of and effective participation of delegations in the informal consultations concerning the annual General Assembly resolution on oceans and the law of the sea, decides that the period of the informal consultations on that resolution should not exceed a maximum of nine days in total and

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<sup>245</sup> By its resolution 63/111, the General Assembly designated 8 June as World Oceans Day.

<sup>246</sup> This replaces the publication on marine geospatial information management.

that the consultations should be scheduled in such a way that the Division has sufficient time to produce the report on developments and issues relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea referred to in paragraph 372 above, requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide support to the consultations through the Division, and encourages States to submit proposals for the resolution to the Coordinator of the informal consultations no later than one week before the first day of the first round of the informal consultations;

376. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session the item entitled “Oceans and the law of the sea”.

## RESOLUTION 78/118

Adopted at the 47th plenary meeting, on 8 December 2023, without a vote, on the basis of draft resolution [A/78/L.17](#), sponsored by: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, State of Palestine

### 78/118. Safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* its resolution [46/182](#) of 19 December 1991 on the strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations,

*Recalling* all relevant resolutions on the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel, including its resolution [77/31](#) of 6 December 2022, as well as Security Council resolutions on the protection of humanitarian personnel, including resolution [2175 \(2014\)](#) of 29 August 2014, and relevant statements by the President of the Council,

*Recalling also* all Security Council resolutions and presidential statements and reports of the Secretary-General to the Council on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, including resolution [2286 \(2016\)](#) of 3 May 2016,

*Reaffirming* the principles, rules and relevant provisions of international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law, as well as all relevant treaties,<sup>247</sup> and the need to further promote and ensure respect thereof,

*Recalling* the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949<sup>248</sup> and the Additional Protocols thereto of 8 June 1977,<sup>249</sup> and the obligation of parties to armed conflict to respect and ensure respect for international humanitarian law in all circumstances, and urging all such parties to comply with international humanitarian law and ensure respect for and protection of all humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel,

*Recalling also* the specific obligations, under international humanitarian law, to respect and protect, in situations of armed conflict, medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, and hospitals and other medical facilities, and to ensure that the wounded and sick receive, to the fullest extent practicable and with the least possible delay, the medical care and attention required,

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<sup>247</sup> These include, notably, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations of 13 February 1946, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies of 21 November 1947, the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel of 9 December 1994, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel of 8 December 2005, the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949 and the Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions of 8 June 1977, and Amended Protocol II of 3 May 1996 to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects of 10 October 1980, as applicable.

<sup>248</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970–973.

<sup>249</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

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*Deeply concerned* by the continuous disregard, in many cases, for the principles and rules of international law, in particular international humanitarian law,

*Reaffirming* the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence for the provision of humanitarian assistance,

*Recalling* that primary responsibility under international law for the security and protection of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel lies with the Government hosting a United Nations operation conducted under the Charter of the United Nations or its agreements with relevant organizations,

*Expressing its appreciation* to those Governments which respect the internationally agreed principles on the protection of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, while expressing concern over the lack of respect for these principles in some areas,

*Noting* the fact that the number of States parties to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel,<sup>250</sup> which entered into force on 15 January 1999, has reached 95, mindful of the need to promote the universality of the Convention, and welcoming the entry into force on 19 August 2010 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel,<sup>251</sup> which expands the scope of legal protection under the Convention,

*Expressing deep concern* at the complex and dynamic security environment, marked by the diverse and multifaceted threats and significant security risks faced by humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel as they operate in increasingly high-risk environments, and the number of attacks directed against such personnel, including when they are on the roads, in public spaces, on United Nations premises and providing humanitarian assistance, including through United Nations Humanitarian Air Service,

*Deeply concerned* about the particular vulnerability of national and locally recruited humanitarian personnel, who accounted for once again the majority of safety and security incidents of all humanitarian personnel in 2022, including road traffic crashes and other safety-related incidents, fatalities and injuries from acts of violence, abduction, robbery, residence break-ins and burglaries, aggravated assault, sexual assaults, intimidation and harassment, and arrest and detention, and concerned that 7 out of 11 United Nations personnel killed as a result of violent acts in 2022 were locally recruited,<sup>252</sup>

*Reaffirming its commitment* to the zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse throughout the United Nations system, including the agencies, funds and programmes, and further emphasizing that the United Nations and humanitarian organizations should maintain internal systems to prevent, mitigate and address sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment against their own staff,

*Expressing deep concern* at the exposure of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel to certain forms of crime and acts of intimidation and harassment, including sexual violence and other forms of violence against women, and equally concerned at the significant number of reported sexual assaults against both male and female United Nations personnel,

*Expressing deep concern also* at the increasing trend of safety and security incidents, including while carrying out duties, which affect humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, as well as locally recruited personnel,

*Noting with concern* the increasing threat of disinformation campaigns and misinformation that undermine trust in United Nations and humanitarian organizations and put humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel at risk,

*Expressing deep concern* that the occurrence of attacks and threats against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel is a factor that severely restricts the provision of assistance and protection to populations in need, and commending the commitment of United Nations and other humanitarian personnel to stay and deliver effectively the most critical programmes even in dangerous environments,

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<sup>250</sup> Ibid., vol. 2051, No. 35457.

<sup>251</sup> Ibid., vol. 2689, No. 35457.

<sup>252</sup> A/78/369, para. 42.

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*Stressing* the need to uphold the respect and protection which the flag of the United Nations, and the nature of humanitarian work, should command and ensure, and stressing the importance of fully respecting the obligations relating to the use of vehicles and premises of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel as defined by relevant international instruments, as well as the obligations relating to distinctive emblems recognized in the Geneva Conventions,

*Noting* that medical personnel, and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, in an armed conflict situation continue to be under a duty to provide competent medical service in full professional and moral independence, with compassion and respect for human dignity, and always to bear in mind human life and to act in the patient's best interest, stressing the need to uphold their respective professional codes of ethics, and further noting the applicable rules of international humanitarian law relating to the non-punishment of any person for carrying out medical activities compatible with medical ethics,

*Commending* the courage and commitment of those who take part in humanitarian operations, especially national and locally recruited personnel, and including those serving with national and international non-governmental organizations in the field, often at great personal risk and a negative impact on their health, including their mental health and psychosocial well-being, especially when working in situations of armed conflict and exposed to direct violence, injury and risk of illness with limited access to medical and emergency facilities,

*Commending also* the courage and commitment of those who take part in peace operations, including peacekeeping operations,<sup>253</sup> often at great personal risk, especially national and locally recruited personnel,

*Expressing deep appreciation* for the efforts of the United Nations system and for the essential work of medical and humanitarian personnel working on the front line of the humanitarian response in the face of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and strongly condemning the high number of attacks, including against national and locally recruited medical and humanitarian personnel, as well as their means of transport and equipment, medical facilities and medical and relief supplies,

*Noting with concern* the evolving threats that United Nations personnel face when deployed and that, in 2022, 1,614 persons were affected by safety and security incidents, with 26 fatalities, of which 11 resulted from acts of violence, namely, crime, terrorism and armed conflict, 289 injuries, of which 124 resulted from acts of violence, 24 abductions, 16 sexual assaults, 107 arrests and detentions and 351 reported cases of intimidation and harassment,<sup>254</sup> and noting that these figures do not include United Nations personnel who are not part of the United Nations security management system, such as locally recruited area staff of UNRWA, of whom 29 were injured, 36 were arrested and detained and 96 reported cases of intimidation and harassment in 2022,<sup>255</sup> who have suffered unprecedented fatalities in 2023, which represents the highest number of United Nations fatalities ever recorded in a single conflict,<sup>256</sup>

*Strongly condemning* all acts of violence, attacks and threats against humanitarian personnel, expressing profound regret at the deaths, injuries, including those resulting in disabilities, and abductions resulting from these attacks, noting with concern that there were 444 recorded attacks against humanitarian personnel in 2022, resulting in at least 116 personnel killed, 143 wounded and 185 kidnapped,<sup>257</sup> and noting with concern that casualties continue to take a heavier toll on personnel of non-governmental organizations than on United Nations personnel,<sup>258</sup>

*Strongly condemning also* all acts of violence, attacks and threats against medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities, and the prevailing impunity for violations and abuses committed against such personnel,

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<sup>253</sup> The safety and security of United Nations peacekeepers is specifically addressed in the annual report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (*Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-seventh Session, Supplement No. 19 (A/77/19)*). Except where otherwise specified, the present resolution focuses only on the safety and security of civilian United Nations and associated personnel falling under the United Nations security management system under the responsibility of the Department of Safety and Security of the Secretariat.

<sup>254</sup> See [A/78/369](#), annexes I and III.

<sup>255</sup> *Ibid.*, annex V.

<sup>256</sup> See Statement by Principals of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee on the situation in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, 5 November 2023.

<sup>257</sup> See Aid Worker Security Report, August 2023.

<sup>258</sup> These data are based entirely on voluntary reporting to the Department of Safety and Security of the Secretariat (see [A/78/369](#), para. 44). The personnel of non-governmental organizations are not covered by the United Nations security management system.

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which in turn may contribute to the recurrence of those acts, and deploring the long-term consequences of such acts, which undermine relevant efforts to build up and strengthen health systems for the population and the health-care systems of the countries concerned, and in this regard welcoming efforts by States, international and non-governmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders to strengthen compliance with international humanitarian law by raising awareness of and promoting preparedness to address the grave and serious humanitarian consequences arising from such violence,

*Noting with appreciation* all the measures taken to enhance the performance of the United Nations security management system,

*Expressing profound regret* at the deaths, illnesses and other adverse consequences affecting humanitarian personnel and health-care personnel as a result of public health hazards, and stressing the need for a conducive environment, appropriate equipment and resilient public health systems, and the urgency of preparedness,

*Expressing deep concern* at the deep and long-lasting impacts of acts of violence, attacks and threats against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel,

*Strongly condemning* acts of murder and other forms of violence, rape and sexual assault and all forms of violence committed in particular against women and children, and intimidation, armed robbery, abduction, hostage-taking, kidnapping, harassment and illegal arrest and detention, to which those participating in humanitarian operations are exposed, as well as attacks on humanitarian convoys and acts of destruction and looting of property of humanitarian and United Nations and associated personnel,

*Affirming* the need for States to ensure that perpetrators of attacks committed on their territory against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel and against their premises or assets do not operate with impunity, that such attacks are investigated promptly and effectively and that the perpetrators of such acts are brought to justice, as provided for by national laws and in accordance with obligations under international law,

*Recognizing* the critical importance of continuing to strengthen existing monitoring systems for the safety and security of humanitarian and medical personnel in light of the challenging security environment in which such personnel operate, and emphasizing that United Nations and humanitarian organizations, including local humanitarian actors, should have timely access to available and relevant information that can be used effectively and to adequate and predictable resources for emergency response, including for the deployment of Emergency Response Teams, to strengthen risk assessment and effective security risk management, including through mainstreaming a gender and disaster risk-informed perspective, and recognizing the importance of collaboration with States in this regard,

*Recognizing also* the role of investigations in the prevention of incidents and the promotion of respect for international humanitarian law,

*Recalling* the inclusion of attacks intentionally directed against personnel involved in a humanitarian assistance or peacekeeping mission in accordance with the Charter, as long as they are entitled to the protection given to civilians or civilian objects under the international law of armed conflict, as a war crime in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,<sup>259</sup> and noting the role that the Court can play in appropriate cases in bringing to justice those responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law,

*Reaffirming* the need to ensure adequate levels of safety and security for United Nations and associated personnel, including locally recruited personnel, which constitutes an underlying duty of the Organization, and mindful of the need to promote and enhance security consciousness within the organizational culture of the United Nations and a culture of accountability at all levels, as well as to continue to promote awareness of and sensitivity to national and local cultures and laws,

*Gravely concerned* at the number of accidents and resulting casualties among United Nations and associated personnel, and conscious of the importance of road and aviation safety in ensuring the continuity of United Nations operations and preventing casualties among civilians and United Nations and associated personnel, and in this regard regretting the loss of civilian life as a result of such incidents,

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<sup>259</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2187, No. 38544.

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*Stressing* that acceptance of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel by the host Governments, local authorities, local communities, populations and other parties as appropriate crucially contributes to their safety and security,

*Noting* the importance of reinforcing close collaboration between the United Nations and the host country on contingency planning, information exchange and risk assessment in the context of good mutual cooperation on issues relating to the security of United Nations and associated personnel, as well as the importance of coordinating prevention and mitigation measures and managing security in crisis situations,

*Noting also* the importance of safe evacuation planning and the strengthening of capacity of the United Nations in order to enhance the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel,

*Noting further* the importance of further collaboration between the United Nations, its humanitarian agencies and other humanitarian organizations working in accordance with the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence on information-sharing and risk assessment with regard to the safety and security of humanitarian personnel, including, when feasible, national and locally recruited personnel,

*Noting* that, in order to remain fit for purpose and to support the effective and principled delivery of humanitarian assistance, the United Nations security management system needs to evolve in response to the challenging global security environment, requiring, inter alia, an effective management structure, adequate and predictable resources and the timely deployment of security personnel with appropriate skills and field experience and of the equipment necessary for the performance of their duties, including vehicles and telecommunications equipment, which have an essential role in facilitating the safety of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>260</sup>
2. *Urges* all States to make every effort to ensure the full and effective implementation of the relevant principles and rules of international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law, and refugee law as applicable, related to the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and United Nations personnel;
3. *Condemns in the strongest possible terms* the continued threats to and deliberate targeting of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, acts of terrorism and attacks on humanitarian convoys, and the continued increase in the scale and the increasingly complex nature of threats faced by such personnel, such as the disturbing trend of politically and criminally motivated attacks, including extremist attacks, against them;
4. *Strongly urges* all States to take the measures necessary to ensure the safety and security of national and international humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel and to respect and ensure respect for the inviolability of United Nations premises, which are essential to the continuation and successful implementation of United Nations operations;
5. *Calls upon* all Governments and parties in complex humanitarian emergencies, in particular in armed conflicts and in post-conflict situations, in countries in which humanitarian personnel are operating, in conformity with the relevant provisions of international law and national laws, to cooperate fully with the United Nations and other humanitarian agencies and organizations and to ensure the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel and the delivery of supplies and equipment, in order to allow those personnel to perform efficiently their task of assisting the affected civilian population, including refugees and internally displaced persons;
6. *Calls upon* all States and parties in complex humanitarian emergencies, in particular in armed conflict and in post-conflict situations, to ensure the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian and medical personnel, including those responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and other health emergencies, as well as their means of transport, supplies and equipment, and to support, facilitate and enable transportation and logistical supply lines, in order to allow such personnel to efficiently and safely perform their task of assisting affected populations, and in this regard also reaffirms the need to take the measures necessary to respect and protect such personnel, hospitals and other medical facilities, as well as their means of transport, supplies and equipment, and urges all parties to armed conflicts, consistent with international humanitarian law, to protect civilian infrastructure which is critical to the delivery of humanitarian assistance for the provision of essential service;

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<sup>260</sup> [A/78/369](#).

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7. *Calls upon* all States to consider becoming parties to and to respect fully their obligations under the relevant international instruments;
8. *Also calls upon* all States to consider becoming parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court;
9. *Further calls upon* all States to consider becoming parties to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, and urges States parties to put in place appropriate national legislation, as necessary, to enable its effective implementation;
10. *Calls upon* all States, all parties involved in armed conflict and all humanitarian actors to respect the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence for the provision of humanitarian assistance;
11. *Welcomes* the contribution of female humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel in humanitarian and United Nations operations, expresses concern that these personnel may be more exposed to certain forms of violence, including sexual violence; sexual exploitation and abuse; crime; and acts of intimidation and harassment, strongly urges the United Nations system and Member States to analyse the different forms of violence, including sexual violence; sexual exploitation and abuse; crime; acts of intimidation and harassment to which women and men are differently exposed, and also strongly urges the United Nations system and Member States to choose appropriate and gender-sensitive approaches for their safety and security while allowing them to fulfil their duties, and to ensure that female humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel are meaningfully included in decisions related to their safety and security, and that all reports of sexual violence against humanitarian workers are thoroughly investigated, and the alleged perpetrators brought to justice, in accordance with applicable laws;
12. *Strongly condemns* all acts of violence, attacks and threats against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, also condemns attacks intentionally directed against personnel involved in a peacekeeping mission in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations as long as they are entitled to protection from attack under international humanitarian law, and reaffirms the need to prosecute, penalize and punish those responsible for such acts;
13. *Encourages* Member States and the United Nations system to take appropriate action to address the increasing threat of disinformation campaigns and misinformation that undermine trust in United Nations and humanitarian organizations and put humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel at risk;
14. *Underscores* the critical importance of protecting all persons affected by humanitarian crises, in particular women and children, from any form of sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment, including those perpetrated by United Nations and humanitarian personnel, welcomes the determination of the Secretary-General to fully implement the United Nations policy of zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse and stresses that victims and survivors should be at the core of such efforts, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to continue to work in close consultation with Member States for the effective implementation of the policy, including prevention, reporting, enforcement and remedial actions;
15. *Stresses* the importance of continued close coordination and consultation with host Governments on the functioning of the security risk management process and related tools, and in this regard encourages the Secretary-General to continue to consult with the host Governments;
16. *Also stresses* the importance of ensuring that the security and safety of humanitarian and United Nations personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, is consistently and integrally considered in the planning for humanitarian action;
17. *Calls upon* all States to comply fully with their obligations under international humanitarian law, including as provided for under the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949,<sup>261</sup> in order to respect and protect civilians, including humanitarian personnel;
18. *Stresses* the obligation, in accordance with international humanitarian law and national laws and regulations, as applicable, to respect and protect medical personnel, as well as humanitarian personnel exclusively

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<sup>261</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.



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engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities, in all circumstances, in this regard notes the role of domestic legal frameworks and other appropriate measures in promoting the safety and protection of such personnel, urges States and all parties to armed conflict to develop and integrate effective measures to prevent and address violence against such personnel, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities, and strongly urges States to conduct full, prompt, impartial and effective investigations within their jurisdiction of violations of international humanitarian law related to the protection of the wounded and sick, medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities in armed conflict, and, where appropriate, to take action against those responsible in accordance with domestic and international law, with a view to reinforcing preventive measures, ensuring accountability and addressing the grievances of victims;

19. *Urges* States, while undertaking counter-terrorism activities, to respect their international obligations, including whenever international humanitarian law is applicable, in particular regarding the provision of humanitarian assistance to civilian populations, as well as recognizes the key role humanitarian organizations play in the provision of principled humanitarian assistance, while also recognizing the importance of preventing and suppressing the financing of and other forms of support to terrorism;

20. *Strongly urges* all States to take stronger action to ensure that crimes against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, and personnel involved in a peacekeeping mission in accordance with the Charter as long as they are entitled to protection from attack under international humanitarian law, do not remain unpunished and are investigated fully and effectively, and affirms the need for States to ensure that perpetrators of any such acts committed on their territory do not operate with impunity, as provided for by national laws and obligations under international law;

21. *Calls upon* all States to provide adequate and prompt information in the event of the arrest or detention of humanitarian personnel or United Nations and associated personnel so as to afford them the necessary medical assistance and to allow independent medical teams to visit and examine the health of those detained and to ensure their right to legal counsel, and urges States to take the measures necessary to ensure the speedy release of those who have been arrested or detained in violation of the relevant conventions referred to in the present resolution and applicable international humanitarian law;

22. *Calls upon* all parties involved in armed conflict not to abduct, take hostage or kidnap humanitarian personnel or United Nations and associated personnel or to detain them in violation of the relevant conventions referred to in the present resolution and applicable international humanitarian law, and speedily to release, without harm or requirement of concession, any abductee or detainee;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the measures necessary to promote full respect for the human rights, privileges and immunities of United Nations and associated personnel, and also requests the Secretary-General to seek the inclusion, in negotiations of headquarters and other mission agreements concerning United Nations and associated personnel, of the applicable conditions contained in the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations,<sup>262</sup> the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies<sup>263</sup> and the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel;

24. *Recommends* that the Secretary-General continue to seek the inclusion of, and that host countries include, key provisions of the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, among others, those regarding the prevention of attacks against members of the operation, the establishment of such attacks as crimes punishable by law and the prosecution or extradition of offenders, in future as well as, if necessary, in existing status-of-forces, status-of-mission, host country and other related agreements negotiated between the United Nations and those countries, mindful of the importance of the timely conclusion of such agreements, and encourages further efforts in this regard;

25. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to strengthen the ongoing efforts of the United Nations to develop a more systematic follow-up process with relevant host Governments on cases of serious crimes and acts of violence resulting in the death or serious injury of United Nations system personnel, in order to bring perpetrators to justice;

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<sup>262</sup> Resolution 22 A (I).

<sup>263</sup> Resolution 179 (II).



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26. *Calls upon* States to explore and scale up measures for more systematic monitoring, reporting and investigation of attacks against humanitarian and medical personnel;

27. *Notes with appreciation* the adoption by the Department of Safety and Security, in collaboration with other departments and offices of the Secretariat, of standard operating procedures on the victims of violence registry for fatalities in service, designed to provide follow-up with relevant host Governments on cases of serious crimes and acts of violence resulting in the death or serious injury of United Nations personnel;

28. *Calls attention to and reaffirms* the obligation of all humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel to respect and, where required, observe the national laws of the country in which they are operating, in accordance with international law and the Charter;

29. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring that humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel are aware and respectful of national and local customs and traditions in their countries of assignment and communicate clearly their purpose and objectives to local populations in order to enhance their acceptance, thereby contributing to their safety and security, and in this regard ensure that humanitarian action is guided by humanitarian principles;

30. *Urges* the United Nations and other relevant humanitarian actors to include as part of their risk management strategy and training the building of good relations and trust with national and local governments and the promotion of acceptance by local communities and all relevant actors, with a view to enhancing safety and security and ensuring access to the affected populations, and encourages Member States to support efforts by the United Nations and other relevant humanitarian actors to provide training to humanitarian personnel in this regard;

31. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take the measures necessary to ensure that United Nations and other personnel carrying out activities in fulfilment of the mandate of a United Nations operation are properly informed about and operate in conformity with mandatory security risk management measures and relevant codes of conduct and are properly informed about the conditions under which they are called upon to operate and the standards that they are required to meet, including those contained in relevant national laws and international law, and that adequate training in security, human rights law and international humanitarian law is provided so as to enhance their security and effectiveness in accomplishing their functions, and reaffirms the necessity for all other humanitarian organizations to provide their personnel with similar support;

32. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue, in coordination with Member States, to take the measures necessary to ensure that all United Nations premises and assets, including staff residences, are compliant with the United Nations mandatory security risk management measures and other relevant United Nations security standards, and to continue the ongoing assessment of United Nations premises and physical security worldwide;

33. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the Secretary-General to ensure that all United Nations personnel receive adequate safety and security training, stresses the need to continue to improve training so as to enhance cultural awareness and knowledge of relevant law, including international humanitarian law, prior to their deployment to the field, and reaffirms the necessity for all other humanitarian organizations to provide their personnel with similar support;

34. *Also welcomes* the efforts of the Secretary-General to provide counselling and support services to United Nations personnel affected by safety and security incidents, and emphasizes the importance of making available stress management, mental health and related services for United Nations personnel throughout the system, and encourages all humanitarian organizations to provide their personnel with similar support;

35. *Further welcomes* the ongoing measures taken by the Secretary-General and the United Nations system to enhance road safety, including through the United Nations system road safety strategy, so as to reduce incidents caused by road hazards and, in particular, to reduce casualties or injuries resulting from such incidents among United Nations and associated personnel and among the civilian population in the host country, encourages humanitarian organizations to promote similar approaches among their personnel, and requests the Secretary-General to continue the collection and analysis of data to report on road incidents, including civilian casualties resulting from road accidents, and to encourage road safety preventive measures such as specialized trainings;

36. *Welcomes* the progress made towards further enhancing the security management system of the United Nations, including the major progress in the completion of the integration of all security personnel of the Secretariat under the leadership of the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security, and supports the continued

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implementation of the stay-and-deliver strategy while focusing on effectively managing the risks to which personnel are exposed in order to enable the United Nations system to deliver the most critical programmes, even in high-risk environments;

37. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue consistent implementation of the programme criticality framework as an operational tool allowing informed decisions on acceptable risk to United Nations personnel, and welcomes the revised programme criticality framework;

38. *Also encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to develop enabling procedures that facilitate the deployment of suitably qualified United Nations security personnel with the appropriate knowledge, skills and experience, with the aim of improving the safety and security measures of the United Nations, in order to strengthen the ability of the United Nations to deliver on its programmes, mandates and activities, including humanitarian programmes;

39. *Requests* the Secretary-General, inter alia, through the Inter-Agency Security Management Network, to continue the increased cooperation and collaboration among United Nations departments, organizations, funds and programmes and affiliated international organizations, including between their headquarters and field offices, in the planning and implementation of measures aimed at improving staff security, training and awareness, including field crisis management and gender inclusion in security management, calls upon all relevant United Nations departments, organizations, funds and programmes and affiliated international organizations to support those efforts, and notes the approval by the Inter-Agency Security Management Network of a system-wide policy on the security of locally recruited personnel;

40. *Calls upon* all relevant actors to make every effort to support in their public statements and other forms of advocacy a favourable environment for the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including locally recruited personnel;

41. *Emphasizes* the need to pay particular attention to the safety and security of locally recruited humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, who play an important role, are often at great personal risk, account for the large majority of casualties and are particularly vulnerable to attacks, including in cases of kidnapping, harassment, banditry and intimidation, requests the Secretary-General to keep under review the relevant United Nations safety and security policy and to enhance the safety and security of locally recruited personnel, while maintaining operational effectiveness, and calls upon the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to ensure that their personnel are adequately consulted on, informed about and trained in the relevant security measures, plans and initiatives of their respective organizations, which should be in line with applicable national laws and international law;

42. *Requests* the Department of Safety and Security of the Secretariat to further strengthen the security management of the United Nations, focusing on strengthening security risk management policy and tools and their application, increasing situational awareness, analysis and emergency response capacity, taking into account a disaster risk-informed perspective, including by enhancing strategic foresight and planning, strengthening policy development and promoting best practices, increasing compliance with risk management measures and improving monitoring and evaluation, enhancing surge capacity for emergency response, devising effective physical security measures, developing the expertise of security professionals and strengthening support to the designated officials and the security management teams in the field, increasing lessons learned, extending common security training capacities, and continuing to review safety and security policies, training and risk management processes, and promoting an effective and preventive security management approach that is multidimensional;

43. *Encourages* the Secretary-General, together with the United Nations security management system organizations, to continue to improve and effectively utilize the existing incident data system, including digital tools, strengthen monitoring and management of security risks, including through a gender perspective, and timely data-sharing;

44. *Calls upon* Member States and relevant actors to enhance existing data-sharing mechanisms as appropriate, and to facilitate field-driven support services to humanitarian actors, including training and orientation sessions and sharing comparative, predictive and thematic analyses that take into account disaggregated data;

45. *Welcomes* the work of the Secretary-General in enhancing security collaboration with host Governments, including efforts to support United Nations designated officials with regard to collaboration with host government authorities on the safety and security of personnel;

46. *Stresses* that the effective functioning at the country level of security operations requires a unified and robust capacity for policy, standards, coordination, communication, compliance and threat and risk assessment and operational and deployment flexibility to ensure that the security workforce reflects the changing dynamics of the security environment, and notes the benefits thereof to United Nations and associated personnel, including those achieved by the Department of Safety and Security since its establishment;

47. *Welcomes* the steps taken by the Secretary-General thus far to strengthen partnerships, and encourages further efforts to enhance coordination, cooperation and information-sharing, at both the headquarters and field levels, between the United Nations, regional organizations and other humanitarian and non-governmental organizations on matters relating to the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, with a view to addressing mutual security concerns in the field, based on the Saving Lives Together framework as well as other relevant national and local initiatives in this regard, and requests the Secretary-General in this respect to enhance further collaborative initiatives to address the security needs of implementing partners, including through enhanced information-sharing, assistance in emergency situations, when feasible, and, where appropriate, security training, invites Member States to consider increasing support to those initiatives, and requests the Secretary-General to report on steps taken in this regard;

48. *Underlines* the urgent need to allocate adequate and predictable resources to the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel, through regular and extrabudgetary resources, including through the consolidated appeals process, and encourages all States to contribute to the trust fund for security of staff members of the United Nations system, inter alia, with a view to reinforcing the efforts of the Department of Safety and Security to meet its mandate and responsibilities to enable the safe delivery of programmes;

49. *Also underlines* the need for better coordination between the United Nations and host Governments, in accordance with the relevant provisions of international law and national laws, on the use and deployment of essential equipment required to provide for the safety and security of United Nations personnel and associated personnel working in the delivery of humanitarian assistance by United Nations organizations;

50. *Calls upon* States to consider acceding to or ratifying the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations of 18 June 1998,<sup>264</sup> which entered into force on 8 January 2005, and urges them to facilitate and expedite, consistent with their national laws and international obligations applicable to them, the use of communications equipment in those and other relief operations, inter alia, by limiting and, whenever possible, expeditiously lifting the restrictions placed on the use of communications equipment by United Nations and associated personnel;

51. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session a comprehensive and updated report on the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel and on the implementation of the present resolution, including an assessment of the impact of safety and security risks on such personnel, and the development, implementation and outcomes of policies, strategies and initiatives of the United Nations system in the field of safety and security.

## **RESOLUTION 78/119**

Adopted at the 47th plenary meeting, on 8 December 2023, without a vote, on the basis of draft resolution [A/78/L.20](#), sponsored by: Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Maldives, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Türkiye, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Zambia

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<sup>264</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2296, No. 40906.

**78/119. Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations**

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* its resolution [46/182](#) of 19 December 1991 and the guiding principles contained in the annex thereto, other relevant General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions and agreed conclusions of the Council,

*Taking note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations<sup>265</sup> and on the Central Emergency Response Fund,<sup>266</sup>

*Reaffirming* the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence in the provision of humanitarian assistance, and reaffirming also the need for all actors engaged in the provision of humanitarian assistance in situations of complex emergencies and natural disasters to promote and fully respect these principles,

*Expressing grave concern* at the increasing challenges caused by the unprecedented number of people affected by humanitarian emergencies, including protracted displacement, which are increasing in number, scale and severity and are stretching humanitarian response capacities, and expressing deep concern about the impact of climate change, the ongoing consequences of the financial and economic crisis, regional food crises, continuing food and energy insecurity, water scarcity, unplanned and rapid urbanization of populations, epidemics, natural hazards, environmental degradation, armed conflicts and acts of terrorism, which are adding to underdevelopment, poverty and inequality and are increasing the vulnerability of people while reducing their ability to cope with humanitarian crises,

*Expressing gravest concerns* about the humanitarian impact of and risks posed by the ongoing consequences and long-term effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), including on the already significant levels of humanitarian and development needs and suffering of affected people and communities, recognizing the disproportionate impact on women, children and people in vulnerable situations, and profoundly concerned by rising humanitarian assistance and protection needs including due to the increase in violence, including sexual and gender-based violence and violence against children, and the significant impact on education, especially for girls, as well as high levels of food insecurity and malnutrition and rising risks of famine, loss of livelihoods, and all the negative impacts on health, including mental health and psychosocial well-being, which are also exacerbated by weakened health systems, and the impacts and risks for displacement; and recognizing the compounded risks and impacts due to armed conflict, poverty, natural disasters, violence, the adverse effects of climate change, and other environmental challenges; and further recognizing the efforts and measures proposed by the Secretary-General concerning the response to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and taking note of the political declarations on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response,<sup>267</sup> on universal health coverage<sup>268</sup> and on the fight against tuberculosis<sup>269</sup> adopted at the respective high-level meetings of the General Assembly held in New York in September 2023, as well as General Assembly resolutions on the control and elimination of malaria,

*Underscoring* the need, in order to ensure a smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation and development, to better align, wherever appropriate, humanitarian and development assistance with national development priorities and strategies, and encouraging Member States, as well as the United Nations system and regional organizations, in supporting the efforts of Member States, to tackle the root causes of humanitarian crises, including poverty and underdevelopment, build the resilience of affected States, including host communities, and reduce humanitarian needs,

*Deeply concerned* about the rapidly growing gap between humanitarian needs and available resources, welcoming non-traditional donors and new partnerships, approaches and efforts, and emphasizing the need to mobilize adequate, predictable, timely and flexible resources for humanitarian assistance, based on and in proportion to assessed risks and needs, with a view to planning for, mitigating, preparing for, responding to and recovering from humanitarian emergencies,

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<sup>265</sup> [A/78/73-E/2023/61](#).

<sup>266</sup> [A/78/365](#).

<sup>267</sup> Resolution [78/3](#), annex.

<sup>268</sup> Resolution [78/4](#), annex.

<sup>269</sup> Resolution [78/5](#), annex.

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*Recognizing*, in this regard, the significant achievements of the Central Emergency Response Fund in facilitating life-saving assistance to crisis-affected people by providing timely funding, enabling humanitarian organizations and their implementing partners to act quickly when tragedy strikes and steer resources to crises that do not receive the attention that they need and deserve, emphasizing the need to broaden and diversify the income base of the Fund, and welcoming in this regard the call by the Secretary-General to increase the level of the Fund to 1 billion United States dollars,

*Recognizing also* the significant achievements of country-based pooled funds in facilitating assistance to people in need, noting the Secretary-General's call for donors to increase the proportion of humanitarian appeal funding channelled through country-based pooled funds, and noting also that other pooled funding mechanisms can make important contributions,

*Emphasizing* that strengthened needs analysis, risk management and strategic planning, in coordination with affected States, including through the use of open and disaggregated data, are crucial elements to ensure a better informed, more effective, transparent and collective response to the needs of people affected by crises,

*Reiterating* the need for Member States, relevant United Nations organizations and other relevant actors to mainstream a gender perspective into humanitarian assistance and integrate a gender perspective into all disaster risk reduction efforts, including by addressing the specific needs, and promoting the priorities and capacities, of women, girls, men and boys in a comprehensive and consistent manner, and also respecting and protecting their rights, recognizing that in humanitarian emergencies, women, girls and boys face heightened risks to their safety, health and well-being, and reiterating also that it is essential to ensure that women are empowered to effectively and meaningfully participate in leadership and decision-making processes,

*Reiterating also* the need for Member States, relevant United Nations organizations and other relevant actors to improve accountability at all levels for the needs of affected populations, and recognizing the importance of inclusive participation in decision-making,

*Recognizing* that persons with disabilities are disproportionately affected in humanitarian emergencies and face multiple barriers in accessing assistance, recalling the need for the involvement of persons with disabilities in decision-making processes and for mainstreaming, where possible, their perspectives and needs in humanitarian preparedness and response, and in this regard recalling the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action,

*Expressing its deep concern* about the increasing challenges faced by Member States and the United Nations humanitarian response system and their capacities as a result of the consequences of disasters, including those related to the continuing impact of climate change, reaffirming the need for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,<sup>270</sup> and welcoming the convening of the seventh session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in May 2022 and of the high-level meeting on the midterm review of the Sendai Framework on 18 and 19 May 2023, at which the Assembly adopted the political declaration on the midterm review of the Sendai Framework,<sup>271</sup>

*Welcoming* the Paris Agreement<sup>272</sup> 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 Change<sup>273</sup> that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

*Reaffirming* the adoption of the New Urban Agenda by the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016,<sup>274</sup> and noting the commitments undertaken therein by Member States regarding persons affected by humanitarian crises in urban areas,

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<sup>270</sup> Resolution 69/283, annex II.

<sup>271</sup> Resolution 77/289, annex.

<sup>272</sup> See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

<sup>273</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

<sup>274</sup> Resolution 71/256, annex.

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*Taking note* of the World Humanitarian Summit, held in Istanbul, Türkiye, on 23 and 24 May 2016, and taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General on the outcome of the World Humanitarian Summit,<sup>275</sup>

*Recognizing* the primary role of Member States in preparing for and responding to outbreaks of infectious disease, in compliance with the International Health Regulations (2005) adopted by the World Health Assembly,<sup>276</sup> including those that become humanitarian crises, highlighting the critical role played by Member States, the World Health Organization as the directing and coordinating authority of international health work, the United Nations humanitarian system, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other humanitarian actors in providing financial, technical and in-kind support in order to bring epidemics or pandemics under control, and recognizing also the need to strengthen local and national health systems, early reporting and early warning systems, preparedness, cross-sectoral response capacities, and resilience linked to outbreaks of infectious disease, including through capacity-building for developing countries,

*Recognizing also* that developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, remain acutely vulnerable to human and economic loss resulting from natural hazards, and recognizing further the need for strengthening international cooperation, as appropriate, to strengthen their resilience in this regard,

*Recognizing further* that inclusive economic growth and sustainable development are essential for the prevention of and preparedness for natural disasters and other emergencies,

*Recognizing*, in this respect, that building national and local preparedness and response capacity through, inter alia, appropriate, inclusive and conducive public policies and international assistance is critical to a more predictable and effective response and contributes to the achievement of humanitarian and development objectives, including enhanced resilience and a reduced need for humanitarian response,

*Recognizing also* that enhanced access to international climate finance is important to support mitigation and adaptation efforts in developing countries, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, and recognizing further the ongoing efforts in this regard,

*Emphasizing* the fundamentally civilian character of humanitarian assistance, and reaffirming, in situations in which military capacity and assets are used as a last resort to support the implementation of humanitarian assistance, the need for their use to be undertaken with the consent of the affected State and in conformity with international law, including international humanitarian law, as well as humanitarian principles,

*Recognizing* the high number of people affected by humanitarian emergencies, including the unprecedented number of people who are forcibly displaced, of whom a majority are women and children, owing to conflict, acts of terrorism, persecution, violence and other reasons, and who are often displaced for protracted periods, wherein the national authorities have the primary duty and responsibility to provide protection and humanitarian assistance and promote durable solutions for internally displaced persons within their jurisdiction, bearing in mind their particular needs,

*Noting* the need for increased awareness of the international community regarding the issue of internal displacement worldwide, including the situation of the millions living in protracted situations of displacement, and the urgency of providing adequate humanitarian assistance to and protection for internally displaced persons, supporting host communities, addressing the root causes of displacement, finding durable solutions for internally displaced persons in their countries and addressing possible obstacles in this regard, and recognizing that durable solutions include voluntary return in safety and with dignity, as well as voluntary local integration in the areas to which persons have been displaced or voluntary settlement in another part of the country, without prejudice to the right of internally displaced persons to leave their country or to seek asylum,

*Reaffirming* the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, adopted at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, held on 19 September 2016,<sup>277</sup>

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<sup>275</sup> [A/71/353](#).

<sup>276</sup> World Health Organization, document WHA58/2005/REC/1, resolution 58.3, annex.

<sup>277</sup> Resolution [71/1](#).

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*Expressing concern* about the particular difficulties faced by the millions of refugees in protracted situations, recognizing that the average length of stay has continued to grow, and emphasizing the need to redouble international efforts and cooperation to find practical and comprehensive approaches to resolving their plight and to realize durable solutions for them, consistent with the Charter of the United Nations, international law and relevant General Assembly resolutions,

*Noting with great concern* that millions of people are facing famine or the immediate risk of famine or are experiencing acute food insecurity and malnutrition in several regions of the world, and noting that armed conflicts, drought, poverty and the volatility of commodity prices are among the factors causing or exacerbating famine, and acute food insecurity and malnutrition, and that additional efforts, including international support, are urgently needed to address this, recognizing in this regard the initiatives and efforts to address and mitigate rising food insecurity and malnutrition by the Secretary-General and the United Nations system,

*Recognizing* the importance of international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions of 1949,<sup>278</sup> which provides a vital legal framework for the protection of civilian persons in time of war, including the provision of humanitarian assistance,

*Noting with great concern* difficulties related to access to reaching people in need of humanitarian assistance, including in hard-to-reach areas, for humanitarian and medical personnel, supplies, equipment and services due to armed conflicts, violence and threats of violence, deliberate targeting, bureaucratic and other impediments, as well as non-cooperation, and recognizing the severe impact on the work of the United Nations, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and other humanitarian organizations in the provision of assistance and protection to people in need,

*Strongly condemning* all acts of violence, including direct attacks, against humanitarian personnel and facilities, as well as against medical personnel and other humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, and hospitals and other medical facilities, which in a majority of cases affect locally recruited personnel, noting with concern the negative implications for the provision of humanitarian assistance to populations in need, and welcoming efforts such as the Health Care in Danger project of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, together with States, international and non-governmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders, to strengthen compliance with international humanitarian law by raising awareness, and promoting preparedness to address the grave and serious humanitarian consequences arising from such violence,

*Recalling* the obligations of all States and parties to an armed conflict, in accordance with the relevant provisions of international humanitarian law to respect and protect, in situations of armed conflict, medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, and hospitals and other medical facilities, which must not be attacked, and to ensure that the wounded and sick receive, to the fullest extent practicable and with the least possible delay, the medical care and attention required, and noting the applicable rules of international humanitarian law relating to the non-punishment of any person for carrying out medical activities compatible with medical ethics,

*Commending* the courage and commitment of those who take part in humanitarian operations, especially national and locally recruited personnel, and including those serving with national and international non-governmental organizations in the field, often at great personal risk and a negative impact to their health, including their mental health and psychosocial well-being, especially when working in situations of armed conflict and exposed to direct violence, injury and risk of illness with limited access to medical and emergency facilities,

*Noting with grave concern* that violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, and violence against children, including sexual violence, continues to be deliberately directed against civilian populations during and after humanitarian situations,

*Recognizing* that, while women and girls are disproportionately affected, men and boys can also be victims and/or survivors of sexual and gender-based violence,

*Noting with appreciation* the efforts that Member States, the United Nations and other relevant actors continue to make to improve the effectiveness of humanitarian response based on needs, including by strengthening humanitarian response capacities, improving humanitarian coordination, identifying and integrating appropriate

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<sup>278</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970–973.



innovation into humanitarian preparedness, response and recovery, increasing transparency, reducing duplication, strengthening partnerships with local and national responders as appropriate, enhancing flexible, predictable and adequate funding and strengthening the accountability of all stakeholders,

*Recognizing* the critical importance of continuing to enhance the capacities of the United Nations humanitarian system and humanitarian organizations to reach people in need of humanitarian assistance and protection, in line with humanitarian principles,

*Noting with grave concern* that children and youth continue to lack education in situations of complex emergencies, and emphasizing the urgent need for increased financing and more efficient delivery of quality education in humanitarian emergencies and for facilitating continuous and equitable access to quality education for children and youth in humanitarian emergencies, including in the face of the ongoing consequences and long-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, disasters caused by natural and human-made hazards, the adverse effects of climate change and armed conflicts,

*Recognizing* that, in strengthening the coordination of humanitarian assistance in the field, the organizations of the United Nations system should continue to consult and work in close coordination with national Governments,

*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 and helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions,

*Reaffirming further* the importance of humanitarian assistance by the United Nations system, and welcoming the thirtieth anniversary of its resolution 46/182,

1. *Welcomes* the outcome of the twenty-sixth humanitarian affairs segment of the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2023,<sup>279</sup> and also welcomes the adoption of Economic and Social Council resolution 2023/16 of 23 June 2023;

2. *Requests* the Emergency Relief Coordinator to continue his efforts to strengthen the coordination and accountability of humanitarian assistance and leadership within the United Nations humanitarian response system, including through the transformative agenda of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, and calls upon relevant United Nations organizations and other relevant intergovernmental organizations, as well as other humanitarian and development actors, to continue to work with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat to enhance the coordination, effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian assistance;

3. *Also requests* the Emergency Relief Coordinator to continue to improve dialogue with all Member States on the relevant processes, activities and deliberations of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee;

4. *Encourages* Member States and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to continue to improve dialogue and collaboration on humanitarian issues, at the global and field levels, including on policy, in order to foster a more consultative and inclusive approach to humanitarian assistance;

5. *Welcomes* the continued efforts by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to build partnerships with regional organizations and non-traditional donors and the private sector, and encourages Member States and the United Nations system to continue to strengthen partnerships at the global, regional, national and local levels in support of national efforts in order to effectively cooperate to provide humanitarian assistance to those in

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<sup>279</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/78/3)*, chap. XI.



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need and ensure that their collaborative efforts adhere to the principles of neutrality, humanity, impartiality and independence;

6. *Encourages* the United Nations to continue to strengthen coordination, preparedness and response efforts and to improve the quality and effectiveness of humanitarian action, including through enhancing complementarity with and between relevant stakeholders, such as affected Governments, regional organizations, donors, development organizations, civil society and the private sector, involved in response efforts to make use of their comparative advantages and resources;

7. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations system and humanitarian and development organizations to continue to assess and improve, together with other relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, how innovation can be more proactively and systematically identified and integrated into humanitarian action in a sustainable manner and to promote the sharing of best practices and lessons learned on innovative tools, processes and approaches, including those from large-scale natural disasters and humanitarian crises of a protracted nature, that could improve the effectiveness and quality of humanitarian response, and in this regard encourages all relevant stakeholders to continue to support the efforts of Member States, in particular developing countries, to strengthen their capacities, including through facilitating access to information and communications technologies;

8. *Welcomes* innovative practices that draw on the knowledge of people affected by humanitarian emergencies to develop locally sustainable solutions and to produce life-saving items locally, with minimal logistical and infrastructure implications;

9. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system and, as appropriate, other relevant humanitarian actors to continue efforts to improve the humanitarian response to disasters caused by natural and human-made hazards and complex emergencies by further strengthening humanitarian response capacities at all levels, by continuing to strengthen the provision and coordination of humanitarian assistance at the global, regional and field levels, including through existing cluster coordination mechanisms and in support of national authorities of the affected State, as appropriate, and by further enhancing efficiency, transparency, performance and accountability;

10. *Recognizes* the benefits of engagement and coordination with relevant humanitarian actors to the effectiveness of humanitarian response, and encourages the United Nations to continue to pursue efforts to strengthen partnerships at the global level with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, relevant humanitarian non-governmental organizations, other participants in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and other relevant stakeholders;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to strengthen the support provided to United Nations resident/humanitarian coordinators and to United Nations country teams, including by providing necessary training, identifying resources and improving the identification of and the selection process for United Nations resident/humanitarian coordinators, and enhancing their performance accountability;

12. *Calls upon* the Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group and the Emergency Relief Coordinator to continue to enhance their consultations before presenting final recommendations on the selection process for resident coordinators in countries likely to require significant humanitarian response operations;

13. *Requests* the United Nations to continue to strengthen its ability to recruit and deploy appropriately senior, skilled and experienced humanitarian staff quickly and flexibly, giving paramount consideration to the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, while paying due regard to gender equality and to recruiting on as wide a geographical basis as possible, and in this regard encourages the United Nations Sustainable Development Group to continue to strengthen the resident coordinator system, on which the humanitarian coordinator system is based, ensuring, inter alia, full implementation of the management and accountability system of the Group and the resident coordinator system;

14. *Recognizes* that diversity of humanitarian staff brings value to humanitarian work and understanding of developing countries' contexts, and requests the Secretary-General to address further the insufficient diversity in geographical representation and gender balance in the composition of the humanitarian staff of the Secretariat and other United Nations humanitarian agencies, in particular regarding professional and high-level staff, and to report on concrete measures taken in this regard in his annual report;

15. *Also recognizes* that accountability is an integral part of effective humanitarian assistance, and emphasizes the need for enhancing the accountability of humanitarian actors at all stages of humanitarian assistance;

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16. *Urges* Member States to continue to give priority to efforts to prevent, respond to, investigate and prosecute acts of sexual and gender-based violence in humanitarian emergencies, calls upon Member States and relevant organizations to improve coordination and strengthen capacity, to ensure that humanitarian relief integrates prevention of, and risk mitigation for, sexual and gender-based violence and makes greater use of sex- and age-disaggregated data and to strengthen support services for victims, survivors and others affected by such violence beginning in the earliest stages of emergency response, taking into account their unique and specific needs resulting from the impact of such violence, and notes the Call to Action initiative;

17. *Underscores* the critical importance of protecting all persons affected by humanitarian crises, in particular women and children, from any form of sexual exploitation and abuse, including those perpetrated by humanitarian personnel, welcomes the determination of the Secretary-General to fully implement the United Nations policy of zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse and stresses that victims and survivors should be at the core of such efforts, notes the six core principles relating to sexual exploitation and abuse adopted by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee,<sup>280</sup> and encourages Member States to make greater efforts to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse and to ensure that perpetrators are held accountable;

18. *Urges* Member States to continue to seek to prevent, respond to, investigate and prosecute violations and abuses against children, including exploitation, in humanitarian emergencies, calls upon Member States and relevant organizations to strengthen support services for children affected by humanitarian emergencies, including those who have experienced violations and abuses, and calls for a more effective response in that regard, guided by the rights of the child;

19. *Reaffirms* the importance of implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 to ensure the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihood and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries, and underlines the importance of tackling the underlying disaster risk drivers, of considering the impact of climate change and of integrating a disaster risk reduction perspective into humanitarian assistance to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risk;

20. *Encourages* the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to enhance efforts to further study, prepare for, address and minimize the humanitarian consequences of the adverse effects of climate change and environmental risks;

21. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations and relevant humanitarian and development organizations to continue to support multi-year investment, when possible, in preparedness, response and coordination capacities, and build the capacity at all levels of government, including local government, of organizations and of communities, particularly in communities exposed to disasters, to better prepare for hazards, reduce disaster risk and the risk of displacement within the context of disasters, build resilience and better respond to and recover from and build back better after disasters, and also calls upon all relevant stakeholders to complement, rather than substitute for or displace, national capacities to respond to crises, especially where those crises are prolonged or recurrent;

22. *Calls upon* Member States and the international community to provide adequate, sustainable and timely resources for disaster risk reduction, in order to build resilience and reduce the risk of displacement within the context of disasters, environmental degradation and climate change, including through complementary humanitarian and development programming and the further strengthening of national and local capacities to prevent, prepare for and respond to humanitarian emergencies, and encourages closer cooperation between national stakeholders and humanitarian and development actors in this regard;

23. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations humanitarian system, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other humanitarian actors to reinforce preparedness and response capabilities in relation to those outbreaks of infectious disease that trigger or exacerbate a humanitarian crisis, including by fully implementing the International Health Regulations (2005), and calls upon the United Nations humanitarian system and humanitarian organizations to respond rapidly, based on the level 3 activation procedure for infectious disease events in humanitarian contexts, in close coordination with affected States;

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<sup>280</sup> [A/57/465](#), annex I, para. 10 (a).

24. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian organizations and relevant stakeholders to scale up systematic prevention, preparedness and response to health emergencies in humanitarian contexts, and to draw on lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, including from the strengthening of national, regional and multilateral approaches and international cooperation, such as the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) and its COVAX Facility, and other relevant initiatives in order to enable the fair, equitable, timely and affordable access to safe, quality and effective COVID-19 vaccines, testing and treatment to prevent and contain transmission as countries transition to pandemic recovery, while also noting the importance of inclusive national vaccination programmes covering internally displaced persons, migrants and refugees, and encourages United Nations agencies and other relevant stakeholders to support Member States, including refugee-hosting countries and countries of origin, in full coordination with their national government, and takes note of the political declarations on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, on universal health coverage and on the fight against tuberculosis adopted at the respective high-level meetings of the General Assembly held in New York in September 2023, as well as General Assembly resolutions on the control and elimination of malaria;

25. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations and other relevant organizations, as appropriate, to address non-communicable diseases and their risk factors and to treat people living with them in humanitarian emergencies;

26. *Encourages* closer cooperation between development and humanitarian actors, in coordination with Member States, to ensure that all relevant actors work together, in accordance with their mandates, towards common results with the aim of reducing need, vulnerability and risk over multiple years, based on shared understanding of the context and each actor's operational strengths, in support of national priorities, while fully respecting the humanitarian principles for humanitarian action;

27. *Encourages* humanitarian and development actors to pursue, where appropriate, common risk-management and resilience objectives, achievable through joint analysis and multi-year programming and planning cycles;

28. *Encourages* the United Nations system, humanitarian organizations and development organizations to continue their efforts to mainstream preparedness, early action and early recovery into their programming, acknowledges that preparedness, early action and early recovery should receive further funding, and in this regard encourages the provision of timely, flexible, predictable and adequate resources, including from both humanitarian and development budgets, as appropriate;

29. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations, humanitarian and development organizations and other relevant actors to urgently and effectively respond to, prevent and prepare for rising global food insecurity affecting millions of people, especially those who are facing famine or the immediate risk of famine, including by enhancing humanitarian and development cooperation and providing urgent funding to respond to the needs of the affected population, and calls upon Member States and parties to armed conflicts to ensure safe and unhindered humanitarian access to civilians in need and to respect international humanitarian law;

30. *Calls upon* Member States, parties to armed conflict, the United Nations and other humanitarian and development actors, international financial institutions and other relevant actors to urgently increase their measures to prevent famine and to reduce and address acute food insecurity and malnutrition, and also urges Member States, the United Nations and other relevant organizations to take further steps to provide a coordinated emergency response to the food and nutrition needs of affected populations, while aiming to ensure that such steps are supportive of national strategies and programmes aimed at improving food security and nutrition;

31. *Calls upon* Member States, parties to armed conflict, the United Nations, humanitarian and development organizations, international financial institutions and other relevant actors to urgently increase their measures to prevent famine and to reduce and address acute food insecurity and malnutrition, which is compounded by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and effectively respond to, prevent and prepare for rising global food insecurity affecting millions of people, especially those who are facing famine or the immediate risk of famine, including by enhancing humanitarian and development cooperation and providing urgent funding to respond to the needs of the affected population, supported by multisector early warning and analysis; and stresses the need to address food insecurity and malnutrition, including through: respect for international humanitarian law, investing in gender-sensitive humanitarian assistance and protection, livelihoods, climate adaptation and mitigation, health, water, sanitation and hygiene, nutrition, sustainable food systems, access to healthy diets, energy, poverty reduction, and addressing inequalities, including gender inequality, and providing for the peaceful resolution of armed conflict, and encourages strengthening efforts to empower rural women as essential actors in achieving food security and improved nutrition, as well as to

prevent and respond to negative coping mechanisms, recognizing their disproportionate impact on women and children; and calls upon Member States and parties to armed conflicts to respect international humanitarian law and ensure safe and unhindered humanitarian access;

32. *Strongly condemns* the use of starvation of civilians as a method of warfare, including by attacking, destroying, removing or rendering useless objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population, which is prohibited by international humanitarian law, urges all parties to armed conflict to protect civilian infrastructure, which is critical to the provision of essential services and the delivery of humanitarian aid to the civilian population, and the functioning of agrifood systems and markets in situations of armed conflict, and also urges all parties to armed conflicts to ensure and facilitate safe and unhindered humanitarian access to civilians in need;

33. *Expresses concern* about the challenges related to, inter alia, safe access to and use of fuel, firewood, alternative energy, water and sanitation, shelter and food and health-care services, including mental health and psychosocial services, in humanitarian emergencies, and notes with appreciation initiatives at the national and international levels, including those that systematically identify and integrate innovative approaches and share best practices, that promote effective cooperation in this regard;

34. *Encourages* the international community, including relevant United Nations organizations and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, to support efforts of Member States aimed at strengthening their capacity to prepare for and respond to disasters and to support efforts, as appropriate, to strengthen systems, especially early warning systems, for identifying and monitoring disaster risk, including vulnerability to natural hazards, and especially to substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems in communities and countries exposed to natural hazards and environmental degradation to enable effective early action, including through the Secretary-General's Early Warnings for All initiative to ensure that every person on the planet is protected by early warning systems by 2027;

35. *Welcomes* the growing number of Member States and regional organizations that have taken steps to promote the implementation of the Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance, encourages others to do so, as appropriate, and welcomes the valuable support that national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies are providing to their Governments in this area, in collaboration with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and other partners;

36. *Encourages* States to create an enabling environment for the capacity-building of local authorities and of national and local non-governmental and community-based organizations in order to ensure better preparedness in providing timely, effective and predictable assistance, and encourages the United Nations and other relevant organizations to provide support to such efforts, including, as appropriate, under the Common Framework for Preparedness of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, the United Nations Sustainable Development Group and the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, through the transfer of technology, on mutually agreed terms, and expertise to developing countries and through support to enhance the coordination capacities and build capacity in science and technology of affected States;

37. *Recognizes* the increase in the number and scale of disasters, including those related to the adverse effects of climate change, which in certain instances may contribute to displacement and to additional pressure on host communities, encourages Member States, the United Nations and relevant organizations and actors to further strengthen the efforts aimed at addressing the needs of persons displaced within the context of disasters, including those induced by climate change, and notes in this regard the importance of sharing best practices to prevent and prepare for such displacements;

38. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to provide emergency assistance in ways that are supportive of recovery and long-term development, where appropriate, including through multi-year funding and prioritizing humanitarian tools that strengthen resilience, such as, but not limited to, cash-based transfers, local procurement of food and services, including for school feeding programmes, and social safety nets;

39. *Encourages* Member States and the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies to respond more effectively to needs in humanitarian contexts by, inter alia, scaling up social protection policies and cash assistance, where feasible, including multipurpose cash programming, as appropriate, to offer affected people flexibility on how to meet their humanitarian needs, and to support the development of local markets and strengthen

national and local capacities, and in this regard calls upon the United Nations humanitarian organizations to continue building their capacity to systematically consider cash assistance, alongside other forms of humanitarian assistance, and takes note of efforts by the United Nations system, including moving towards a cash coordination model to increase effectiveness, efficiency, predictability and accountability of cash operations to provide multipurpose cash assistance for food, non-food items and access to services and other support;

40. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations system and other relevant organizations to improve, where possible, fast and flexible financing for preparedness, early action, early response and early recovery, and in this regard encourages exploring, developing and, where appropriate, the strengthening of innovative and anticipatory mechanisms and approaches, such as forecast-based financing and disaster risk insurance, to reduce the impact of disasters and address humanitarian needs;

41. *Encourages* States, as well as the United Nations, and humanitarian organizations, in accordance with their respective mandates and in line with humanitarian principles, learning from the COVID-19 pandemic experience, to continue to scale up anticipatory approaches, early warning early action systems, forecasting, prevention-oriented responses and emergency preparedness, and improve predictive and risk data analytics across sectors, reinforce systematic risk monitoring, early warning and preparedness capacities at local, national, regional and global levels, including, inter alia, those associated with health risks and disease outbreaks, and takes note of the relevant United Nations frameworks and initiatives related to health emergency preparedness;

42. *Takes note* of the efforts of Member States, the United Nations system and the international community to strengthen preparedness and local, national and regional humanitarian response capacity, calls upon the United Nations and relevant partners to support capacity-building of Member States, and calls upon Member States to continue to provide funding to humanitarian country-based pooled funds;

43. *Encourages* Member States, and calls upon relevant humanitarian organizations, to work closely with national institutions, including local governments and the private sector, as appropriate, to examine effective, context-specific ways to be better prepared for, respond to and recover from increasing emergencies in urban areas, which may have an impact on the provision of such life-saving essential services as water, energy and health care;

44. *Reaffirms* the right to education for all and the importance of ensuring safe enabling learning environments in humanitarian emergencies, as well as quality education at all levels, including for girls, including technical and vocational training opportunities, where possible, including through adequate funding and infrastructural investments, for the well-being of all, in this regard recognizes that access to quality education in humanitarian emergencies can contribute to long-term development goals and reiterates the need to protect and respect educational facilities in accordance with international humanitarian law, strongly condemns all attacks directed against schools and the use of schools for military purposes, when in contravention of international humanitarian law, and encourages efforts to promote safe and protective school environments in humanitarian emergencies;

45. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations and relevant humanitarian actors to scale up support for humanitarian programming and response for safe, inclusive, equitable and quality education at all levels and ages, in order to mitigate the direct and indirect impacts from the closure of schools and other educational institutions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, among other causes, in order to help to ensure the continuation of education services, particularly for women and children, especially girls;

46. *Calls upon* the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and other United Nations organizations to continue to work with Member States and relevant United Nations entities to facilitate the exchange of updated, accurate and reliable information, including through mutually comprehensible, disaggregated and harmonized data, to ensure better assessment and analysis of needs in order to improve preparedness and humanitarian response;

47. *Calls upon* relevant United Nations organizations to support the improvement of the humanitarian programme cycle, including the development of coordinated and comprehensive needs assessment tools, such as multisector initial rapid assessments, the implementation of joint, impartial and timely needs assessments and prioritized needs-based humanitarian response plans, in consultation with the affected States, in order to strengthen the coordination of humanitarian action to meet the needs of people affected by humanitarian emergencies;

48. *Encourages* Member States to commit and to disburse in a timely fashion humanitarian funding based on, and in accordance with, the humanitarian appeals brought forward by the United Nations;

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49. *Encourages* Member States and relevant United Nations organizations to explore innovative risk-sharing mechanisms and to base risk management funding on objective data;

50. *Encourages* United Nations and humanitarian organizations to further advance efficiencies in delivering assistance through reducing management costs, harmonizing partnership agreements, providing transparent and comparable cost structures, and strengthening measures to achieve greater accountability by taking further actions to reduce fraud, waste and abuse and identify ways to share incident reports and other information among United Nations agencies, where appropriate;

51. *Requests* Member States, relevant humanitarian organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant humanitarian actors to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women in all stages of humanitarian response, to take measures to ensure the full participation of women, girls, men and boys, including persons with disabilities and older persons, in all stages of decision-making, as appropriate, in order to, inter alia, reduce gender inequalities and ensure that humanitarian assistance is informed, adapted, appropriate and effective, and to take into account the specific needs, vulnerabilities and capacities of women, girls, men and boys, taking into consideration age and disability, in the design of needs assessments and the implementation of all programming, including by seeking to ensure the provision of access to the full range of medical, legal and psychosocial and livelihood services, without discrimination, and in this regard encourages efforts to ensure gender mainstreaming, including in the collection and analysis of disaggregated data, in the analysis of allocations and programme implementation, and through greater use of the Gender with Age Marker;

52. *Recognizes* the important role that women can play as first responders, and encourages Member States, the United Nations and other relevant humanitarian organizations to support women's leadership and meaningful participation in the planning and implementation of response strategies, including by strengthening partnerships and building the capacities of national and local institutions, including national and local women's organizations, women-led organizations and other civil society actors, as appropriate;

53. *Calls upon* Member States, relevant humanitarian organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant humanitarian actors to ensure non-discrimination and opportunities for persons with disabilities to participate on an equal basis with others in humanitarian preparedness and response;

54. *Calls upon* the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations, in coordination with Member States, to engage all people affected by disasters and crises, in particular those most at risk, including through communication, enabling their participation in relevant processes and supporting their efforts and capacities to meet their different needs, while taking into account, as appropriate, their culture, traditions and local customs;

55. *Calls upon* United Nations humanitarian organizations, in consultation with Member States, as appropriate, to strengthen the evidence base for humanitarian assistance by further developing common mechanisms and methodologies for improving the quality, transparency, reliability, compatibility and comparability of common humanitarian needs assessments, needs data and analysis, including through improved collection, analysis and reporting of data disaggregated by sex, age and disability and taking into account environmental impact, to assess their performance in assistance and to ensure the most effective use of humanitarian resources by those organizations;

56. *Calls upon* the United Nations and its humanitarian partners to enhance accountability to Member States, including affected States, and all other stakeholders, including local governments, relevant local organizations and other actors, as well as affected populations, and to further strengthen humanitarian response efforts, including by monitoring and evaluating the provision and impact of their humanitarian assistance, incorporating lessons learned into programming and consulting with the affected populations in the planning and implementation of humanitarian assistance, and making greater efforts in this regard, including by sharing timely and relevant information and enhancing affected community engagement and feedback mechanisms, so that their needs are appropriately assessed and effectively addressed;

57. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to identify better ways of working to address the increasing capacity and resource gap, in order to effectively meet the needs of affected populations, including by harmonizing and, where possible, simplifying reporting requirements, increasing the flexibility of humanitarian funding, including through reduced earmarking and further minimizing the duplication of costs, and making more use of innovation in humanitarian response;

58. *Calls upon* Member States and other relevant stakeholders to heed the urgency of humanitarian appeals brought forward by the United Nations and to mobilize resources to support humanitarian response plans, and also

calls upon donors to provide adequate, timely, predictable and flexible resources, based on and in proportion to assessed needs, and to mobilize support for addressing underfunded and forgotten emergencies, to consider providing early and multi-year commitments to pooled humanitarian funds, including the Central Emergency Response Fund and country-based and regional pooled funds, and to continue to support diverse humanitarian funding channels, including through new and innovative financing mechanisms, encourages efforts to follow the Principles and Good Practice of Humanitarian Donorship<sup>281</sup> and to improve burden-sharing among donors, and in this respect further stresses the importance of broadening both public and private sector partnerships and the donor base in order to increase the predictability and effectiveness of funding, diversify income, narrow the humanitarian funding gap, and to promote South-South and horizontal and triangular cooperation globally and encourages the private sector, civil society and other relevant entities to make relevant contributions, complementary to all other sources;

59. *Welcomes* the important achievements of the Central Emergency Response Fund in ensuring a more timely, and predictable response to humanitarian emergencies, stresses the importance of continuing to improve the functioning of the Fund, and in this regard encourages the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies to review and evaluate, where necessary, their partnership policies and practices in order to ensure the timely disbursement of funds from the Fund to implementing partners in order to ensure that resources are used in the most efficient, effective, accountable and transparent manner possible;

60. *Calls upon* all Member States, and invites the private sector and all concerned individuals and institutions, to consider increasing their voluntary contributions to the Central Emergency Response Fund in order to achieve an annual funding level of 1 billion United States dollars and to continue to reinforce and strengthen the Fund as the global emergency response fund, and emphasizes the need to broaden and diversify the income base of the Fund and that contributions should be additional to current commitments to humanitarian programming and should not be to the detriment of resources made available for international cooperation for development;

61. *Calls upon* Member States to continue to increase support to the Central Emergency Response Fund and humanitarian country-based and regional pooled funds for strengthening early and rapid response to mitigate the impact of disasters, including in underfunded contexts and increasingly through local and national responders and implementing partners;

62. *Encourages* Member States, the private sector and all relevant individuals and institutions to consider increasing their voluntary contributions to country-based pooled funds and, as appropriate, other pooled funding mechanisms, to facilitate humanitarian assistance to people in need;

63. *Calls upon* Member States that are in a position to do so and development and humanitarian partners, in their efforts to provide flexible resources, to consider ways of better mainstreaming the need for preparedness and building resilience in the provision of humanitarian and development assistance, including reconstruction and rehabilitation, inter alia, with a view to ensuring smooth transition from relief to development, and encourages the United Nations system to strengthen strategic and operational partnerships with international financial institutions in order to prevent, reduce and respond to humanitarian suffering and assist those in need, strengthen early recovery efforts, reinforce basic services and reinforce rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts;

64. *Calls upon* all Member States that are in a position to do so to increase their voluntary contributions to humanitarian emergencies, including through flexible, unearmarked and multi-year funding where possible, in this context reiterates that the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs should benefit from adequate and more predictable funding, and underscores the importance of adequate, timely and flexible voluntary funding for the Office to enable it to carry out its mandate;

65. *Encourages* Member States, in cooperation with relevant United Nations humanitarian organizations, to ensure that the basic humanitarian needs of affected populations, including clean water, food, shelter, health, including sexual and reproductive health, education and protection, energy and information and communications technologies, where possible, are addressed as components of humanitarian response, including through providing timely and adequate resources, while ensuring that their collaborative efforts fully adhere to humanitarian principles;

66. *Also encourages* Member States, in cooperation with relevant United Nations humanitarian organizations, to ensure that women and girls have access to basic health-care services, including reliable and safe access to sexual

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<sup>281</sup> [A/58/99-E/2003/94](#), annex II.

and reproductive health-care services and mental health and psychosocial support, from the onset of emergencies, in this regard recognizes that such assistance protects women, adolescent girls and infants from preventable mortality and morbidity that occur in humanitarian emergencies, and calls upon Member States, the United Nations and other relevant actors to give such programmes due consideration;

67. *Urges* Member States and humanitarian organizations to integrate protection and health risks, as components of humanitarian response, into humanitarian assessment, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and increase efforts to reinforce local and national systems, capacities and local communities and actors, including women-led organizations;

68. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to increase efforts to provide and fund cross-sectoral mental health and psychosocial support services that are of quality, contextually sensitive, gender-sensitive, and provided with respect for human rights, to ensure that such services are incorporated into humanitarian needs assessments and humanitarian programmes for preparedness, response and recovery, to meet the needs of all affected populations in humanitarian contexts, and to reinforce local and community-based efforts, which will be all the more important in mitigating and responding to additional psychological consequences experienced in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, and calls on the United Nations and all relevant humanitarian organizations to scale up mental health and psychosocial support capacity accordingly, and report on mental health and psychosocial support programmes and funding in support of the recovery and resilience for the mental health and psychosocial well-being of all those affected, while also recognizing the impacts on humanitarian personnel and volunteers;

69. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to continue to work together to understand and address the different protection needs of affected populations, particularly the most vulnerable, in humanitarian crises and ensure that these needs are adequately integrated into preparedness, response and recovery efforts;

70. *Calls upon* Member States and relevant organizations and actors to recognize and address the consequences of humanitarian emergencies for migrants, in particular those in vulnerable situations, and to strengthen coordinated international efforts for their assistance and protection in concert with national authorities;

71. *Calls upon* Member States to take steps to ensure the international protection of and respect for the rights of refugees, including respect for the principle of non-refoulement and adequate standards of treatment in accordance with international law, including, as applicable, the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees<sup>282</sup> and international human rights obligations;

72. *Recognizes* the importance of early registration and effective registration systems as a tool of protection and as a means of carrying out the quantification and assessment of needs for the provision and distribution of humanitarian assistance, notes the many and diverse challenges faced by refugees who remain without any form of documentation attesting to their status, and underlines the importance of increasing accountability to ensure that humanitarian assistance reaches its beneficiaries;

73. *Reaffirms* the obligation of all States and parties to an armed conflict to protect civilians, in accordance with international humanitarian law, encourages States that are parties to an armed conflict to take all measures necessary to enhance the protection of civilians, and invites all States to promote a culture of protection, taking into account the particular needs of women, girls, boys and men, older persons and persons with disabilities;

74. *Urges* all parties to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law, in particular the principles of distinction, proportionality and the obligation to take all feasible precautions to avoid and in any event minimizing harm to civilians and civilian objects;

75. *Urges* Member States to continue to take the steps necessary to ensure the protection of the wounded and sick, as well as the safety and security of medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their facilities, equipment, transports and supplies, including by developing effective measures to prevent and address acts of violence, attacks and threats against them, and in this regard reaffirms the need for States to ensure that those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law do not operate with impunity, urges States to conduct full, prompt, impartial and effective investigations within their jurisdiction of violations of international humanitarian law with a view to ensuring accountability, as provided for by national laws and obligations

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<sup>282</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.



under international law, and to ensure that the wounded and sick receive, to the fullest extent practicable and with the least possible delay, the medical care and attention required, and notes the applicable rules of international humanitarian law relating to the non-punishment of any person for carrying out medical activities compatible with medical ethics;

76. *Condemns in the strongest possible terms* the alarming increase in threats to and deliberate targeting of humanitarian and medical personnel and United Nations and associated personnel;

77. *Urges* Member States to continue to take the steps necessary to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian personnel, their facilities, equipment, transports and supplies, including by developing effective measures to prevent and address acts of violence, attacks and threats against them, requests the Secretary-General to expedite his efforts to enhance the safety and security of personnel involved in United Nations humanitarian operations, including national and locally recruited personnel, and in this regard reaffirms the need for States to ensure that those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law do not operate with impunity, urges States to conduct full, prompt, impartial and effective investigations within their jurisdiction of violations of international humanitarian law with a view to ensuring accountability, as provided for by national laws and obligations under international law, and urges Member States to scale up their efforts to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian personnel;

78. *Emphasizes* the responsibility of States to adopt preventive measures and effective responses to acts of violence committed against civilian populations in armed conflicts and to comply with the relevant obligations under international law to end impunity and to ensure that those responsible for violations are promptly brought to justice, in accordance with national law and their obligations under international law;

79. *Calls upon* all States and parties in complex humanitarian emergencies, in particular in armed conflict and in post-conflict situations, in countries in which humanitarian personnel are operating, in conformity with the relevant provisions of international law and national laws, to cooperate fully with the United Nations and other humanitarian agencies and organizations and to ensure the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian and medical personnel, as well as their means of transport, supplies and equipment, and to support, facilitate and enable transportation and logistical supply lines, in order to allow such personnel to efficiently and safely perform their task of assisting affected civilian populations, including refugees and internally displaced persons, and in this regard also reaffirms the need to take the measures necessary to respect and protect such personnel, hospitals and other medical facilities, as well as their means of transport, supplies and equipment; and urges all parties to armed conflicts, consistent with international humanitarian law, to protect civilian infrastructure which is critical to the delivery of humanitarian assistance for the provision of essential services, including for vaccinations and related medical care;

80. *Urges* States, while undertaking counter-terrorism activities, to respect their international obligations, including whenever international humanitarian law is applicable, in particular regarding the provision of humanitarian assistance to civilian populations, as well as recognizes the key role humanitarian organizations play in the provision of principled humanitarian assistance, while also recognizing the importance of preventing and suppressing the financing of and other forms of support to terrorism;

81. *Recognizes* the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement<sup>283</sup> as an important international framework for the protection of internally displaced persons, and that forced displacement is not only a humanitarian but also a development challenge, encourages Member States and humanitarian agencies to continue to work together, in collaboration with host communities, in endeavours to provide a more predictable response to the needs of internally displaced persons and in particular to address the long-term nature of displacement by adopting and implementing long-term strategies and coherent multi-year planning, including in relation to issues such as livelihoods, and in this regard calls for continued and enhanced international support, upon request, for the capacity-building efforts of States and encourages humanitarian organizations to improve coordination, including with development organizations, to better address the needs of internally displaced persons in support of Member States to promote durable solutions;

82. *Notes with appreciation* the report of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Internal Displacement, acknowledges that increased efforts on addressing the root causes as well as prevention, protection and improved assistance to internally displaced persons and durable solutions for internal displacement are critically important, and encourages the Secretary-General to work with Member States, the United Nations system and relevant actors, as

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<sup>283</sup> [E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2](#), annex.

appropriate, on these efforts, and recognizes the importance of the Secretary-General's follow-up Action Agenda on Internal Displacement;

83. *Welcomes* the progress made towards further enhancing the security management system of the United Nations, and supports the approach taken by the Secretary-General to focus the efforts of the security management system on enabling the United Nations system to “stay and deliver” its most critical programmes even in high-risk environments by effectively managing the risks to which personnel are exposed, including in the provision of humanitarian assistance, and to adapt quickly to changes in local security conditions;

84. *Notes with concern* the increasing threat of disinformation campaigns and misinformation that undermine trust in the United Nations and humanitarian organizations and put humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel at risk;

85. *Encourages* the United Nations and other relevant humanitarian actors to include, as part of their risk management strategy, the building of good relations and trust with national and local governments and to promote acceptance by local communities and all relevant actors, including religious leaders where appropriate, in order to enable humanitarian assistance to be provided in accordance with humanitarian principles;

86. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on actions taken to enable the United Nations to continue to strengthen its ability to recruit and deploy staff quickly, effectively and flexibly, to procure emergency relief materials and services rapidly, cost-effectively and locally, where applicable, and to quickly disburse funds in order to support Governments and United Nations country teams in the coordination of international humanitarian assistance;

87. *Urges* all countries to integrate into their respective national policies and development frameworks the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>284</sup> and urges Member States, the United Nations and relevant stakeholders to work together to reduce the needs and build the resilience of the most vulnerable in order to contribute to the achievement of the Goals included in the 2030 Agenda, including the call to leave no one behind;

88. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session, through the Economic and Social Council at its 2024 session, on progress made in strengthening the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, and to submit a report to the Assembly on the detailed use of the Central Emergency Response Fund.

## RESOLUTION 78/120

Adopted at the 47th plenary meeting, on 8 December 2023, without a vote, on the basis of draft resolution [A/78/L.21](#), sponsored by: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cuba (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Luxembourg, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tuvalu, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

### **78/120. International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development**

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* its resolution [46/182](#) of 19 December 1991, the annex to which contains the guiding principles for the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations system, as well as all its resolutions on international cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development, and recalling the resolutions of the humanitarian affairs segments of the sessions of the Economic and Social Council,

*Reaffirming also* the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence for the provision of humanitarian assistance,

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<sup>284</sup> Resolution [70/1](#).

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*Recalling* the Sendai Declaration<sup>285</sup> and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,<sup>286</sup> adopted by the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015,

*Recognizing* that the Sendai Framework applies to the risk of small-scale and large-scale, frequent and infrequent, sudden and slow-onset disasters caused by natural or human-made hazards, as well as related environmental, technological and biological hazards and risks,

*Noting with concern* that slow-onset disasters such as droughts are on the rise in many places and can have significant impacts on affected populations and lead to increased vulnerability to other hazards,

*Recognizing* the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction as the main forum at the global level for strategic advice coordination and partnership development for disaster risk reduction, and recognizing also the contribution of the relevant regional and subregional platforms,

*Reaffirming* the Paris Agreement<sup>287</sup> and its early entry into force, and encouraging all the parties to the Agreement to fully implement the Agreement and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change<sup>288</sup> that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

*Highlighting* the synergies between the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>289</sup> and the Paris Agreement, and noting with concern the findings contained in the *Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C* of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,

*Noting with appreciation* the hosting by the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt of the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, in Sharm el-Sheikh, from 6 to 20 November 2022,

*Welcoming* the holding of the 2019 Climate Action Summit convened by the Secretary-General on 23 September, and taking note of the multi-partner initiatives and commitments presented during the Summit,

*Noting with appreciation* the hosting by the Government of Indonesia of the seventh session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Bali from 23 to 28 May 2022,

*Taking note* of its resolution 71/1 of 19 September 2016, in which the General Assembly adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and the annexes thereto,

*Welcoming* the convening of the intergovernmental conference held on 10 and 11 December 2018 in Marrakech, Morocco, and recalling that it adopted the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, also known as the Marrakech Compact on Migration,<sup>290</sup>

*Expressing gravest concerns* about the humanitarian impacts of and risks posed by the short- and long-term effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, including on the already significant levels of humanitarian and development needs and suffering of people, including those in vulnerable situations and communities affected by natural disasters, and acknowledging the related challenges for disaster preparedness, response and recovery efforts,

*Emphasizing* the fundamentally civilian character of humanitarian assistance, reaffirming, in situations in which military capacity and assets are used as a last resort to support the implementation of humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, the need for their use to be undertaken with the consent of the affected State and in conformity with international law, including international humanitarian law, as well as humanitarian principles, and emphasizing also in this regard the need for Member States to coordinate with all relevant actors early on in a disaster response so

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<sup>285</sup> Resolution 69/283, annex I.

<sup>286</sup> *Ibid.*, annex II.

<sup>287</sup> See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

<sup>288</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

<sup>289</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>290</sup> Resolution 73/195, annex.

as to ensure the predictable, coherent and needs-based deployment of military assets and personnel supporting humanitarian assistance,

*Emphasizing also* that the affected State has the primary responsibility in the initiation, organization, coordination and implementation of humanitarian assistance within its territory and in the facilitation of the work of humanitarian organizations in mitigating the consequences of natural disasters,

*Emphasizing further* the primary responsibility of each State to undertake disaster risk reduction, including preparedness, and disaster risk management, including through the voluntary implementation of and follow-up to the Sendai Framework, as well as response and early recovery efforts, in order to minimize the impact of disasters and build resilience, while recognizing the importance of international cooperation in support of the efforts of affected countries which may have limited capacities in this regard,

*Recalling* the Bangkok Principles for the implementation of the health aspects of the Sendai Framework as a contribution to the Sendai Framework to build resilient health systems,

*Recognizing* the primary role of Member States in preparing for and responding to outbreaks of infectious disease, including those that become humanitarian crises, in compliance with the International Health Regulations (2005) adopted by the World Health Assembly,<sup>291</sup> highlighting the critical role played by Member States, the World Health Organization as the directing and coordinating authority on international health work, the United Nations humanitarian system, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other humanitarian actors in providing financial, technical and in-kind support in order to bring epidemics or pandemics under control, and recognizing also the need to strengthen local and national health systems, early reporting and early warning systems, preparedness, cross-sectoral response capacities, and resilience linked to outbreaks of infectious disease, including through capacity-building for developing countries,

*Expressing its deep concern* at the increasing challenges to Member States and to the United Nations humanitarian response capacity to deal with the consequences of natural disasters, given the effects of global challenges, including the impact of climate change, the adverse impacts of the global financial and economic crisis and volatile food prices on food security and nutrition, and other key factors that exacerbate the vulnerability of populations and exposure to natural hazards and the impact of natural disasters,

*Expressing its deep concern also* that rural and urban poor communities in the developing world are the hardest hit by the effects of increased disaster risk,

*Noting with concern* that women, persons with disabilities, older persons, children and youth are often disproportionately affected in natural disasters, and stressing the need to ensure that their specific needs are identified and addressed in emergency preparedness and response,

*Acknowledging* the impacts of rapid urbanization in the context of natural disasters and the adverse effects of climate change and that urban disaster preparedness and responses require appropriate disaster risk reduction strategies, including in urban planning, early action, rapid response and early recovery strategies implemented from the initial stage of relief operations, as well as mitigation, rehabilitation and sustainable development strategies, giving special attention to the needs and capacities of persons in vulnerable situations, and that action by humanitarian and development actors in urban areas needs to recognize the complexity of cities and build urban resilience, with improved urban expertise and capacities within organizations, while building on the capabilities, opportunities and potential new partnerships present in cities and other human settlements,

*Reaffirming* the adoption of the outcome document entitled “New Urban Agenda” at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016,<sup>292</sup> and in this regard noting the commitments therein undertaken by Member States regarding affected populations in urban areas, and noting also the importance of implementing policies to ensure more effective disaster risk reduction, including preparedness, and disaster risk management,

*Recognizing* that local communities are the first responders in most disasters, underlining the critical role played by in-country capacities in disaster risk reduction, including preparedness, and capacity-building for community

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<sup>291</sup> World Health Organization, document WHA58/2005/REC/1, resolution 58.3, annex.

<sup>292</sup> Resolution 71/256, annex.

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resilience, as well as response and recovery, and acknowledging the need to support the efforts of Member States to develop and enhance national and local capacities which are fundamental to improving the overall delivery of humanitarian assistance,

*Stressing* the need for all relevant actors involved in international responses to natural disasters to ensure that such responses are tailored to context, make use of appropriate tools and support local systems, including by building on local expertise and capacities,

*Recognizing* the adverse effects of climate change as contributors to environmental degradation and extreme weather events, which may, in certain instances, among other factors, contribute to disaster-induced human mobility,

*Recognizing also* the high numbers of persons affected by natural disasters, including in this respect displaced persons,

*Reaffirming* the importance of international cooperation in support of the efforts of the affected States in dealing with natural disasters in all their phases, in particular in preparedness, response and the early recovery phase, and of strengthening the response capacity of countries affected by disaster,

*Recognizing* the importance of sharing and making use of effective practices as part of transboundary cooperation in preparation for cross-border disaster situations, such as simulation exercises or preparedness or evacuation drills,

*Recognizing also* that scientific advancements can contribute to the effective forecasting of extreme weather events, which allows for a more accurate prediction and early warning of such events, leading to early action,

*Taking note* of the launch of the Coalition for Disaster-Resilient Infrastructure, the Risk-Informed Early Action Partnership, the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) initiative and the Year of Action launched by the Global Commission on Adaptation that culminated in the 2021 Climate Adaptation Summit,

*Recognizing* the progress made by the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) in its mission,

*Noting* the progress made by and the role of the Global Framework for Climate Services in developing and providing science-based climate information and prediction for climate risk management and for adaptation to climate variability and change, and looking forward to continued progress in this regard, including to address identified gaps in coordinating and enabling partnerships,

*Welcoming* the important role played by Member States, including developing countries, that have granted necessary and continued generous assistance to countries and peoples stricken by natural disasters,

*Recognizing* the significant role played by national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, as part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in disaster preparedness and risk reduction, disaster response, rehabilitation and development,

*Recognizing also* the significant achievements of the Central Emergency Response Fund in facilitating life-saving assistance to crisis-affected people by providing timely funding, enabling humanitarian organizations and their implementing partners to act quickly when tragedy strikes and steer resources to crises that do not receive the attention that they need and deserve, emphasizing the need to broaden and diversify the income base of the Fund, and welcoming in this regard the call by the Secretary-General to achieve an annual funding level of 1 billion United States dollars,

*Emphasizing* the need to address vulnerability and to integrate disaster risk reduction, including prevention, mitigation and preparedness, into all phases of natural disaster management, post-natural disaster recovery and development planning through close collaboration of all relevant actors and sectors,

*Reaffirming* that strengthening resilience contributes to withstanding, adapting to and quickly recovering from disasters,

*Reaffirming also* the importance of considering increasing investment in building the resilience of communities, which can be the first line of response,

*Recognizing* the changing scope, scale and complexity of humanitarian crises, including natural disasters, and their adverse impact on efforts to achieve economic growth, sustainable development and internationally agreed

development goals, in particular the Sustainable Development Goals, and noting the positive contribution that these efforts can make in strengthening the resilience and preparedness of populations to such disasters and reducing displacement risk in the context of disasters,

*Recognizing also* the clear relationship between emergency response, rehabilitation and development, and reaffirming that, in order to ensure a smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation and development, emergency assistance must be provided in ways that will be supportive of short-term and medium-term recovery, leading to long-term development, and that certain emergency measures should be seen as a step towards sustainable development,

*Emphasizing*, in this context, the important role of development organizations, international financial institutions and other relevant stakeholders in supporting national efforts to prepare for and mitigate the consequences of natural disasters,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>293</sup>
2. *Expresses its deep concern* at the increasing impact of natural disasters, resulting in massive losses of life and property worldwide, food insecurity, water and sanitation-related challenges, shelter and infrastructure losses, and, in some instances, displacement, in particular in vulnerable societies lacking adequate capacity to mitigate effectively the long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences of natural disasters;
3. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to continue to identify and systematically apply lessons learned and best practices for major sudden-onset and slow-onset natural disasters, including continued improvements in the areas of coordination, preparedness, risk reduction, early warning, early action, rapid response, recovery, resilience and funding to ensure improved humanitarian system-wide response and outcomes for people in need, enabled by coordinated, predictable, timely, flexible and adequate funding;
4. *Reaffirms* the importance of implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, to ensure the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries, and underlines the importance of tackling the underlying disaster risk drivers and of integrating a disaster risk reduction perspective into humanitarian assistance and development assistance programmes, as appropriate, to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risk;
5. *Encourages* the United Nations to continue to increase its support for Member States in their prioritized implementation of the Sendai Framework, including through the revised United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience: Towards a Risk-informed and Integrated Approach to Sustainable Development, in line with the Sendai Framework, to ensure that the implementation of the Sendai Framework most effectively contributes to a risk-informed and integrated approach to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular through building resilience against disasters, reducing displacement risk in the context of disasters and supporting national and local preparedness and response capacities;
6. *Emphasizes* the need to promote and strengthen disaster risk reduction and preparedness activities at all levels, in particular in hazard-prone areas, and encourages Member States, the United Nations system and other relevant humanitarian and development actors to continue to increase funding and cooperation for disaster risk reduction activities, including the strengthening of preparedness and mitigation, as well as for responding to disasters;
7. *Encourages* Member States, in line with the call in the Sendai Framework, to promote disaster risk reduction, including prevention, mitigation and preparedness, response and recovery with a view to ensuring a rapid and effective response to disasters and to promoting international cooperation to build resilience and reduce disaster risk;
8. *Also encourages* Member States to provide dedicated financial contributions to disaster risk reduction, including prevention, mitigation and preparedness, as well as early action, rapid response and recovery efforts, in a harmonized, flexible and complementary approach that fully utilizes and helps to coordinate humanitarian and development funding options and potential;

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<sup>293</sup> [A/78/360](#).



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9. *Calls upon* all States to adopt, where required, and to continue to implement effectively, necessary legislative and other appropriate measures to mitigate the effects of natural disasters and integrate disaster risk reduction strategies into development planning, as well as to incorporate a gender perspective into policies, planning and funding, and in this regard requests the international community to continue to assist developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition, as appropriate;

10. *Acknowledges* that climate change, among other factors, contributes to environmental degradation and to the increase in the intensity and frequency of climate and extreme weather events, both of which amplify disaster risk and contribute to displacement risk in the context of disasters, and in this regard encourages Member States, as well as relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, in accordance with their specific mandates, to support adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change, to strengthen disaster risk reduction and to substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems, in order to minimize the humanitarian consequences of natural disasters, including through the provision of technology and support for capacity-building in developing countries, and notes in this regard the Early Warnings for All initiative of the Secretary-General and the United Nations action plan to ensure that every person on Earth is covered by early warning systems by 2027;

11. *Urges* the United Nations, relevant humanitarian and development organizations, international financial institutions and other relevant stakeholders to strengthen the capacity and resilience of Member States, including through capacity-building for community resilience, the application of new science and technology and investments in the context of disasters and climate change;

12. *Encourages* Member States to address the humanitarian and development needs arising from natural disaster-induced displacement, including through national policies and resilience-building, and in this regard encourages Member States, supported by the United Nations, to develop national laws and policies on internal displacement, as appropriate, which address such displacement, detail responsibilities and measures to minimize the impact of disasters, protect and assist internally displaced persons following disasters and identify, promote and support safe, dignified and durable solutions, and in this respect encourages Member States to adopt standards, as appropriate, in line with the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement,<sup>294</sup> the Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee<sup>295</sup> and the basic principles and guidelines on development-based evictions and displacement;<sup>296</sup>

13. *Also encourages* Member States to develop coherent approaches to address the challenges of displacement in the context of natural disasters, including sudden-onset and slow-onset, and takes note of relevant initiatives in this regard;

14. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations to integrate the building of resilience and human mobility into relevant strategies, plans and legal frameworks, in particular regarding disaster risk management and climate change adaptation, as integral elements of sustainable development at the national and regional levels so as to help to prevent and mitigate displacement in the context of disasters and the adverse effects of climate change, including in urban settings where displaced persons have particular needs, requirements and vulnerabilities, and to enhance cooperation and coordination, where appropriate, to comprehensively and coherently respond to such displacement, including by preventing, preparing for and addressing it;

15. *Recognizes* the increase in the number and scale of natural disasters, including those related to the adverse effects of climate change, which in certain instances may contribute to displacement and to additional pressure on host communities, encourages Member States, the United Nations and relevant organizations and actors to further strengthen the efforts aimed at addressing the needs of persons displaced in the context of disasters, including those induced by climate change, and notes in this regard the importance of sharing best practices on prevention of and preparation for such displacements, and on the collection of data on such displacement and on durable solutions;

16. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations, relevant humanitarian and development organizations and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, to enhance understanding, analysis, monitoring and assessment of the

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<sup>294</sup> E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex.

<sup>295</sup> A/HRC/13/21/Add.4.

<sup>296</sup> A/HRC/4/18, annex I.

drivers, scale, dynamics, effects, patterns and duration of displacement in the context of slow-onset disasters, gradual environmental degradation and climate change, to strengthen the systematic, impartial and timely collection and sharing of data disaggregated by sex, age and disability and to strengthen evidence-based policy and operational responses at all levels in this regard, including to address the root causes of such displacement and strengthen the resilience of displaced persons and their host communities;

17. *Encourages* increased investment in and enhanced sharing of quality forecasting data, risk analytics and modelling of future displacement risks and patterns which may result from natural disasters and the adverse impacts of climate change;

18. *Encourages* Member States, regional organizations, the United Nations, humanitarian and development organizations and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, to continue to strengthen international and regional collaboration to provide assistance and support and achieve durable solutions in response to displacement in the context of disasters and the adverse effects of climate change, and enhance the collection, sharing and interoperability of related disaggregated data at all levels to strengthen responses and the achievement of durable solutions to displacement, and in this regard recognizes the importance of the Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement;

19. *Encourages* Member States to integrate displacement considerations into disaster preparedness strategies and promote cooperation with neighbouring and other relevant countries to prepare for early warning, contingency planning, stockpiling, coordination mechanisms, evacuation planning, reception and assistance arrangements, and public information;

20. *Calls upon* Member States and relevant organizations and actors to recognize and address the consequences of humanitarian emergencies for migrants, in particular those in vulnerable situations, and to strengthen coordinated international efforts for their assistance and protection in concert with national authorities;

21. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen operational and legal frameworks for international disaster relief and initial recovery, to adopt and implement national laws and regulations, as appropriate, to reduce the impact of the underlying drivers of disaster risk and vulnerability, and to adopt comprehensive rules and procedures for the facilitation and regulation of international disaster assistance, drawing, as appropriate, from the Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance, and calls upon the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, relevant United Nations organizations and other partners for technical support in achieving these aims;

22. *Welcomes* the effective cooperation among the affected States, relevant bodies of the United Nations system, donor countries, regional and international financial institutions and other relevant stakeholders, such as the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, municipalities, civil society and the private sector, in the coordination and delivery of emergency relief, and stresses the need to continue such cooperation and delivery throughout relief operations and medium- and long-term rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, in a manner that reduces vulnerability to future natural hazards;

23. *Reiterates* the commitment to support, as a matter of priority, the efforts of countries, in particular developing countries, to strengthen their capacities at all levels in order to assess and reduce risks, prepare for and respond rapidly, effectively and safely to natural disasters and mitigate their impact;

24. *Also reiterates* the need to build the capacities of governments to manage and respond to disaster and climate risks, including by providing support for and strengthening national and, as appropriate, local preparedness and response capacities, and to build resilience, taking into account the differing needs of women, girls, boys and men of all ages, including persons with disabilities;

25. *Underlines* the need to address the economic, social and environmental impacts of climate change, and emphasizes the need for action at all levels to enhance efforts to build resilience through, inter alia, the sustainable management of ecosystems, in order to reduce the impacts and costs of natural disasters;

26. *Urges* Member States to develop, update and strengthen early warning systems, disaster preparedness and risk reduction measures at all levels, in accordance with the Sendai Framework, taking into account their own circumstances and capacities and in coordination with relevant actors, as appropriate, and to improve their response to early warning information in order to ensure that early warning leads to early action, implemented effectively in a timely manner, including through scaled-up, predictable and multi-year support, such as forecast-based financing and



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other anticipatory risk financing instruments, and encourages all stakeholders to support the efforts of Member States in this regard;

27. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations to continue to support early warning and early action efforts, including through forecast-based financing at the global, regional and national levels, including for multi-hazard early warning systems, climate services, exposure and vulnerability mapping, new technologies and communication protocols, so that persons in vulnerable situations who are exposed to natural hazards, including in geographically remote locations, receive timely, reliable, accurate and actionable early warning information, and encourages the international community to further support national efforts in this regard;

28. *Encourages* the United Nations, humanitarian and development organizations, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders to support, as appropriate, the efforts of Member States to address the underlying vulnerability and root causes of disaster risk and to work towards ensuring financing support that is coherent, layered and sequenced;

29. *Encourages* Member States to develop or enhance forecast-based preparedness and early action and rapid response systems, including through the establishment and networking of risk management centres, as well as the coordination of existing networks, ensure that comprehensive procedures are in place and make resources available for actions in anticipation of natural disasters, and invites relevant bodies of the United Nations system and other stakeholders to engage in these efforts;

30. *Encourages* the United Nations system and humanitarian and development organizations to support Member States, their national and local authorities, as well as local communities to reinforce early warning and early action systems in their disaster and climate risk management frameworks;

31. *Encourages* Member States to consider elaborating and presenting to the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction their national platforms for disaster risk reduction in accordance with the Sendai Framework, and encourages States to cooperate with each other to reach this objective;

32. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations, in accordance with their respective mandates, to provide, in a coordinated manner, support for national and regional efforts by providing, in the context of natural disasters, the assistance necessary to increase sustainable food production and access to healthy and nutritious food and its utilization, while fully respecting the humanitarian principles for humanitarian action;

33. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations, international financial institutions and humanitarian and development organizations, as appropriate, to increase efforts to prevent famine and prevent and address food insecurity and malnutrition and their underlying causes related to disasters and the adverse effects of climate change, among other principal drivers, including by providing urgent funding and multisectoral assistance to respond to the needs of affected populations, such as those in hard-to-reach areas, and by developing and strengthening resilient and sustainable food systems, shock-responsive social protection systems and the use of cash and voucher assistance and disaster risk insurance to strengthen livelihoods, food production, and recovery, and by improving the availability and use of data on food security and nutrition risks and impacts;

34. *Recognizes* the importance of applying a multi-hazard approach to preparedness, and encourages Member States, taking into account their specific circumstances, and the United Nations system to continue to apply the approach to their preparedness activities, including by giving due regard to, inter alia, secondary environmental hazards stemming from industrial and technological accidents;

35. *Stresses* that, to increase further the effectiveness of humanitarian assistance, particular international cooperation efforts should be undertaken to enhance and broaden further the utilization of national and local capacities and, where appropriate, of regional and subregional capacities for disaster preparedness and response, which may be made available in closer proximity to the site of a disaster, and more efficiently and at lower cost;

36. *Also stresses* the importance of investment in disaster-resilient infrastructure and structural and non-structural disaster risk reduction measures, including nature-based solutions, ecosystem-based approaches, among other approaches, for preventing and mitigating the humanitarian impacts of natural disasters and helping to reduce the cost of disaster response, recovery and reconstruction, and encourages further efforts in this regard;

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37. *Acknowledges* that the recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction phase, which needs to be prepared ahead of a disaster, is a critical opportunity to “build back better”;

38. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations and other relevant stakeholders to continue to support the localization of disaster preparedness and response and work to ensure that national and local actors are enabled to respond to community-level needs and priorities, and strengthen collaboration and partnerships between international, national, local and regional actors with a view to reinforcing national and local capacities, leadership and coordination mechanisms;

39. *Calls upon* the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to continue to strengthen the engagement of affected people and local communities in disaster preparedness and response, including in the planning and implementation stages as well as in building resilience, including in coordination with national Governments and in accordance with their mandates;

40. *Encourages* Member States and the United Nations to continue to implement community engagement approaches through which communities receive timely information and which can improve the targeting of humanitarian assistance;

41. *Encourages* Member States and regional organizations to work together to strengthen regional cooperation to improve national and regional capacity to understand and reduce risks and prepare for and respond to disasters in support of national efforts, including by exchanging experiences and best practices;

42. *Encourages* Member States to move from reactive to more anticipatory risk-based, multi-hazard and inclusive approaches, such as the promotion of ex ante investments to prevent disaster risks and build resilience, the promotion of environmental and spatial measures and the integration of lessons from past disasters, as well as awareness of new risks, into future planning;

43. *Encourages* innovative practices that draw on the knowledge of people affected by natural disasters to develop locally sustainable solutions and to produce life-saving items locally, with minimal logistical and infrastructure implications;

44. *Stresses*, in this context, the importance of strengthening international cooperation, particularly through the effective use of multilateral mechanisms, in the timely provision of humanitarian assistance through all phases of a disaster, from relief and recovery to development, including the provision of adequate resources;

45. *Encourages* all relevant stakeholders, including Member States, to take appropriate measures to reduce and discourage the sending of unsolicited, unneeded or inappropriate relief goods in response to disasters;

46. *Encourages* all Member States to facilitate, to the extent possible, the transit of emergency humanitarian assistance and development assistance and the entry of humanitarian personnel and supplies, provided in the context of international efforts, including in the phase from relief to development, in full accordance with the provisions of resolution 46/182 and the annex thereto, and in full respect of the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence, and their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law;

47. *Encourages* Member States to put in place, as appropriate, customs measures to improve effectiveness in responding to natural disasters;

48. *Reaffirms* the leading role of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat as the focal point within the overall United Nations system for the advocacy for and coordination of humanitarian assistance among United Nations humanitarian organizations and other humanitarian partners;

49. *Recognizes* the importance of global and regional operational readiness and response services, networks and surge mechanisms in strengthening the effectiveness of disaster prevention, preparedness and response, and encourages further efforts in this regard by, inter alia, strengthening partnerships with national disaster management agencies and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, and building, reinforcing and complementing their capacities, in close coordination with the United Nations and humanitarian organizations, including through improved data sharing and interoperability;

50. *Welcomes* the important contribution of the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination system to the effectiveness of humanitarian assistance in supporting Member States, upon their request, and the United

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Nations system in preparedness and humanitarian response, and encourages the continued incorporation into this mechanism of experts from developing countries that are prone to natural disasters;

51. *Also welcomes* the important contribution of the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group to the effectiveness of international urban search and rescue assistance, and encourages Member States to continue to support the Advisory Group, in line with General Assembly resolution 57/150 of 16 December 2002;

52. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations system and other humanitarian actors to consider the specific and differentiated consequences of natural disasters in both rural and urban areas when designing and implementing disaster risk reduction, prevention and mitigation, preparedness, humanitarian assistance and early recovery strategies, giving special emphasis to addressing the needs of those living in rural and urban poor areas prone to natural disasters;

53. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations, in accordance with their respective mandates, and other relevant stakeholders to continue to take concrete action for the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda, in order to strengthen resilience to disasters and the adverse effects of climate change, and ensure that sustainable development in urban settings is informed by disaster risk, giving special attention to the needs and capacities of persons in vulnerable situations;

54. *Recognizes* the important contribution of healthy ecosystems to reducing disaster risk and building community resilience, and encourages all States, United Nations entities and other relevant actors to promote ecosystem-based approaches and nature-based solutions for disaster risk reduction at all levels and across all phases of disaster risk reduction and management;

55. *Welcomes* the continued efforts of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to build partnerships with regional organizations, traditional and non-traditional donors and the private sector, and encourages Member States and the United Nations system to continue to strengthen partnerships at the global, regional, national and local levels in support of national efforts in situations of natural disasters, in order to cooperate effectively in providing humanitarian assistance to those in need and ensure that their collaborative efforts adhere to the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence;

56. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations to increase efforts to engage the private sector, including small and medium-sized enterprises, through strategic partnerships in disaster risk reduction activities and disaster response and recovery, as appropriate;

57. *Recognizes* that information and telecommunications technology can play an important role in disaster response, encourages Member States to develop emergency response telecommunications capacities that are accessible to all, including persons with disabilities, encourages the international community to assist the efforts of developing countries in this area, where needed, including in the recovery phase, and in this regard encourages Member States that have not acceded to or ratified the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations<sup>297</sup> to consider doing so;

58. *Encourages* the further use of space-based and ground-based remote-sensing technologies, including as provided by the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), as well as the sharing of geographical data, for the forecasting, prevention, mitigation and management of natural disasters, where appropriate, and invites Member States to continue to provide their support to the consolidation of the United Nations capability in the area of satellite-derived geographical information for early warning, preparedness, response and early recovery;

59. *Encourages* Member States to provide all support necessary, on a voluntary basis, to UN-SPIDER, including financial support, to enable it to carry out its workplan, and reiterates the importance of enhancing international coordination and cooperation at the global level in disaster management and emergency response through greater access to and use of space-based services for all countries and by facilitating capacity-building and institutional strengthening for disaster management, in particular in developing countries;

60. *Recognizes* the opportunities for new technologies, when utilized in a coordinated fashion and based on humanitarian principles, potentially to improve the effectiveness and accountability of humanitarian response, and encourages Member States, the United Nations and its humanitarian partners to consider engaging, inter alia, with the

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<sup>297</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2296, No. 40906.

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volunteer and technical communities, as appropriate, in order to make use of the variety of data and information available during emergencies and disaster risk reduction efforts to strengthen the evidence-based shared understanding of disaster risk and impacts and to work to improve efficiencies in this regard;

61. *Encourages* the United Nations to continue to strengthen its provision of data-related services and policy advice and build the data skills of its humanitarian staff, in order to improve the effectiveness of disaster preparedness and response;

62. *Encourages* Member States, relevant United Nations organizations and international financial institutions to enhance the global capacity for sustainable post-disaster recovery in areas such as coordination with traditional and non-traditional partners, identification and dissemination of lessons learned, development of common tools and mechanisms for recovery needs assessment, strategy development and programming, and incorporation of disaster risk reduction into all recovery processes, and welcomes the ongoing efforts to this end;

63. *Encourages* Member States and the United Nations system to support national initiatives that address the differentiated impacts of natural disasters on the affected population, including through the collection and analysis of data disaggregated, inter alia, by sex, age and disability, using, inter alia, the existing information provided by States, and through the development of tools, methods and procedures that will result in more timely and useful initial needs assessments that lead to targeted and more effective assistance, and taking into account the environmental impact;

64. *Calls upon* United Nations humanitarian organizations, in consultation with Member States, as appropriate, to strengthen the evidence base for effective humanitarian assistance by further developing common mechanisms to improve the quality, transparency and reliability of, and make further progress towards, common humanitarian needs assessments, to assess their performance in assistance and to ensure the most effective use of humanitarian resources by these organizations;

65. *Encourages* Member States to take steps to develop or to improve data collection and analysis and to facilitate the exchange of relevant non-sensitive information with humanitarian and development organizations of the United Nations, including through shared platforms and a common approach, in order to inform policy and measures designed to address disaster risks and their consequences, to support preparedness efforts, including forecast-based action and financing and disaster risk financing, and to improve the effectiveness and accountability of a needs-based humanitarian response, and encourages the United Nations system, as appropriate, and other relevant actors to continue to assist developing countries in their efforts to build local and national capacities for data collection and analysis;

66. *Also encourages* Member States, with support from the United Nations upon request, to establish and strengthen national disaster loss databases, risk profiles and available capacities and to continue to collect, share and use such data to inform relevant policies and strategies;

67. *Encourages* Member States, regional organizations, the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations to continue to improve the identification, mapping and analysis of risks and vulnerabilities, including the local impact of future disaster risk drivers, and the development and implementation of appropriate strategies and programmes to anticipate and address them, including through the use of science, technology and innovation, and in this regard encourages all the relevant stakeholders to support Governments in capacity development, including at the regional and local levels, through the sharing of expertise and tools and the provision of necessary resources, as appropriate, to ensure that effective disaster management plans and capacities are in place in accordance with national priorities for disaster risk management;

68. *Stresses* the importance of the full and equal participation of women in decision-making and of gender mainstreaming in developing and implementing disaster risk reduction, preparedness, early action, rapid response and recovery strategies, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that gender mainstreaming is better taken into account in all aspects of humanitarian responses and activities, including the analysis of allocations and programme implementation, and through greater use of the Gender with Age Marker;

69. *Encourages* Member States, in cooperation with relevant United Nations humanitarian organizations, to promote women's leadership, gender equality and empowerment of women and their full and effective participation in the planning and implementation of natural disaster response strategies and humanitarian response to effectively address their specific needs, including through strengthening partnerships with, and building the capacities of, national and local institutions, including national and local women's organizations and civil society actors, as appropriate, to

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adopt gender-responsive programming on mitigation and adaptation to climate change and to support the resilience and adaptive capacities of women and girls to respond to and recover from adverse impacts of climate change;

70. *Encourages* Governments, local authorities, the United Nations system and regional organizations, and invites donors and other assisting countries, to address the vulnerabilities and capacities of women and girls through gender-responsive programming, including with regard to sexual and reproductive health needs and means to address sexual and gender-based violence and various forms of exploitation during emergencies and in post-disaster environments, and the allocation of resources in their disaster risk reduction, response and recovery efforts in coordination with the Governments of affected countries;

71. *Encourages* Member States, humanitarian organizations and other relevant stakeholders, in the context of natural disasters, to ensure access to safe drinking water and adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all, including women and girls;

72. *Emphasizes* the importance of mainstreaming the perspective of persons with disabilities in disaster risk reduction, and recognizes the importance of non-discrimination and their inclusive and active participation in and contribution to disaster risk reduction, preparedness, emergency response, recovery and transition from relief to development, as well as the implementation of systematic approaches, policies and programmes that are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities, recognizing that persons with disabilities are disproportionately affected in humanitarian emergencies and face multiple obstacles in accessing humanitarian assistance, and recalls the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action;

73. *Encourages* efforts to provide safe and enabling learning environments and access to quality education for all, especially for girls and boys, in humanitarian emergencies caused by natural disasters, including in order to contribute to a smooth transition from relief to development;

74. *Also encourages* efforts to strengthen the disaster resilience and safety of schools, reduce interruptions to education during natural disasters, including interruptions to school meals, and in this regard encourages international support to countries that are vulnerable to natural hazards, as appropriate;

75. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to incorporate mental health and psychosocial support services into disaster preparedness, response and recovery;

76. *Encourages* Member States and relevant regional and international organizations to identify and improve the dissemination of best practices, including in the context of COVID-19, for improving disaster preparedness, response and early recovery and to scale up successful local initiatives, as appropriate;

77. *Requests* the United Nations humanitarian and development organizations to improve their coordination of disaster recovery efforts, from relief to development, inter alia, by strengthening institutional, coordination and strategic planning efforts in disaster preparedness, resilience-building and recovery, in support of national authorities, and by ensuring that development actors participate in strategic planning at an early stage;

78. *Encourages* the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations to support national, subnational and local governments and communities in their responsibility to develop long-term strategies, forecast-based financing and preparedness systems and multi-year operational plans for preparedness that are embedded within disaster risk reduction and resilience strategies in line with the Sendai Framework;

79. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and other humanitarian actors to improve the dissemination of tools and services to support enhanced disaster risk reduction, in particular preparedness, early action, rapid response and early recovery;

80. *Calls upon* relevant United Nations humanitarian and development organizations, in consultation with Member States, to strengthen tools and mechanisms to ensure that early recovery needs and support are integrated into the planning and implementation of disaster preparedness, humanitarian response and development cooperation activities, as appropriate;

81. *Encourages* the United Nations system and humanitarian organizations to continue their efforts to mainstream early recovery into humanitarian programming, acknowledges that early recovery is an important step towards resilience-building and should receive further funding, and encourages the provision of timely, flexible and predictable funding for early recovery, including through established and complementary humanitarian and development instruments;

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82. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations to prioritize risk management and shift towards an anticipatory approach to humanitarian crises in order to prevent and reduce human suffering and economic losses; and encourages scaling up of early warning and early action systems, forecasting, prevention-oriented responses and emergency preparedness, strengthening of their coordination, coherence, complementarity and impact, and an increase in the use of disaster risk analysis, climate science, predictive analytics, reinforcing systematic risk monitoring and the sharing of data and analysis across sectors and at all levels to better prevent and address disaster and climate risks and impacts;

83. *Recalls* its decision to hold a midterm review of the implementation of the Sendai Framework in 2023, and in this regard welcomes the convening of the high-level meeting on the midterm review of the Sendai Framework on 18 and 19 May 2023, at which the General Assembly adopted the political declaration on the midterm review of the Sendai Framework;<sup>298</sup>

84. *Encourages* international financial institutions to accelerate anticipatory financing at scale for preparedness and response as well as for risk-informed resilient recovery, including pre-agreed contingency financing, in ways that complement and reinforce humanitarian pooled funds;

85. *Urges* Member States, humanitarian and development organizations and other stakeholders to ensure a comprehensive and coherent approach at the global, regional, national and local levels to El Niño and La Niña phenomena and similar or related events, including by strengthening forecasting, early warning and early action, prevention, preparedness, resilience-building and timely response, supported by effective leadership and predictable, adequate and early funding, when feasible, in regions, countries and communities likely to be affected, and notes the work of the Special Envoys of the Secretary-General on El Niño and Climate and the blueprint for action prepared by them, and the standard operating procedures for El Niño/ Southern Oscillation events of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee;

86. *Encourages* Member States and the United Nations to enhance the use of common risk analysis, including the use of the Index for Risk Management, to establish the evidence base for short-, medium- and long-term planning and joint strategies for disaster and climate risk management, capacity development and resilience-building, allowing for greater prioritization of resources where the risk is greatest;

87. *Encourages* the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations to work towards a common understanding of underlying risks, clarify roles and responsibilities according to their respective mandates and establish joint objectives and programmes informed by affected people, data and analysis to strengthen coordination, collaboration and coherence among short-, medium- and long-term activities to progressively reduce needs and vulnerability, build resilience and manage the risk related to climate change and of disasters and development setbacks over multi-year planning cycles, including through integrating risk management into national sustainable development plans and ensuring the connectivity of humanitarian plans with the longer-term sustainable development priorities of Member States, with a view to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;

88. *Stresses* the need to strengthen resilience at all levels, and in this regard encourages Member States, the United Nations system and other relevant actors to support efforts, as appropriate, to integrate resilience into humanitarian and development programming, and encourages humanitarian and development actors to pursue, where appropriate, common resilience and risk management objectives, achievable through joint analysis, planning, programming and funding;

89. *Encourages* Member States, international financial institutions and the private sector to support further development and, where appropriate, the strengthening of anticipatory financing approaches, to mobilize predictable and multi-year support and to work collectively towards common results in order to reduce need, risk and vulnerability, making use of a wide range of financing flows and instruments and partnerships to mobilize additional resources in the field of natural disasters;

90. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to provide emergency assistance in ways that are supportive of recovery and long-term development, in collaboration with development organizations, as appropriate, in accordance with their respective mandates, including by prioritizing humanitarian tools and approaches that strengthen resilience, including preparedness, and support livelihoods, and to support further

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<sup>298</sup> Resolution 77/289, annex.

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development and, where appropriate, the strengthening of anticipatory financing approaches, such as, but not limited to, cash transfers, vouchers, local procurement of food and services and social safety nets;

91. *Encourages* the United Nations system and other relevant humanitarian and development actors to support humanitarian coordinators and resident coordinators in order to strengthen their capacity, inter alia, to support the host Government in implementing preparedness measures and to coordinate preparedness activities of country teams in support of national efforts, and encourages the United Nations system and other relevant humanitarian actors to further strengthen the ability to quickly and flexibly deploy humanitarian professionals to support Governments and country teams in the immediate aftermath of a disaster;

92. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations to identify ways to improve the current financing architecture in order to better provide coherent, predictable and flexible longer-term funding for risk management in multi-year strategies and forecasting, in particular preparedness, on the basis of a global assessment of risk, allowing for better prioritization of resources where the risk is greatest;

93. *Recognizes* that enhanced access to international climate finance is important to support mitigation and adaptation efforts in developing countries, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, and also recognizes the ongoing efforts in this regard;

94. *Urges* Member States, international financial institutions and other relevant stakeholders to scale up finance for adaptation and disaster risk reduction to countries and local communities that are affected by compound risks caused by humanitarian emergencies and vulnerability to natural hazards and the adverse effects of climate change to prevent, mitigate, adapt and respond to disaster impacts, to reduce humanitarian needs, risks and vulnerabilities related to disasters and to build resilience to shocks;

95. *Emphasizes* the need to mobilize adequate, flexible and sustainable resources for preparedness and disaster risk reduction, early action, rapid response and early recovery activities in order to ensure predictable and timely access to resources for humanitarian assistance in emergencies resulting from disasters associated with natural hazards;

96. *Welcomes* the important achievements of the Central Emergency Response Fund in ensuring a more timely and predictable response to humanitarian emergencies, stresses the importance of continuing to improve the functioning of the Fund, and in this regard encourages the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies to review and evaluate, where necessary, their partnership policies and practices in order to ensure the timely disbursement of funds from the Fund to implementing partners in order to ensure that resources are used in the most efficient, effective, accountable and transparent manner possible;

97. *Calls upon* all Member States, and invites the private sector and all concerned individuals and institutions, to consider increasing their voluntary contributions to the Central Emergency Response Fund in order to achieve an annual funding level of 1 billion United States dollars, and to continue to reinforce and strengthen the Fund as the global emergency response fund, and emphasizes that contributions should be additional to current commitments to humanitarian programming and should not be to the detriment of resources made available for international cooperation for development;

98. *Also calls upon* Member States to continue to increase support to the Central Emergency Response Fund and humanitarian country-based and regional pooled funds for strengthening early and rapid response to mitigate the impact of disasters, including in underfunded contexts and increasingly through local and national responders and implementing partners;

99. *Invites* Member States, the private sector and all other relevant stakeholders to harness their differentiated skills, capacities and resources, and also to consider voluntary contributions to humanitarian funding mechanisms;

100. *Strongly encourages* giving appropriate consideration to disaster risk reduction, including preparedness, and the building of resilience to disasters as integral elements of sustainable development and in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International

Conference on Financing for Development<sup>299</sup> and promoting a complementary and coherent approach between those Agendas and the Sendai Framework;

101. *Strongly encourages* all relevant actors to work to ensure a comprehensive, coherent, systematic and people-centred approach to managing risks, including through, as appropriate, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework, the Paris Agreement and the New Urban Agenda;

102. *Takes note* of the World Humanitarian Summit, held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 23 and 24 May 2016, and of the report of the Secretary-General on the outcome of the World Humanitarian Summit;<sup>300</sup>

103. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to improve the international response to natural disasters and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session and to include in his report recommendations on how to ensure that humanitarian assistance is provided in ways supportive of the transition from relief to development.

### RESOLUTION 78/121

Adopted at the 47th plenary meeting, on 8 December 2023, without a vote, on the basis of draft resolution [A/78/L.22](#), sponsored by: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland

#### 78/121. Assistance to the Palestinian people

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution [77/30](#) of 6 December 2022, as well as its previous resolutions on the question,

*Recalling also* the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements in Washington, D.C., on 13 September 1993, by the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people,<sup>301</sup> and the subsequent implementation agreements concluded by the two sides,

*Recalling further* all relevant international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, and, in particular, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>302</sup> the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>303</sup> the Convention on the Rights of the Child<sup>304</sup> and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,<sup>305</sup>

*Gravely concerned* at the difficult living conditions and humanitarian situation affecting the Palestinian people, in particular women and children, throughout the occupied Palestinian territory, particularly in the Gaza Strip where economic recovery and vast infrastructure repair, rehabilitation and development are urgently needed, especially in the aftermath of the conflict of July and August 2014,

*Conscious* of the urgent need for improvement in the economic and social infrastructure of the occupied territory,

*Welcoming*, in this context, the development of projects, notably on infrastructure, to revive the Palestinian economy and improve the living conditions of the Palestinian people, stressing the need to create the appropriate

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<sup>299</sup> Resolution [69/313](#), annex.

<sup>300</sup> [A/71/353](#).

<sup>301</sup> [A/48/486-S/26560](#), annex.

<sup>302</sup> See resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

<sup>303</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>304</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>305</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.



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conditions to facilitate the implementation of these projects, and noting the contribution of partners in the region and of the international community,

*Aware* that development is difficult under occupation and is best promoted in circumstances of peace and stability,

*Noting* the great economic and social challenges facing the Palestinian people and their leadership,

*Emphasizing* the importance of the safety and well-being of all people, in particular women and children, in the whole Middle East region, the promotion of which is facilitated, inter alia, in a stable and secure environment,

*Deeply concerned* about the negative impact, including the health and psychological consequences, of violence on the present and future well-being of children in the region,

*Conscious* of the urgent necessity for international assistance to the Palestinian people, taking into account the Palestinian priorities, and recalling in this regard the National Early Recovery and Reconstruction Plan for Gaza,

*Expressing grave concern* about the grave humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, and underlining the importance of emergency and humanitarian assistance and the need for the advancement of reconstruction in the Gaza Strip,

*Welcoming* the results of the Conference to Support Middle East Peace, convened in Washington, D.C., on 1 October 1993, the establishment of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of the International Assistance to Palestinians and the work being done by the World Bank as its secretariat and the establishment of the Consultative Group, as well as all follow-up meetings and international mechanisms established to provide assistance to the Palestinian people,

*Underlining* the importance of the Cairo International Conference on Palestine: Reconstructing Gaza, held on 12 October 2014, and urging the timely and full disbursement of pledges for expediting the provision of humanitarian assistance and the reconstruction process,

*Recalling* the International Donors' Conference for the Palestinian State, held in Paris on 17 December 2007, the Berlin Conference in Support of Palestinian Civil Security and the Rule of Law, held on 24 June 2008, and the Palestine Investment Conferences, held in Bethlehem from 21 to 23 May 2008 and on 2 and 3 June 2010, and the International Conference in Support of the Palestinian Economy for the Reconstruction of Gaza, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, on 2 March 2009,

*Welcoming* the ministerial meetings of the Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development, convened in Tokyo in February 2013 and in Jakarta in March 2014, as a forum to mobilize political and economic assistance, including through exchanges of expertise and lessons learned, in support of Palestinian development,

*Welcoming also* the latest meetings of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of the International Assistance to Palestinians, held in Brussels on 27 May 2015, in New York on 25 September 2013, 22 September 2014, 30 September 2015, 19 September 2016, 18 September 2017, 27 September 2018, 26 September 2019, by videoconference on 2 June 2020 and on 23 February 2021, in Oslo on 17 November 2021, in Brussels on 10 May 2022, in New York on 22 September 2022, in Brussels on 3 and 4 May 2023 and in New York on 20 September 2023,

*Welcoming further* the activities of the Joint Liaison Committee, which provides a forum in which economic policy and practical matters related to donor assistance are discussed with the Palestinian Authority,

*Welcoming* the implementation of the Palestinian National Development Plan 2011–2013 on governance, economy, social development and infrastructure and the adoption of the Palestinian National Development Plan 2014–2016: State-building to Sovereignty, and stressing the need for continued international support for the Palestinian State-building process, as outlined in the summary by the Chair of the meeting of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee held on 22 September 2014,

*Stressing* the need for the full engagement of the United Nations in the process of building Palestinian institutions and in providing broad assistance to the Palestinian people,

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*Recognizing*, in this regard, the positive contribution of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2014–2016, which is aimed, inter alia, at enhancing developmental support and assistance to the Palestinian people and strengthening institutional capacity in line with Palestinian national priorities,

*Welcoming* steps to ease the restrictions on movement and access in the West Bank, while stressing the need for further steps to be taken in this regard, and recognizing that such steps would improve living conditions and the situation on the ground and could promote further Palestinian economic development,

*Welcoming also* the tripartite agreement facilitated by the United Nations regarding access to the Gaza Strip, and calling for its full implementation and complementary measures that address the need for a fundamental change in policy that allows for the sustained and regular opening of the border crossings for the movement of persons and goods, including for humanitarian and commercial flows and for the reconstruction and economic recovery of Gaza,

*Stressing* that the situation in the Gaza Strip is unsustainable and that a durable ceasefire agreement must lead to a fundamental improvement in the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and ensure the safety and well-being of civilians on both sides,

*Stressing also* the urgency of reaching a durable solution to the crisis in Gaza through the full implementation of Security Council resolution [1860 \(2009\)](#) of 8 January 2009, including by preventing the illicit trafficking in arms and ammunition and by ensuring the sustained reopening of the crossing points on the basis of existing agreements, including the 2005 Agreement on Movement and Access between the Palestinian Authority and Israel,

*Stressing*, in this regard, the importance of the effective exercise by the Palestinian Authority of its full government responsibilities in the Gaza Strip in all fields, including through its presence at the Gaza crossing points,

*Noting* the active participation of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority in the activities of the Special Envoys of the Quartet,

*Reaffirming* the necessity of achieving a comprehensive resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict in all its aspects, on the basis of relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions [242 \(1967\)](#) of 22 November 1967, [338 \(1973\)](#) of 22 October 1973, [1397 \(2002\)](#) of 12 March 2002, [1515 \(2003\)](#) of 19 November 2003, [1850 \(2008\)](#) of 16 December 2008 and [1860 \(2009\)](#), as well as the terms of reference of the Madrid Conference and the principle of land for peace, in order to ensure a political solution, with two States – Israel and an independent, democratic, contiguous, sovereign and viable Palestinian State – living side by side in peace and security and mutual recognition,

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>306</sup>

*Expressing grave concern* about continuing violence against civilians,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his rapid response and ongoing efforts regarding assistance to the Palestinian people, including with regard to the emergency humanitarian needs in the Gaza Strip;
3. *Also expresses its appreciation* to the Member States, United Nations bodies and intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations that have provided and continue to provide assistance to the Palestinian people;
4. *Stresses* the importance of the work of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority and of the steps taken under the auspices of the Secretary-General to ensure the achievement of a coordinated mechanism for United Nations activities throughout the occupied territories;
5. *Urges* Member States, international financial institutions of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and regional and interregional organizations to extend, as rapidly and as generously as possible, economic and social assistance to the Palestinian people, in close cooperation with the Palestine Liberation Organization and through official Palestinian institutions;

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<sup>306</sup> [A/78/86-E/2023/83](#).

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6. *Welcomes* the meetings of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of the International Assistance to Palestinians of 25 September 2013, 22 September 2014, 27 May and 30 September 2015, 19 September 2016 and 18 September 2017, 27 September 2018, 26 September 2019, 2 June 2020, 23 February 2021, 17 November 2021, 10 May and 22 September 2022, and 3 and 4 May and 20 September 2023 and the outcome of the Cairo International Conference on Palestine: Reconstructing Gaza, held on 12 October 2014, and the generous donor response to support the needs of the Palestinian people, and urges the rapid disbursement of donor pledges;

7. *Stresses* the importance of following up on the results of the Cairo International Conference on Palestine: Reconstructing Gaza to effectively promote economic recovery and reconstruction in a timely and sustainable manner;

8. *Calls upon* donors that have not yet converted their budget support pledges into disbursements to transfer funds as soon as possible, encourages all donors to increase their direct assistance to the Palestinian Authority in accordance with its government programme in order to enable it to build a viable and prosperous Palestinian State, underlines the need for equitable burden-sharing by donors in this effort, and encourages donors to consider aligning funding cycles with the Palestinian Authority's national budget cycle;

9. *Calls upon* relevant organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to intensify their assistance in response to the urgent needs of the Palestinian people in accordance with priorities set forth by the Palestinian side;

10. *Expresses its appreciation* for the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, and recognizes the vital role of the Agency in providing humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people, particularly in the Gaza Strip;

11. *Calls upon* the international community to provide urgently needed assistance and services in an effort to alleviate the difficult humanitarian situation being faced by Palestinian women, children and their families and to help in the reconstruction and development of relevant Palestinian institutions;

12. *Stresses* the role that all funding instruments, including the European Commission's Palestinian-European Mechanism for the Management of Socioeconomic Aid and the World Bank trust fund, have been playing in directly assisting the Palestinian people;

13. *Urges* Member States to open their markets to exports of Palestinian products on the most favourable terms, consistent with appropriate trading rules, and to implement fully existing trade and cooperation agreements;

14. *Calls upon* the international donor community to expedite the delivery of pledged assistance to the Palestinian people to meet their urgent needs;

15. *Stresses*, in this context, the importance of ensuring free humanitarian access to the Palestinian people and the free movement of persons and goods;

16. *Also stresses* the need for the full implementation by both parties of existing agreements, including the Agreement on Movement and Access and the Agreed Principles for the Rafah Crossing, of 15 November 2005, to allow for the freedom of movement of the Palestinian civilian population, as well as for imports and exports, within and into and out of the Gaza Strip;

17. *Further stresses* the need to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian personnel, premises, facilities, equipment, vehicles and supplies, as well as the need to ensure safe and unhindered access by humanitarian personnel and delivery of supplies and equipment, in order to allow such personnel to efficiently perform their task of assisting affected civilian populations;

18. *Urges* the international donor community, United Nations agencies and organizations and non-governmental organizations to extend to the Palestinian people, as rapidly as possible, emergency economic assistance and humanitarian assistance, particularly in the Gaza Strip, to counter the impact of the current crisis;

19. *Stresses* the need for the continued implementation of the Paris Protocol on Economic Relations of 29 April 1994, fifth annex to the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, signed

in Washington, D.C., on 28 September 1995,<sup>307</sup> including with regard to the full, prompt and regular transfer of Palestinian indirect tax revenues;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the present resolution, containing:

- (a) An assessment of the assistance actually received by the Palestinian people;
- (b) An assessment of the needs still unmet and specific proposals for responding effectively to them;

21. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance”, the sub-item entitled “Assistance to the Palestinian people”.

## RESOLUTION 78/122

Adopted at the 47th plenary meeting, on 8 December 2023, without a vote, on the basis of draft resolution [A/78/L.11](#), sponsored by: Albania, Andorra, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belgium, Botswana, Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Latvia, Lesotho, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Tajikistan, Togo, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam, Zambia

### 78/122. World Cleanup Day

*The General Assembly,*

*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,

*Recalling* the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,<sup>308</sup> Agenda 21,<sup>309</sup> the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,<sup>310</sup> the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development<sup>311</sup> and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation)<sup>312</sup> and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,<sup>313</sup> 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 resolutions [53/199](#) of 15 December 1998 and [61/185](#) of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years, and Economic and Social Council resolution [1980/67](#) of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries, in particular paragraphs 1 to 10 of the annex thereto on the agreed criteria for the proclamation of

<sup>307</sup> [A/51/889-S/1997/357](#), annex.

<sup>308</sup> *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.93.1.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

<sup>309</sup> *Ibid.*, annex II.

<sup>310</sup> Resolution [S-19/2](#), annex.

<sup>311</sup> *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.

<sup>312</sup> *Ibid.*, resolution 2, annex.

<sup>313</sup> Resolution [66/288](#), annex.

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international years, as well as paragraphs 13 and 14, in which it is stated that an international year should not be proclaimed before the basic arrangements for its organization and financing have been made,

*Recalling* its resolution [77/162](#) of 14 December 2022, entitled “Promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, building on Agenda 21”,

*Recalling also* its resolution [77/161](#) of 14 December 2022, entitled “Promoting zero-waste initiatives to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it proclaimed 30 March as the International Day of Zero Waste, to be observed annually,

*Recalling further* its resolution [76/300](#) of 28 July 2022 on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment,

*Reaffirming* the commitment of Member States to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,<sup>314</sup> the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,<sup>315</sup> the Paris Agreement,<sup>316</sup> the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,<sup>317</sup> the Convention on Biological Diversity,<sup>318</sup> the New Urban Agenda<sup>319</sup> and other major global agendas enshrined in the outcome documents of United Nations conferences in the economic, social and environmental fields, which are fully complementary and mutually reinforcing with the 2030 Agenda,

*Recognizing* the significant contribution made by workers in informal and cooperative settings to the collecting, sorting and recycling of plastic in many countries,

*Recalling* United Nations Habitat Assembly resolution 2/3 of 9 June 2023,<sup>320</sup> in which the United Nations Habitat Assembly recommended that the General Assembly proclaim 20 September as World Cleanup Day,

1. *Decides* to proclaim 20 September as World Cleanup Day, to be observed annually;
2. *Invites* all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, other international and regional organizations, and other relevant stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector and academia, to observe World Cleanup Day, in an appropriate manner, through activities aimed at raising awareness of its contribution to achieving sustainable development;
3. *Welcomes* the contribution of World Cleanup Day activities to date to addressing the environmental challenges associated with waste management by mobilizing people globally to participate in coordinated voluntary action, empowering collaboration, and raising broad awareness of the need to reduce waste pollution tangibly;
4. *Invites* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), mindful of the criteria set out in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution [1980/67](#), to facilitate the observance of World Cleanup Day;
5. *Stresses* that the costs of all the activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution should be met through voluntary contributions, including from the private sector;
6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders, including intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to promote the observance of World Cleanup Day.

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<sup>314</sup> Resolution [69/313](#), annex.

<sup>315</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

<sup>316</sup> Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21, annex.

<sup>317</sup> Resolution [69/283](#), annex II.

<sup>318</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

<sup>319</sup> Resolution [71/256](#), annex.

<sup>320</sup> HSP/HA.2/Res.3.

## RESOLUTION 78/123

Adopted at the 47th plenary meeting, on 8 December 2023, without a vote, on the basis of draft resolution [A/78/L.16](#), sponsored by: Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Nepal, Norway, Palau, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Suriname, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

### 78/123. International Day of Potato

*The General Assembly,*

*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 resolutions [53/199](#) of 15 December 1998 and [61/185](#) of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years, and Economic and Social Council resolution [1980/67](#) of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries, in particular paragraphs 1 to 10 of the annex thereto on the agreed criteria for the proclamation of international years, as well as paragraphs 13 and 14, in which it is stated that an international year should not be proclaimed before the basic arrangements for its organization and financing have been made,

*Welcoming* resolution [3/2023](#) of 7 July 2023, entitled “International Day of the Potato”, adopted by the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at its forty-third session,<sup>321</sup>

*Recalling* that the International Year of the Potato in 2008 has contributed to raising awareness of the role of the potato in agriculture, the economy and world food security,

*Recognizing* that Andean Indigenous Peoples, through their traditional knowledge and practices of living well, in harmony with nature, have originated, diversified, maintained, controlled, protected and preserved the potato in its natural state, including its many varieties and landraces, as food for present and future generations,

*Recognizing also* that the potato represents one of the most important contributions of the Andean region to the entire world, as it is one of the five main food crops consumed in the world, contributing to food security,

*Recognizing further* that small-scale and family farming production of the potato, particularly by rural farmers, including women farmers, supports efforts to reduce hunger, malnutrition and poverty, and achieve food security, and relies on and contributes greatly to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity,

*Recognizing* the decisive importance of this tuber crop for agricultural development, from the phase of pre-production, production, marketing, added value and promotion of consumption, highlighting the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, food security and nutrition, and standard-setting,

*Stressing* the need to raise awareness of the multiple nutritional, economic, environmental and cultural values of the potato and its contribution as an invaluable food resource and as a generator of income for rural families and producers, with a view to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achieving its Sustainable Development Goals,

*Trusting* that the observance of an international day will create a comprehensive platform to assess the problems and dynamics of sustainable potato production to transform agrifood systems,

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<sup>321</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document C 2023/REP, appendix C.

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1. *Decides* to designate 30 May as the International Day of Potato;
2. *Invites* all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, other international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders, including civil society, Indigenous Peoples, the private sector and academia, as well as schools, to observe the International Day, as appropriate, through activities aimed at raising awareness of the importance of the potato and its economic, social and environmental impact on food security and nutrition and ecosystem functions, and to share best practices in this regard;
3. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to facilitate the observance of the International Day, mindful of the provisions contained in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution [1980/67](#);
4. *Stresses* that the costs of all the activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution should be met through voluntary contributions, including from the private sector;
5. *Invites* all relevant stakeholders to contribute to and support the International Day;
6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders, including civil society, Indigenous Peoples, the private sector and academia, for appropriate observance.

### RESOLUTION 78/124

Adopted at the 48th plenary meeting, on 18 December 2023, without a vote, on the basis of the report of the Credentials Committee ([A/78/605](#), para. 14)

#### 78/124. Credentials of representatives to the seventy-eighth session of the General Assembly

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the report of the Credentials Committee and the recommendation contained therein,

*Approves* the report of the Credentials Committee.<sup>322</sup>

### RESOLUTION 78/125

Adopted at the 48th plenary meeting, on 18 December 2023, without a vote, on the basis of draft resolution [A/78/L.27](#), sponsored by: Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cuba (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), North Macedonia, Poland, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Türkiye, Tuvalu, Ukraine

#### 78/125. Graduation of Bhutan from the least developed country category

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution [73/133](#) of 13 December 2018,

*Taking into account* its resolutions [59/209](#) of 20 December 2004, [65/286](#) of 29 June 2011 and [67/221](#) of 21 December 2012 on a smooth transition for countries graduating from the category of least developed countries,

*Recalling* its resolution [76/258](#) of 1 April 2022, by which the General Assembly endorsed the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries,

*Reaffirming its commitment* to the process of graduation from the category of least developed countries and to encouraging smooth transition measures for graduating countries beyond graduation and towards achieving sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>323</sup>

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<sup>322</sup> [A/78/605](#).

<sup>323</sup> Resolution [70/1](#).



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*Noting with concern* the negative social and economic impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the continued vulnerability of Bhutan to economic shocks, climate change, and disasters,

*Inviting* the international community to provide continued support in strengthening macroeconomic stability, enhancing economic and trade diversification, augmenting environmental conservation and protection, adopting innovative sources of financing, building resilience and preparedness for future pandemics, shocks and disasters and materializing the transformation efforts undertaken by the Royal Government of Bhutan,

1. *Commends* the commitment of Bhutan to graduate from the category of least developed countries on 13 December 2023, and in this regard takes note of the decision of the Royal Government of Bhutan to integrate its smooth transition strategy into its thirteenth national development plan, to be adopted by February 2024;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts of the Royal Government of Bhutan towards its graduation from the least developed country category;

3. *Reaffirms* that graduating from the category of least developed countries should be sustainable and irreversible and should not result in a disruption of development plans, programmes and projects;

4. *Expresses its deep concern* at the severe consequences for Bhutan of social and economic disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, including by the closure of its borders due to the pandemic;

5. *Invites* bilateral, regional and multilateral development and trading partners to provide full support to the implementation of Bhutan's thirteenth national development plan and long-term plan spanning up to 2034, including by extending all the international support measures, particularly those related to trade, as per the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries,<sup>324</sup> until 13 December 2028.

### RESOLUTION 78/126

Adopted at the 48th plenary meeting, on 18 December 2023, without a vote, on the basis of draft resolution [A/78/L.29](#), sponsored by Cuba (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China)

#### **78/126. Deferral of the graduation of Angola from the least developed country category to a later date**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution [75/259](#) of 11 February 2021,

*Recalling also* Economic and Social Council resolution [2023/10](#) of 7 June 2023 on the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its twenty-fifth session,

*Taking into account* its resolutions [59/209](#) of 20 December 2004, [65/286](#) of 29 June 2011 and [67/221](#) of 21 December 2012 on a smooth transition for countries graduating from the category of least developed countries,

*Recalling* its resolution [76/258](#) of 1 April 2022, by which the General Assembly endorsed the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries,

*Reaffirming its commitment* to the process of graduation from the least developed country category and encouraging smooth transition measures for graduating countries,

1. *Reaffirms* that graduating from the category of least developed countries should be sustainable and irreversible and should not result in a disruption of development plans, programmes and projects;

2. *Takes note* of the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council that the graduation of Angola from the least developed country category be deferred to a later date to enable the Committee for Development Policy to consider further the situation of Angola and its smooth transition strategy, and for the Council to update its recommendation to the Assembly in 2024;

3. *Decides* to defer the graduation of Angola from the least developed country category to a later date.

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<sup>324</sup> Resolution [76/258](#), annex.



## RESOLUTION 78/127

Adopted at the 48th plenary meeting, on 18 December 2023, without a vote, on the basis of draft resolution [A/78/L.28](#), sponsored by: Algeria, Armenia, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Croatia, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iraq, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), North Macedonia, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan

### **78/127. International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development, 2026**

*The General Assembly,*

*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 [69/283](#) of 3 June 2015, entitled “Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030”, and its resolution [75/233](#) of 21 December 2020, entitled “Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system”,

*Recalling* its resolutions [53/199](#) of 15 December 1998 and [61/185](#) of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years, and Economic and Social Council resolution [1980/67](#) of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries, in particular paragraphs 1 to 10 of the annex thereto on the agreed criteria for the proclamation of international years, as well as paragraphs 13 and 14, in which it is stated that an international day or year should not be proclaimed before the basic arrangements for its organization and financing have been made,

*Recalling also* its resolution [52/17](#) of 20 November 1997, proclaiming 2001 the International Year of Volunteers,

*Recalling further* its resolution [70/129](#) of 17 December 2015, entitled “Integrating volunteering in peace and development: the plan of action for the next decade and beyond”, resolution [73/140](#) of 17 December 2018, entitled “Volunteering for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, and resolution [76/131](#) of 16 December 2021, entitled “Fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Volunteers programme and twentieth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers”,

*Noting* that 2026 will mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers and the fifty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations Volunteers programme,

*Acknowledging* that accelerated progress in the recognition, promotion, facilitation, networking and integration of volunteer action is vital for the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals,

*Recognizing* that volunteerism is a powerful and cross-cutting means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the significant role that volunteers play in response to humanitarian emergencies,

*Encouraging* Member States to support volunteer action for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, including the integration of volunteerism into sector priorities and national development strategies, plans and policies,

*Aiming* to further strengthen links between volunteering and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, increase understanding and awareness of volunteerism through global research, information-sharing and education, and address the challenges that the new models of volunteering are facing,

1. *Decides* to proclaim 2026 the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development;

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2. *Invites* all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, other international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector and academia, to observe the International Year, as appropriate, in order to promote the importance of volunteers for sustainable development;
3. *Appeals* to Member States, as well as other participants in the observance of the International Year, to recognize and measure the contribution of formal and informal volunteers and volunteerism in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, integrate volunteerism into national development planning, introduce policies that remove all inequalities and risks in volunteering, and support the setting up of knowledge and information platforms to develop and promote new forms of volunteering;
4. *Invites* the United Nations Volunteers programme, mindful of the provisions of the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution [1980/67](#), in cooperation with Governments and relevant organizations of the United Nations system, to facilitate implementation of the International Year;
5. *Also invites* the United Nations Volunteers programme, mindful of the provisions of paragraphs 23 to 27 of the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution [1980/67](#), to inform the General Assembly at its eighty-second session about the implementation of the present resolution, including an evaluation of the implementation of the International Year;
6. *Stresses* that the costs of all the activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution should be met through voluntary contributions, including from the private sector;
7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector and academia, for appropriate observance.

### RESOLUTION 78/128

Adopted at the 48th plenary meeting, on 18 December 2023, without a vote, on the basis of draft resolution [A/78/L.25](#), sponsored by: Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Kenya, Kiribati, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Ukraine, Vanuatu, Zambia

#### **78/128. 2025 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled “The future we want”,<sup>325</sup>

*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

<sup>325</sup> Resolution [66/288](#), annex.

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* that the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals will depend upon a revitalized and enhanced Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, bringing together Governments, civil society, the private sector, the United Nations system and other actors, and noting in this regard the interest expressed in holding future conferences or events at a high level that would complement but not duplicate existing efforts and activities to support the implementation of and to maintain political momentum to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 14,

*Recognizing* the central role of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, and the high-level political forum on sustainable development held under their auspices, as well as the significant role of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea and the important contribution of all relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14,

*Recalling* that, pursuant to its resolutions [70/226](#) of 22 December 2015 and [70/303](#) of 9 September 2016, the first United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development was convened at United Nations Headquarters from 5 to 9 June 2017, coinciding with World Oceans Day, to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14, under the theme “Our oceans, our future: partnering for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14”,

*Recalling also* that, pursuant to its resolution [73/292](#) of 9 May 2019, the second United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development was convened in Lisbon from 27 June to 1 July 2022, to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14, under the theme “Scaling up ocean action based on science and innovation for the implementation of Goal 14: stocktaking, partnerships and solutions”,

*Recalling further* its resolutions [71/312](#) of 6 July 2017 and [76/296](#) of 21 July 2022 in which it endorsed the declarations adopted by the first and second United Nations Conferences to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, entitled “Our ocean, our future: call for action” and “Our ocean, our future, our responsibility”, respectively, and in this regard reaffirming the important role of the declarations in demonstrating the collective will to take action to conserve and sustainably use our oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development,

*Recalling* its resolution [77/242](#) of 20 December 2022, in which the General Assembly decided to convene the high-level 2025 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development in France, in June 2025, and welcomed the generous offer by the Governments of Costa Rica and France to co-host and assume the costs of the Conference,

*Recalling also* that the Sustainable Development Goals and targets are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental,

*Recognizing* the important contributions of the partnership dialogues and voluntary commitments made in the context of the United Nations Conferences to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development to the effective and timely implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14,

*Recalling* its call upon all stakeholders to urgently undertake, inter alia, the actions highlighted in the declarations entitled “Our ocean, our future: call for action” and “Our ocean, our future, our responsibility” and implement the respective voluntary commitments pledged by individual Member States and other stakeholders during the first and second United Nations Conferences to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development,

*Recalling also* that the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, held from 5 to 15 July 2022, reviewed in depth Sustainable Development Goals 4, 5, 14 and 15, as well as Goal 17, which is reviewed annually, and that the ministerial declaration of the 2022 high-

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level political forum on sustainable development<sup>326</sup> welcomed the outcome of the 2022 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development and called for its full implementation,

*Recognizing* synergies between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change<sup>327</sup> and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,<sup>328</sup>

*Acknowledging* the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a whole,

*Recalling* United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/14 adopted on 2 March 2022 at its resumed fifth session,<sup>329</sup> in which the Assembly decided on the convening of an intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, with the ambition of completing its work by the end of 2024,

*Recalling also* the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and welcoming the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its 23 action-oriented global targets to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030,

*Recalling further* its resolution 77/321 of 1 August 2023, entitled “Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction”,

*Recalling* the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its decisions, including the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan, in which it welcomed the outcomes of and key messages from the ocean and climate change dialogue in 2022 and encouraged parties to consider, as appropriate, ocean-based action in their national climate goals and in the implementation of these goals, including but not limited to nationally determined contributions, long-term strategies and adaptation communications,

*Recalling also* its resolution 77/276 of 29 March 2023, entitled “Request for an advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the obligations of States in respect of climate change”,

*Recognizing* the crucial role of a healthy marine environment and ecosystems, sustainable fisheries and sustainable aquaculture for food security and nutrition and in providing for the livelihoods of millions of people,

*Recalling* the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies reached at the twelfth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization,

*Recalling also* its resolution 77/334 of 1 September 2023, entitled “Follow-up to the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028”,

*Acknowledging* the important role of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, 2021–2030, in supporting the efforts and commitments necessary for delivering the science we need, for the ocean we want,

1. *Decides* that the high-level 2025 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, co-hosted by Costa Rica and France, will be organized in Nice, France, from 9 to 13 June 2025, to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14;

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<sup>326</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-seventh Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/77/3)*, chap. VI, sect. D.

<sup>327</sup> See [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21, annex.

<sup>328</sup> Resolution 69/283, annex II.

<sup>329</sup> [UNEP/EA.5/Res.14](#).

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2. *Also decides* that all costs relating to the Conference and its preparation shall be financed through extrabudgetary resources;

3. *Reiterates* the call made in the declarations entitled “Our ocean, our future: call for action”<sup>330</sup> and “Our ocean, our future, our responsibility”<sup>331</sup> for action to be taken on an urgent basis to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development;

4. *Decides* that the Conference shall:

(a) Support further and urgent action to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, giving due consideration to the call made in the declarations entitled “Our ocean, our future: call for action” and “Our ocean, our future, our responsibility”;

(b) Identify further ways and means to support the implementation of Goal 14;

(c) Build on existing instruments to form successful partnerships towards the swift conclusion and effective implementation of ongoing processes that contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean;

(d) Involve all relevant stakeholders, bringing together Governments, the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions, other interested international bodies, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community, the private sector, philanthropic organizations, Indigenous Peoples and local communities and other actors to assess challenges and opportunities relating to, as well as actions taken towards, the implementation of Goal 14;

(e) Share the experiences gained at the national, regional and international levels in the implementation of Goal 14;

(f) Identify possible challenges and obstacles relating to the achievement of all the targets under Goal 14, as well as opportunities and innovative ways and means to support their implementation;

(g) Invite Member States and other relevant stakeholders to provide an update on the implementation of the voluntary commitments made in the context of the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, and invite new voluntary commitments in support of Goal 14, as well as support the sharing of experiences and lessons learned on their implementation;

(h) Share ongoing efforts, successes and challenges between relevant ocean-related initiatives and processes with a view to promoting collaboration, cooperation and coordination, as well as preventing the unnecessary duplication of efforts, to ensure further efficiency and effectiveness in support of Goal 14;

(i) Contribute to the follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>332</sup> by providing an input to the high-level political forum on sustainable development, in accordance with resolutions 67/290 of 9 July 2013, 70/1, 70/299 of 29 July 2016 and 75/290 B of 25 June 2021, unless otherwise agreed in line with the aforementioned resolutions, on the implementation of Goal 14, including on opportunities to strengthen progress in the future;

(j) Contribute to the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the work to conserve and sustainably use the ocean and its resources, including through the empowerment of women and girls, as their full, equal and meaningful participation is key in progressing towards a sustainable ocean-based economy and to achieving Goal 14;

5. *Also decides* that the overarching theme of the Conference shall be “Accelerating action and mobilizing all actors to conserve and sustainably use the ocean”;

6. *Further decides* that the Conference shall explore ways to promote financing and innovations to support the implementation of Goal 14, including through means of implementation in developing countries and the mobilization of resources from all sources;

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<sup>330</sup> Resolution 71/312, annex.

<sup>331</sup> Resolution 76/296, annex.

<sup>332</sup> Resolution 70/1.

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7. *Encourages* participation in the Conference at the highest possible level;
8. *Decides* that the Conference shall elect from among the representatives of participating States the following officers: two Presidents, one from Costa Rica and one from France, two ex officio Vice-Presidents from the host countries, and 13 Vice-Presidents,<sup>333</sup> one of whom shall be designated as Rapporteur-General;
9. *Also decides* that the Conference shall comprise 10 plenary meetings and 10 Ocean Action panels, to be held from 9 to 13 June 2025;
10. *Further decides* that the first plenary meeting of the Conference will commence at 9 a.m. on Monday, 9 June, with an opening segment from 9 to 10 a.m., and that the plenary meetings will be held as follows:  
  
Monday, 9 June: from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.  
  
Tuesday, 10 June: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.  
  
Wednesday, 11 June: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.  
  
Thursday, 12 June: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.  
  
Friday, 13 June: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 4 to 7 p.m.;
11. *Decides* that 10 Ocean Action panels will be held at the highest possible level, in parallel with the plenary meetings, in succession and for a minimum of 2 hours, in order to allow for the highest participation of delegations;
12. *Also decides* that all the Ocean Action panels shall be collaborative and multi-stakeholder in nature and will focus on commitments and actions to support the implementation of Goal 14, including through strengthened cooperation, building on existing successful partnerships and stimulating innovative and concrete new ones, taking into account the theme of the Conference;
13. *Further decides* that the organizational arrangements for the Ocean Action panels will be as follows:
  - (a) Each Ocean Action panel will be presided over by two Co-Chairs, one from a developing country and one from a developed country, to be appointed by the two Presidents of the Conference and identified by the host countries at least six months in advance of the Conference;
  - (b) The two host countries of the Conference, in coordination with the Secretary-General of the Conference and the two Co-Chairs, will designate a moderator and up to four panellists for each of the Ocean Action panels, taking into account gender balance and equitable geographical representation in the appointment of Co-Chairs, moderators and panellists. The panels, facilitated by the moderator, will be followed by an interactive debate among States and other relevant stakeholders;
14. *Recommends* the provisional agenda set forth in annex I to the present resolution for adoption by the Conference;
15. *Decides* that the Conference shall be organized in accordance with the organization of work set forth in annex II to the present resolution;
16. *Recommends* the provisional rules of procedure set forth in annex III to the present resolution for adoption by the Conference;
17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to appoint a Secretary-General of the Conference to serve as focal point within the Secretariat for providing support to the organization of the Conference, in cooperation and coordination with the Presidents of the Conference;
18. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to appoint a Special Adviser to the Presidents of the Conference on oceans and legal matters;
19. *Decides* that the Conference shall adopt, by consensus, a brief, concise, action-oriented and intergovernmentally agreed declaration focusing on areas of accelerated and collective action to support the

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<sup>333</sup> Three from each of the following groups: African States; Asia-Pacific States; Eastern European States; Latin American and Caribbean States; and Western European and other States. The election of the Presidents will, however, have the effect of reducing by one the number of Vice-Presidents allocated to the regions from which each of the Presidents is elected.

## I. Resolutions adopted without reference to a Main Committee

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implementation of Goal 14 and a report containing the Co-Chairs' summaries of the Ocean Action panels, as well as a list of voluntary commitments for the implementation of Goal 14 registered after 1 July 2022 and announced at the Conference;

20. *Also decides* to refer to the intergovernmentally agreed declaration and the list of voluntary commitments as the "Nice Ocean Action Plan";

21. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to appoint two co-facilitators, one from a developing country and one from a developed country, to conduct the intergovernmental consultations on the declaration to be concluded by 1 May 2025;

22. *Also requests* the President of the General Assembly to convene a one- to two-day preparatory meeting, in July 2024 at United Nations Headquarters in New York, to be chaired by the two host countries of the Conference, with interpretation services on an as-available basis, with a view to considering the themes for the Ocean Action panels and elements for the declaration, taking into consideration paragraph 19 above, in particular the call for a brief, concise, action-oriented and intergovernmentally agreed declaration;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare, in coordination with the two Presidents of the Conference, a background note by the end of April 2024, including a proposal for themes of the Ocean Action panels, for the preparatory meeting;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the Conference to prepare, in coordination with the co-hosts of the Conference and the appointed Co-Chairs of each Ocean Action panel, concept papers on each of the themes of the Ocean Action panels, taking into account the relevant ocean-related processes of the General Assembly and other possible contributions, and in that regard invites the stakeholders referred to in paragraph 4 (d) above to submit inputs;

25. *Requests* the co-facilitators to present a brief, concise and action-oriented draft declaration no later than January 2025, taking into account the deliberations of the preparatory meeting and other inputs;

26. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to finalize the organizational arrangements for the Conference no later than March 2025;

27. *Decides* that the Conference and its preparatory process shall be open to all States Members of the United Nations, members of the specialized agencies and parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,<sup>334</sup> recognizing that neither participation in the preparatory process and the Conference nor its outcome may affect the legal status of non-parties to the Convention or any other related agreements with regard to those instruments, or the legal status of parties to the Convention or any other related agreements with regard to those instruments;

28. *Invites* other relevant stakeholders, including organizations and bodies of the United Nations, intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions, other interested international bodies and non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, academic institutions, the scientific community, the private sector and philanthropic organizations, whose work is relevant to the Conference, accredited in accordance with the provisions set forth in annex II to the present resolution, to participate as observers in the Conference and its preparatory meeting;

29. *Invites* associate members of the regional commissions<sup>335</sup> to participate in the Conference and the preparatory meeting, in the same capacity specified for their participation in the global conferences on the sustainable development of small island developing States held in 1994, 2005 and 2014;

30. *Decides* that accreditation to the Conference and the preparatory meeting shall be in accordance with the provisions set forth in annex II to the present resolution;

31. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide appropriate support from all relevant parts of the Secretariat, and in cooperation with other relevant parts of the United Nations system, to the work of the Conference and to

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<sup>334</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.

<sup>335</sup> American Samoa, Anguilla, Aruba, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Curaçao, French Polynesia, Guam, Montserrat, New Caledonia, Puerto Rico, Sint Maarten, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands.



facilitate inter-agency cooperation to that end, as well as to ensure the efficient use of resources, so that the objectives of the Conference can be achieved;

32. *Encourages* States and international donors, as well as the private sector, financial institutions, foundations and other donors in a position to do so, to support the preparations for the Conference through voluntary contributions to a trust fund in support of preparations for the Conference and to support the participation of representatives of developing countries, priority being given to representatives of the least developed countries and small island developing States, including coverage of economy-class air tickets, daily subsistence allowances and terminal expenses, in the meetings of the Conference and its preparatory meeting.

## **Annex I**

### **Provisional agenda of the 2025 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development**

**Nice, France – 9 to 13 June 2025**

1. Opening of the Conference.
2. Election of the two Presidents.
3. Adoption of the rules of procedure.
4. Adoption of the agenda of the Conference.
5. Election of officers other than the Presidents.
6. Organization of work, including the establishment of subsidiary organs, and other organizational matters.
7. Credentials of representatives to the Conference:
  - (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;
  - (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.
8. General debate.
9. Ocean Action panels.
10. Outcome of the Conference.
11. Adoption of the report of the Conference.
12. Closure of the Conference.

## **Annex II**

### **Proposed organization of work of the 2025 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development**

**Nice, France**

1. The 2025 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development will be held in Nice, France, from 9 to 13 June 2025.

#### **I. Organization of work**

##### **A. Plenary meetings**

2. The Conference will consist of an opening and a closing, and a total of 10 plenary meetings, to be webcast, as follows:

Monday, 9 June: from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.



## **I. Resolutions adopted without reference to a Main Committee**

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Tuesday, 10 June: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

Wednesday, 11 June: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

Thursday, 12 June: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

Friday, 13 June: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 4 to 7 p.m.

3. The plenary meetings will be devoted to statements showcasing implementation and voluntary commitments.
4. The list of speakers for the plenary meetings will be established on a first-come first-served basis, with the customary protocol that ensures that Heads of State or Government speak first, followed by other heads of delegation. The European Union will be included in the list of speakers. Detailed arrangements will be communicated in a timely manner through a note by the Secretariat.
5. At the opening of the Conference, to take place during the first plenary meeting, from 9 to 10 a.m. on Monday, 9 June, consideration will be given to all procedural and organizational matters, including the adoption of the rules of procedure and the agenda, the election of the two Presidents of the Conference, the election of officers, the establishment of subsidiary organs, as appropriate, the appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee, arrangements for the preparation of the report of the Conference and other matters. Also at the first plenary meeting, statements will be made by the Presidents of the Conference, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Economic and Social Council, the Secretary-General of the Conference and elected representatives of the host region and city.
6. The plenary meetings will also hear statements from representatives of other intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions, international bodies, the United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes, as well as major groups and other stakeholders listed in paragraph 28 of the present resolution in accordance with the practices of the General Assembly.
7. The final plenary meeting, to be held on the afternoon of Friday, 13 June, is expected to conclude with, inter alia, reporting on the discussions of the Ocean Action panels, to be followed by the adoption of the brief, concise, action-oriented and intergovernmentally agreed declaration and the report of the Conference, followed by statements by the Special Adviser to the Presidents of the Conference on oceans and legal matters and the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the Ocean.
8. The plenary meetings will run in parallel with the Ocean Action panels unless otherwise specified in the present resolution.

### **B. Ocean Action panels**

9. The Conference will include 10 Ocean Action panels, to be webcast, to be held in parallel with the plenary meetings, as follows:

Monday, 9 June: panel 1 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and panel 2 from 3 to 6 p.m.

Tuesday, 10 June: panel 3 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and panel 4 from 3 to 6 p.m.

Wednesday, 11 June: panel 5 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and panel 6 from 3 to 6 p.m.

Thursday, 12 June: panel 7 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and panel 8 from 3 to 6 p.m.

Friday, 13 June: panel 9 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and panel 10 from 1.30 to 4.30 p.m.

10. Summaries of the discussions of the Ocean Action panels should be submitted to the Conference at its closing plenary meeting and included in the final report of the Conference.

### **C. Main Committee**

11. A Main Committee, if established in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference, will meet when the plenary meetings are not being held. The Main Committee will be responsible for finalizing any outstanding matters.

**II. Credentials of representatives to the Conference: appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee**

12. The Credentials Committee will be appointed according to the rules of procedure of the Conference.

**III. Accreditation: institutional stakeholders**

13. Relevant intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions and international bodies that were accredited to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the intergovernmental conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, the Review Conference on the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, the international meeting entitled “Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity”, the 2017 and 2022 United Nations Conferences to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development and to previous United Nations conferences on the sustainable development of small island developing States, held in Barbados, Mauritius and Samoa, and the upcoming fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, to be held in Antigua and Barbuda, including associate members of the regional commissions,<sup>336</sup> may participate in the deliberations of the Conference and its preparatory meeting, as appropriate, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference.

14. Interested intergovernmental organizations that were not accredited to the conferences and summits listed in paragraph 13 above may apply to the General Assembly for accreditation following the established accreditation procedure.

**IV. Accreditation: non-governmental organizations, major groups and other relevant stakeholders**

15. The non-governmental organizations and major groups as identified in Agenda 21,<sup>337</sup> in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, as well as those that were accredited to the conferences and summits listed in paragraph 13 above, shall register in order to participate.

16. The President of the General Assembly shall also draw up a list of representatives of other relevant non-governmental organizations, civil society and youth organizations, Indigenous Peoples’ organizations, local and regional authorities, academic institutions, the scientific community, the private sector, philanthropic organizations and other stakeholders whose work is relevant to the Conference, who may participate in the Conference and the preparatory meeting as observers, taking into account the principles of transparency and of equitable geographical representation, and shall submit the proposed list to Member States for their consideration on a non-objection basis. The President of the General Assembly shall bring the list to the attention of the General Assembly before the preparatory meeting and, in any case, no later than April 2024, and, where applicable, shall bring another list to the attention of the Assembly before the Conference and, in any case, no later than February 2025.<sup>338</sup>

17. The provisions of paragraph 15 of General Assembly resolution [67/290](#) of 9 July 2013 shall apply mutatis mutandis to the Conference and its preparatory process.

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<sup>336</sup> American Samoa, Anguilla, Aruba, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Curaçao, French Polynesia, Guam, Montserrat, New Caledonia, Puerto Rico, Sint Maarten, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands.

<sup>337</sup> *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 II.

<sup>338</sup> The list will include proposed as well as final names. The general basis of any objections, if requested by one or more States Members of the United Nations or States members of the specialized agencies, will be made known to the Office of the President of the General Assembly and the requester.

**V. Secretariat**

18. The Secretary-General of the Conference will serve as focal point within the Secretariat for providing support to the organization of the Conference, in cooperation with the representatives of the two Presidents.

19. The Special Adviser to the Presidents of the Conference on oceans and legal matters will support the achievement of the goals of the Conference by providing both substantive and procedural advice.

**VI. Documentation**

20. In accordance with the practice followed at previous United Nations conferences, the official documentation of the Conference will include documents issued before, during and after the Conference.

21. In accordance with the practice followed at previous United Nations conferences, it is recommended that the Conference adopt a report consisting of the decisions of the Conference, including the intergovernmentally agreed declaration, a brief account of the proceedings and a reportorial account of the work of the Conference and the action taken at the plenary meetings.

22. Summaries of the plenary meetings and Ocean Action panels and a list of voluntary commitments announced before or at the Conference should also be included in the report of the Conference.

**VII. Organization of parallel meetings and other events of the Conference**

23. Parallel meetings and other events, including those of major groups and other stakeholders, will be held during the same hours as the plenary meetings and Ocean Action panels, space permitting. Interpretation services will be provided for such meetings, as available.

**VIII. Side events**

24. Side events, including forums, briefings, seminars, workshops and panel discussions on issues related to the implementation of Goal 14, will be organized by participants in the Conference, at their cost, and being mindful when planning side events and identifying events on similar topics or issues in an effort to minimize overlap and avoid duplication. Guidelines for organizing such events and the calendar of those events will be made available on the Conference website.

**IX. Media coverage**

25. Press materials will be prepared by the Department of Global Communications of the Secretariat for journalists covering the Conference. In addition, regular press releases will be issued on the results of plenary meetings, Ocean Action panels and other events. All relevant documentation will be made available on the Conference website.

26. The plenary meetings, the Ocean Action panels and the press conferences will be broadcast live to the media area. A programme of special media briefings and press conferences will be announced.

**Annex III**

**Provisional rules of procedure of the 2025 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development**

**I. Representation and credentials**

**Rule 1**

**Composition of delegations**

The delegation of each State participating in the Conference and that of the European Union shall consist of a head of delegation and such other representatives, alternate representatives and advisers as may be required.

**Rule 2**

**Alternates and advisers**

The head of delegation may designate an alternate representative or an adviser to act as a representative.

**Rule 3**

**Submission of credentials**

The credentials of representatives and the names of alternate representatives and advisers shall be submitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, if possible, not less than one week before the date fixed for the opening of the Conference. The credentials shall be issued either by the Head of the State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs or, in the case of the European Union, by the President of the European Commission.

**Rule 4**

**Credentials Committee**

A Credentials Committee of nine members shall be appointed at the beginning of the Conference. Its composition shall be based on that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly at its current session. It shall examine the credentials of representatives and report to the Conference without delay.

**Rule 5**

**Provisional participation in the Conference**

Pending a decision of the Conference on their credentials, representatives shall be entitled to participate provisionally in the Conference.

**II. Officers**

**Rule 6**

**Elections**

The Conference shall elect from among the representatives of participating States the following officers: two Presidents, one from Costa Rica and one from France, each of whom shall preside separately. The Conference shall also elect 13 Vice-Presidents,<sup>339</sup> one of whom shall be designated as Rapporteur-General, two ex officio Vice-Presidents from the host countries as well as a Chair for the Main Committee established in accordance with rule 46. The officers shall be elected with a view to ensuring the representative character of the General Committee. The Conference may also elect such other officers as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.

**Rule 7**

**General powers of the presiding President**

1. The Presidents shall take turns in presiding at the plenary meetings of the Conference. In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon her or him elsewhere by these rules, the presiding President shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. The presiding President shall rule on points of order and, subject to those rules, shall have complete control over the proceedings and the maintenance of order thereat. The presiding President may propose to the Conference the closure of the list of speakers, a limitation on the time to be allowed to speakers and on the number of times each representative may speak on a question, the adjournment or closure of the debate and the suspension or adjournment of a meeting.

2. The presiding President remains, in the exercise of her or his functions, under the authority of the Conference.

**Rule 8**

**Acting President**

1. If both Presidents are to be absent from a meeting or any part thereof, they may designate one of the Vice-Presidents to preside.

2. A Vice-President acting as President shall have the same powers and duties as the President.

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<sup>339</sup> Three from each of the following groups: African States; Asia-Pacific States; Eastern European States; Latin American and Caribbean States; and Western European and other States. The election of the two Presidents will, however, have the effect of reducing by one the number of Vice-Presidents allocated to the regions from which each of the Presidents is elected.

**Rule 9**

**Replacement of a President or the Presidents**

If either of the Presidents is unable to perform her or his functions, a new President shall be elected. If both Presidents are unable to perform their functions, new Presidents shall be elected.

**Rule 10**

**Voting rights of the presiding President**

The presiding President, or a Vice-President acting as the presiding President, shall not vote in the Conference, but may appoint another member of her or his delegation to vote in her or his place.

**III. General Committee**

**Rule 11**

**Composition**

The two Presidents, the Vice-Presidents, the Rapporteur-General and the Chair of the Main Committee shall constitute the General Committee. One of the two Presidents, as agreed between them, or, in their absence, one of the Vice-Presidents designated by them, shall serve as Chair of the General Committee. The Chair of the Credentials Committee and other committees established by the Conference in accordance with rule 48 may participate, without the right to vote, in the General Committee.

**Rule 12**

**Substitute members**

If a President or a Vice-President of the Conference is to be absent during a meeting of the General Committee, she or he may designate a member of her or his delegation to sit and vote in the Committee. In case of absence, the Chair of the Main Committee shall designate the Vice-Chair of that Committee as her or his substitute. When serving on the General Committee, a Vice-Chair of the Main Committee shall not have the right to vote if she or he is a member of the same delegation as another member of the General Committee.

**Rule 13**

**Functions**

The General Committee shall assist both Presidents in the general conduct of the business of the Conference and, subject to the decisions of the Conference, shall ensure the coordination of the work of the Conference.

**IV. Secretariat of the Conference**

**Rule 14**

**Duties of the Secretary-General of the United Nations**

1. The Secretary-General of the United Nations or a designated representative shall act in that capacity in all meetings of the Conference and its subsidiary organs.
2. The Secretary-General of the United Nations or a designated representative shall direct the staff required by the Conference.

**Rule 15**

**Duties of the secretariat of the Conference**

The secretariat of the Conference shall, in accordance with the present rules:

- (a) Provide simultaneous interpretation of speeches made at meetings;
- (b) Receive, translate, reproduce and circulate the documents of the Conference;
- (c) Publish and circulate the official documents of the Conference;
- (d) Prepare and circulate records of public meetings;

- (e) Make and arrange for the keeping of sound recordings of meetings;
- (f) Arrange for the custody and preservation of the documents of the Conference in the archives of the United Nations;
- (g) Generally, perform all other work that the Conference may require.

**Rule 16**  
**Statements by the Secretariat**

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, or any member of the Secretariat designated for that purpose, may, at any time, make either oral or written statements concerning any question under consideration.

**V. Opening of the Conference**

**Rule 17**  
**Temporary President**

The Secretary-General of the United Nations or, in his absence, any member of the Secretariat designated by him for that purpose, shall open the first meeting of the Conference and preside until the Conference has elected its Presidents.

**Rule 18**  
**Decisions concerning organization**

The Conference shall, at its first meeting:

- (a) Adopt its rules of procedure;
- (b) Elect its officers and constitute its subsidiary organs;
- (c) Adopt its agenda, the draft of which shall, until such adoption, be the provisional agenda of the Conference;
- (d) Decide on the organization of its work.

**VI. Conduct of business**

**Rule 19**  
**Quorum**

The presiding President may declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed when at least one third of the States participating in the Conference are present. The presence of a majority of the States so participating shall be required for any decision to be taken.

**Rule 20**  
**Speeches**

1. No representative may address the Conference without having previously obtained the permission of the presiding President. Subject to rules 21, 22 and 25 to 27, the presiding President shall call upon speakers in the order in which they indicate their desire to speak. The secretariat shall be in charge of drawing up a list of speakers.
2. Debate shall be confined to the question before the Conference and the presiding President may call a speaker to order if her or his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.
3. The Conference may limit the time allowed to each speaker and the number of times each participant may speak on any question. Permission to speak on a motion to set such limits shall be accorded to only two representatives in favour of and to two opposing such limits, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote. In any event, with the consent of the Conference, the presiding President shall limit each intervention on procedural matters to five minutes. When the debate is limited and a speaker exceeds the allotted time, the presiding President shall call her or him to order without delay.

**Rule 21**

**Points of order**

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may at any time raise a point of order, which shall be immediately decided by the presiding President in accordance with the present rules. A representative may appeal against the ruling of the presiding President. The appeal shall be immediately put to the vote, and the presiding President's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the States present and voting. A representative may not, in raising a point of order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

**Rule 22**

**Precedence**

The Chair or the Rapporteur of the Main Committee, or of other subsidiary organs, may be accorded precedence for the purpose of explaining the conclusions arrived at by the body concerned.

**Rule 23**

**Closing of the list of speakers**

During the course of a debate, the presiding President may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Conference, declare the list closed.

**Rule 24**

**Right of reply**

1. Notwithstanding rule 23, the presiding President shall accord the right of reply to a representative of any State participating in the Conference or of the European Union who requests it. Any other representative of a State may be granted the opportunity to make a reply.
2. The statements made under the present rule shall normally be made at the end of the last meeting of the day, or at the conclusion of the consideration of the relevant item if that is sooner.
3. Representatives of a State or of the European Union may make no more than two statements under the present rule at a given meeting on any item. The first shall be limited to five minutes and the second to three minutes. Representatives shall, in any event, attempt to be as brief as possible.

**Rule 25**

**Adjournment of debate**

A representative of any State participating in the Conference may at any time move the adjournment of the debate on the question under discussion. In addition to the proposer of the motion, permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded to only two representatives in favour and to two opposing the adjournment, after which the motion shall, subject to rule 28, be immediately put to the vote.

**Rule 26**

**Closure of debate**

A representative of any State participating in the Conference may at any time move the closure of the debate on the question under discussion, whether or not any other representative has signified her or his wish to speak. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded to only two representatives opposing the closure, after which the motion shall, subject to rule 28, be immediately put to the vote.

**Rule 27**

**Suspension or adjournment of the meeting**

Subject to rule 38, a representative of any State participating in the Conference may at any time move the suspension or the adjournment of the meeting. No discussion on such motions shall be permitted and they shall, subject to rule 28, be immediately put to the vote.

**Rule 28**

**Order of motions**

The motions indicated below shall have precedence in the following order over all proposals or other motions before the meeting:

- (a) To suspend the meeting;
- (b) To adjourn the meeting;
- (c) To adjourn the debate on the question under discussion;
- (d) To close the debate on the question under discussion.

**Rule 29**

**Submission of proposals and substantive amendments**

Proposals and substantive amendments shall normally be submitted in writing to the Secretary-General or her or his designated representative, who shall circulate copies to all delegations in the languages of the Conference. Unless the Conference decides otherwise, substantive proposals shall not be discussed or put to a decision unless copies have been circulated to all delegations not later than the day preceding the meeting. The presiding President may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of amendments, even though those amendments have not been circulated or have been circulated only the same day.

**Rule 30**

**Withdrawal of proposals and motions**

A proposal or a motion may be withdrawn by its sponsor at any time before a decision on it has been taken, provided that it has not been amended. A proposal or a motion thus withdrawn may be reintroduced by any representative.

**Rule 31**

**Decisions on competence**

Subject to rule 28, any motion calling for a decision on the competence of the Conference to adopt a proposal submitted to it shall be put to the vote before a decision is taken on the proposal in question.

**Rule 32**

**Reconsideration of proposals**

When a proposal has been adopted or rejected, it may not be reconsidered unless the Conference, by a two-thirds majority of the States present and voting, so decides. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded to only two speakers opposing reconsideration, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote.

**VII. Decision-making**

**Rule 33**

**General agreement**

The Conference shall adopt, by consensus, a brief, concise, action-oriented and intergovernmentally agreed declaration focusing on, and highlighting, the science-based and innovative areas of action to support the implementation of Goal 14 and make its best endeavour to ensure that all the other work of the Conference is accomplished by consensus.

**Rule 34**

**Voting rights**

Each State participating in the Conference shall have one vote.



**Rule 35**

**Majority required**

1. Subject to rule 33, decisions of the Conference on all matters of substance shall be taken by a two-thirds majority of the States present and voting.
2. Except as otherwise provided in the present rules, decisions of the Conference on all matters of procedure shall be taken by a majority of the States present and voting.
3. If the question arises whether a matter is one of procedure or of substance, the presiding President of the Conference shall rule on the question. An appeal against that ruling shall be immediately put to the vote, and the presiding President's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the States present and voting.
4. If a vote is equally divided, the proposal or motion shall be regarded as rejected.

**Rule 36**

**Meaning of the phrase "States present and voting"**

For the purpose of the present rules, the phrase "States present and voting" means States casting an affirmative or negative vote. States which abstain from voting shall be regarded as not voting.

**Rule 37**

**Method of voting**

1. Except as provided in rule 44, the Conference may vote by show of hands, except that a representative may request a roll call, which shall then be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the States participating in the Conference, beginning with the delegation whose name is drawn by lot by the presiding President. The name of each State shall be called in all roll calls, and its representative shall reply "yes", "no" or "abstention".
2. When the Conference votes by mechanical means, a non-recorded vote shall replace a vote by show of hands and a recorded vote shall replace a roll call. A representative may request a recorded vote, which shall, unless a representative requests otherwise, be taken without calling out the names of the States participating in the Conference.
3. The vote of each State participating in a roll call or a recorded vote shall be inserted in any record of or report on the meeting.

**Rule 38**

**Conduct during voting**

After the presiding President has announced the commencement of voting, no representative shall interrupt the voting, except on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting.

**Rule 39**

**Explanation of vote**

1. Representatives may make brief statements, consisting solely of explanations of vote, before the voting has commenced or after the voting has been completed. The presiding President may limit the time to be allowed for such explanations. The representative of a State sponsoring a proposal or motion shall not speak in explanation of vote thereon, except if it has been amended.
2. When the same matter is considered successively in several organs of the Conference, a State should, as far as possible, explain its vote only in one such organ, unless its vote in one organ is different from that in another organ.

**Rule 40**

**Division of proposals**

A representative may move that parts of a proposal be decided on separately. If a representative objects, the motion for division shall be voted upon. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded to only two representatives in favour of and to two opposing the division. If the motion is carried, those parts of the proposal that are subsequently approved shall be put to the Conference for decision as a whole. If all operative parts of the proposal have been rejected, the proposal shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

**Rule 41**

**Amendments**

A proposal is considered an amendment to another proposal if it merely adds to, deletes from or revises part of that proposal. Unless specified otherwise, the word “proposal” in these rules shall be regarded as including amendments.

**Rule 42**

**Order of voting on amendments**

When an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Conference shall vote first on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal and then on the amendment next furthest removed therefrom, and so on, until all the amendments have been put to the vote. Where, however, the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another amendment, the latter shall not be put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted upon.

**Rule 43**

**Order of voting on proposals**

1. If two or more proposals, other than amendments, relate to the same question, they shall, unless the Conference decides otherwise, be voted on in the order in which they were submitted. The Conference may, after each vote on a proposal, decide whether to vote on the next proposal.
2. Revised proposals shall be voted on in the order in which the original proposals were submitted, unless the revision substantially departs from the original proposal. In that case, the original proposal shall be regarded as withdrawn and the revised proposal shall be treated as a new proposal.
3. A motion requiring that no decision be taken on a proposal shall be put to the vote before a decision is taken on the proposal in question.

**Rule 44**

**Elections**

All elections shall be held by secret ballot unless, in the absence of any objection, the Conference decides to proceed without taking a ballot when there is an agreed candidate or slate of candidates.

**Rule 45**

**Balloting**

1. When one or more elective places are to be filled at one time under the same conditions, those candidates, in a number not exceeding the number of such places, obtaining in the first ballot a majority of the votes cast and the largest number of votes shall be elected.
2. If the number of candidates obtaining such majority is less than the number of places to be filled, additional ballots shall be held to fill the remaining places, the voting being restricted to the candidates obtaining the largest number of votes in the previous ballot, to a number not more than twice the places remaining to be filled.

**VIII. Subsidiary organs**

**Rule 46**

**Main Committee**

The Conference may establish a Main Committee.

**Rule 47**

**Representation on the Main Committee**

Each State participating in the Conference and the European Union may be represented by one representative on the Main Committee. They may assign to the Committee such alternate representatives and advisers as may be required.

**Rule 48**

**Other committees and working groups**

1. In addition to the Main Committee referred to above, the Conference may establish such committees and working groups as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.
2. Subject to the decision of the plenary of the Conference, the committees may set up subcommittees and working groups.

**Rule 49**

**Members of committees, subcommittees and working groups**

1. The members of the committees and working groups of the Conference, referred to in rule 48, paragraph 1, shall be appointed by the two Presidents, subject to the approval of the Conference, unless the Conference decides otherwise.
2. Members of the subcommittees and working groups of committees shall be appointed by the Chair of the committee in question, subject to the approval of that committee, unless the committee decides otherwise.

**Rule 50**

**Officers**

Except as otherwise provided in rule 6, each committee, subcommittee and working group shall elect its own officers.

**Rule 51**

**Quorum**

1. The Chair of the Main Committee may declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed when at least one quarter of the States participating in the Conference are present. The presence of a majority of the States so participating shall be required for any decision to be taken.
2. A majority of the members of the General Committee or the Credentials Committee or of any committee, subcommittee or working group shall constitute a quorum.

**Rule 52**

**Officers, conduct of business and voting**

The rules contained in sections II, VI (except rule 19) and VII above shall be applicable, *mutatis mutandis*, to the proceedings of committees, subcommittees and working groups, except that:

- (a) The Chairs of the General Committee and the Credentials Committee and the Chairs of the committees, subcommittees and working groups may exercise the right to vote, provided that they are representatives of participating States;
- (b) Decisions of committees, subcommittees and working groups shall be taken by a majority of the members present and voting, except that the reconsideration of a proposal or an amendment shall require the majority established by rule 32.

## **IX. Languages and records**

### **Rule 53**

#### **Languages of the Conference**

Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish shall be the languages of the Conference.

### **Rule 54**

#### **Interpretation**

1. Speeches made in a language of the Conference shall be interpreted into the other five languages.
2. A representative may speak in a language other than a language of the Conference if the delegation concerned provides for interpretation into one of the languages of the Conference.

### **Rule 55**

#### **Languages of official documents**

Official documents of the Conference shall be made available in the languages of the Conference.

### **Rule 56**

#### **Sound recordings of meetings**

Sound recordings of the plenary meetings of the Conference, the Ocean Action Panels and of the meetings of the Main Committee shall be made and kept in accordance with the practice of the United Nations. Unless otherwise decided by the Conference or the Main Committee, no such recordings shall be made of any of the other meetings held during the Conference.

## **X. Public and private meetings**

### **General principles**

#### **Rule 57**

The plenary meetings of the Conference and the meetings of any committee shall be held in public unless the body concerned decides otherwise. All decisions taken by the plenary of the Conference at a private meeting shall be announced at an early public meeting of the plenary.

#### **Rule 58**

As a general rule, meetings of the General Committee, the Credentials Committee, subcommittees or working groups shall be held in private.

#### **Rule 59**

#### **Communiqués on private meetings**

At the close of a private meeting, the presiding officer of the organ concerned may issue a communiqué through the Secretary-General of the United Nations or a designated representative.

## **XI. Other participants and observers**

### **Rule 60**

#### **Intergovernmental organizations and other entities<sup>340</sup> having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and work of the General Assembly**

Representatives designated by intergovernmental organizations and other entities having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and work of the General Assembly have the right to participate as

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<sup>340</sup> For the purpose of the present rules, the term "other entities" includes the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the International Olympic Committee, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Sovereign Order of Malta.

observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group.

**Rule 61**

**Associate members of regional commissions<sup>341</sup>**

Representatives designated by the associate members of regional commissions listed in the footnote below may participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group.

**Rule 62**

**Representatives of the specialized agencies and related organizations<sup>342</sup>**

Representatives designated by the specialized agencies and related organizations may participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group on questions within the scope of their activities.

**Rule 63**

**Representatives of other intergovernmental organizations and other international bodies**

Save where otherwise specifically provided with respect to the European Union in these rules of procedure, representatives designated by other intergovernmental organizations and other international bodies invited to the Conference may participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group on questions within the scope of their activities.

**Rule 64**

**Representatives of interested United Nations organs**

Representatives designated by interested organs of the United Nations may participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group on questions within the scope of their activities.

**Rule 65**

**Representatives of non-governmental organizations, major groups and other relevant stakeholders<sup>343</sup>**

1. Non-governmental organizations, major groups and other relevant stakeholders approved to participate in the Conference may designate representatives to attend public meetings of the Conference and the Main Committee as observers.
2. Upon the invitation of the presiding officer of the Conference and subject to the approval of the Conference, such observers may make oral statements on questions in which they have special competence. If the number of requests to speak is too large, the non-governmental organizations shall be requested to form themselves into constituencies, such constituencies to speak through spokespersons.

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<sup>341</sup> American Samoa, Anguilla, Aruba, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Curaçao, French Polynesia, Guam, Montserrat, New Caledonia, Puerto Rico, Sint Maarten, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands.

<sup>342</sup> For the purpose of the present rules, the term “related organizations” includes the International Atomic Energy Agency, the International Criminal Court, the International Organization for Migration, the International Seabed Authority, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and the World Trade Organization.

<sup>343</sup> Paragraph 23.3 of Agenda 21 provides that “Any policies, definitions or rules affecting access to and participation by non-governmental organizations in the work of United Nations institutions or agencies associated with the implementation of Agenda 21 must apply equally to all major groups”. Agenda 21 defines major groups as comprising women, children and youth, Indigenous people, non-governmental organizations, local authorities, workers and their trade unions, business and industry, the scientific and technological community and farmers. Therefore, based on Agenda 21, rule 65 shall apply equally to non-governmental organizations and other major groups.

## **Rule 66**

### **Written statements**

Written statements submitted by the designated representatives referred to in rules 60 to 65 shall be circulated by the secretariat to all delegations in the quantities and the languages in which the statements are made available to it at the site of the Conference, provided that a statement submitted on behalf of a non-governmental organization must be related to the work of the Conference and be on a subject in which the organization has a special competence. Written statements shall not be made available at United Nations expense and shall not be issued as official documents.

## **XII. Suspension and amendment of the rules of procedure**

### **Rule 67**

#### **Method of suspension**

Any of these rules may be suspended by the Conference provided that 24 hours' notice of the proposal for the suspension has been given, which may be waived if no representative objects. Any such suspension shall be limited to a specific and stated purpose and to a period required to achieve that purpose.

### **Rule 68**

#### **Method of amendment**

These rules of procedure may be amended by a decision of the Conference taken by a two-thirds majority of the States present and voting, after the General Committee has reported on the proposed amendment.

## **RESOLUTION 78/129**

Adopted at the 48th plenary meeting, on 18 December 2023, without a vote, on the basis of draft resolution [A/78/L.26](#), sponsored by: Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, China, Djibouti, Egypt, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Morocco, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam

### **78/129. Promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace**

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>344</sup> in particular the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion,

*Recalling* its resolution [76/69](#) of 9 December 2021 on the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace, and its other related resolutions,

*Recalling also* its resolutions [53/243](#) A and B of 13 September 1999 on the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, which serve as a universal mandate for the international community for the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence that benefits humanity, in particular future generations, and welcoming the convening of the High-level Forum on the Culture of Peace by the President of the General Assembly on 6 September 2022,

*Encouraging*, in this regard, activities aimed at promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue in order to enhance peace and social stability, respect for diversity and mutual respect and to create, at the global level, and also at the regional, national and local levels, an environment conducive to peace and mutual understanding,

*Recalling* its resolution [69/312](#) of 6 July 2015 on the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, in which it reaffirmed its support for the Alliance and reiterated the valuable role of the Alliance in promoting greater understanding and respect among civilizations, cultures, religions and beliefs,

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<sup>344</sup> Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

*Recalling also* its resolution [36/55](#) of 25 November 1981, by which it proclaimed the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, and its resolutions [72/241](#) of 20 December 2017 on a world against violence and violent extremism, [73/285](#) of 2 April 2019 on combating terrorism and other acts of violence based on religion or belief, [75/258](#) of 21 January 2021 on promoting a culture of peace and tolerance to safeguard religious sites, [77/298](#) of 22 June 2023, entitled “The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy: eighth review”, and [77/318](#) of 25 July 2023 on promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue and tolerance in countering hate speech,

*Recalling further* its resolution [72/130](#) of 8 December 2017 proclaiming 16 May as International Day of Living Together in Peace, resolution [73/296](#) of 28 May 2019 designating 22 August as International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief, resolution [73/329](#) of 25 July 2019 declaring 5 April the International Day of Conscience, and resolution [76/254](#) of 15 March 2022 designating 15 March as International Day to Combat Islamophobia,

*Welcoming* the observance of 10 December as Human Rights Day,<sup>345</sup> 9 December as the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of This Crime,<sup>346</sup> 2 October as the International Day of Non-Violence,<sup>347</sup> 18 June as the International Day for Countering Hate Speech,<sup>348</sup> 21 August as the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism,<sup>349</sup> 4 February as the International Day of Human Fraternity,<sup>350</sup> 16 November as the International Day for Tolerance,<sup>351</sup> 20 February as the World Day of Social Justice<sup>352</sup> and 15 March as the International Day to Combat Islamophobia,<sup>353</sup> as proclaimed by the United Nations,

*Bearing in mind* the valuable contribution that interreligious and intercultural dialogue can make to an improved awareness and understanding of the common values shared by all humankind,

*Noting* that interreligious and intercultural dialogue has made significant contributions to mutual understanding, tolerance and respect, as well as to the promotion of a culture of peace and an improvement of overall relations among people from different cultural and religious backgrounds and among nations,

*Noting also* the growing importance of interreligious and intercultural dialogue in the context of the global phenomenon of migration, which increases interaction among persons and communities from various traditions, cultures and religions,

*Convinced* that the full enjoyment of human rights by all persons, the promotion of cultural pluralism and tolerance towards and dialogue among various cultures and civilizations would contribute to the efforts of all peoples and nations to enrich their cultures and traditions by engaging in a mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and intellectual, moral and material achievements,

*Noting* the launch by the Secretary-General of the United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech, and noting the role of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide in this regard,

*Noting also* the leading role played by the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations in preparing the United Nations Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites, noting further the launch of the Plan of Action by the Secretary-General on 12 September 2019, and inviting Member States to consider implementing the relevant recommendations addressed to them, in collaboration with other stakeholders, as appropriate,

*Noting further* the Unite for Heritage campaign launched by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in March 2015, which is aimed at celebrating and safeguarding cultural heritage and diversity

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<sup>345</sup> Resolution [423 \(V\)](#).

<sup>346</sup> Resolution [69/323](#).

<sup>347</sup> Resolution [61/271](#).

<sup>348</sup> Resolution [75/309](#).

<sup>349</sup> Resolution [72/165](#).

<sup>350</sup> Resolution [75/200](#).

<sup>351</sup> Resolution [51/95](#).

<sup>352</sup> Resolution [62/10](#).

<sup>353</sup> Resolution [76/254](#).

around the world, and the Conference on Safeguarding Endangered Cultural Heritage, held in Abu Dhabi on 2 and 3 December 2016, and the declaration adopted at the Conference,

*Recalling* that States have the primary responsibility to promote and protect human rights, including the human rights of persons belonging to religious minorities, including their right to exercise their religion or belief freely,

*Recognizing* that individuals in many religions and societies accord significance to religious symbols, and in this regard underscoring the importance of promoting mutual respect, tolerance and peaceful coexistence,

*Reaffirming* that violence can and should never be a justifiable or acceptable response to acts of intolerance on the basis of religion or belief and that such violence should not be attributed to any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group,

*Reaffirming also* the positive role that the exercise of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and full respect for the freedom to seek, receive and impart information can play in strengthening democracy and combating religious intolerance, and reaffirming further that the exercise of the right to freedom of expression carries with it special duties and responsibilities, in accordance with article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>354</sup>

*Recalling* article 20 (2) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which states that any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence shall be prohibited by law,

*Bearing in mind* that tolerance of cultural, ethnic, religious and linguistic diversities contributes towards peace, mutual understanding and friendship among people of different cultures and nations and that these diversities should be made part of intercultural and interreligious dialogue efforts, as appropriate,

*Reaffirming* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>355</sup> and acknowledging that the 2030 Agenda includes the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development,

*Noting* the various initiatives at the local, national, regional and international levels for enhancing interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation, and for strengthening people-to-people bonds, which are mutually reinforcing and interrelated, as well as declarations and statements from various meetings in this regard, all of which contribute to promoting social cohesion and inclusion, peace and development,

*Noting also* the cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations in the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue,

*Welcoming* the leading role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as well as the work of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, in promoting intercultural dialogue,

*Welcoming also* the work of the Anna Lindh Foundation and the ongoing work of the King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue in Lisbon,

*Noting* the efforts that build on the Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred,<sup>356</sup> the Plan of Action for Religious Leaders and Actors to Prevent Incitement to Violence that Could Lead to Atrocity Crimes, also known as the Fez Plan of Action, the Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites, and the Istanbul Process for Combating Intolerance, Discrimination and Incitement to Hatred and/or Violence on the Basis of Religion or Belief,

*Acknowledging* the positive contribution of individuals and of relevant civil society organizations to the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and the culture of peace,

*Underlining* the importance of education, including education on culture, peace, tolerance, mutual understanding and human rights, in promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue, respect for diversity, and the elimination of discrimination based on religion or belief,

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<sup>354</sup> See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

<sup>355</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>356</sup> A/HRC/22/17/Add.4, appendix.



## I. Resolutions adopted without reference to a Main Committee

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*Recognizing* the contributions of the media and of new information and communications technologies to promoting peoples' understanding of different cultures and religions, including through the promotion of dialogue,

*Reaffirming* the importance of sustaining the process of engaging all stakeholders, including young men and women as relevant actors, in interreligious and intercultural dialogue within the appropriate initiatives at various levels, which is aimed at challenging prejudices, improving mutual understanding and fostering cooperation,

*Recognizing* the commitment of all religions to peace and the contribution that interreligious and intercultural dialogue among religions, groups and individuals, in particular religious leaders, can make towards an improved awareness and understanding of the common values shared by all humankind,

*Taking note* of the document entitled "Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together", which was signed by Pope Francis and the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, Ahmad al-Tayyib, on 4 February 2019 in Abu Dhabi,

1. *Reaffirms* that mutual understanding and interreligious and intercultural dialogue constitute important dimensions of the dialogue among civilizations and of the culture of peace;
2. *Recognizes* that the open public debate of ideas, as well as interfaith and intercultural dialogue, at the local, national and international levels can be among the best protections against religious intolerance and can play a positive role in strengthening democracy and combating religious hatred, and convinced that a continuing dialogue on these issues can help to overcome existing misperceptions;
3. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the promotion of a culture of peace and interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace;<sup>357</sup>
4. *Recognizes* the importance of interreligious and intercultural dialogue and its valuable contribution to promoting social cohesion and inclusion, peace and development, and calls upon Member States to consider, as appropriate and where applicable, interreligious and intercultural dialogue as an important tool in efforts aimed at achieving peace and social stability and the full realization of the Sustainable Development Goals;
5. *Also recognizes* the efforts by relevant stakeholders to foster peaceful and harmonious coexistence within societies by promoting respect for religious and cultural diversity, including by engendering sustained and robust interaction among various segments of society;
6. *Further recognizes* the leading role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on intercultural dialogue and its contribution to interreligious dialogue, as well as its activities related to the culture of peace and non-violence and its focus on concrete actions at the global, regional and subregional levels, and recognizes the contribution by the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations in this regard;
7. *Welcomes* the declarations adopted by the Global Forums of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, and invites relevant stakeholders to continue their efforts to promote mutual understanding among different civilizations, cultures, religions and beliefs;
8. *Also welcomes* the efforts undertaken by the High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations in promoting intercultural and interreligious dialogue, strengthening social cohesion and promoting a culture of peace;
9. *Takes note with concern* of the rise in discrimination, hate speech, stigmatization, racism and xenophobia related to the COVID-19 pandemic;
10. *Calls upon* Member States, which have the primary responsibility to counter discrimination and hate speech, and all relevant actors, including political and religious leaders, to promote inclusion and unity to combat racism, xenophobia, hate speech, violence and discrimination;
11. *Reaffirms* the solemn commitment of all States to fulfil their obligations and commitments to promote universal respect for and observance and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other instruments

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<sup>357</sup> [A/76/357](#).

## I. Resolutions adopted without reference to a Main Committee

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relating to human rights and international law, the universal nature of these rights and freedoms being beyond question;

12. *Recalls* the initiative to open up the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor in the spirit of interfaith harmony and peaceful neighbourhood, and appreciates the agreement between the Governments of India and Pakistan to allow visa-free access to pilgrims of all faiths, especially Nanak Naam Levas and the Sikh community from across the world, as a landmark initiative for interreligious and intercultural cooperation for peace;

13. *Notes with appreciation* the ninth United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Global Forum, held in Fez, Kingdom of Morocco, on 22 and 23 November 2022 under the theme “Towards an alliance of peace: living together as one humanity”, that adopted the Fez Declaration, and focused, among other issues, on countering and addressing online hate speech on social media, and invites relevant stakeholders to continue their efforts to promote cross-cultural dialogue and mutual understanding among different civilizations, cultures, religions and beliefs;

14. *Underlines* the importance of moderation as a value, while respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, and for further contributing to the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, tolerance, understanding and cooperation, and encourages efforts, as appropriate, to enable voices of moderation to work together in order to build a more secure, inclusive and peaceful world;

15. *Welcomes* the efforts by the media to promote interreligious and intercultural dialogue, encourages the further promotion of dialogue among the media from all cultures and civilizations, emphasizes that everyone has the right to freedom of expression, and reaffirms that the exercise of this right carries with it special duties and responsibilities and may therefore be subject to certain restrictions, but that these can be only such as are provided by law and necessary for respect of the rights or reputations of others, and protection of national security or of public order, or of public health and morals, and are non-discriminatory and that all measures taken should be in full compliance with international human rights law;

16. *Also welcomes* the efforts to use information and communications technologies, including the Internet, to promote interreligious and intercultural dialogue, including through the Peace and Dialogue ePortal of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and encourages relevant stakeholders to utilize the opportunity to disseminate their best practices and experiences on interreligious and intercultural dialogue by contributing to the Peace and Dialogue ePortal;

17. *Encourages* Member States to consider, as and where appropriate, initiatives that identify areas for practical action in all sectors and levels of society for the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, tolerance, understanding and cooperation;

18. *Acknowledges* the active engagement of the United Nations system with faith-based and cultural organizations and other relevant non-governmental organizations in the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue and in bringing together people of different cultures, religions, faiths or beliefs to discuss common issues and objectives;

19. *Also acknowledges* the important role of civil society, including academia, in fostering interreligious and intercultural dialogue, and encourages support for practical measures that mobilize civil society, including building capacities, opportunities and frameworks for cooperation;

20. *Invites* Member States to further promote reconciliation to help to ensure durable peace, and sustained development, including by working with faith leaders and communities and through reconciliatory measures and acts of service and by encouraging forgiveness and compassion among individuals;

21. *Also invites* Member States to disseminate values of religious tolerance and interreligious dialogue through educational programmes;

22. *Recognizes* that the Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat plays a valuable role as focal point within the Secretariat on the issue, and encourages it to continue to interact and coordinate with the relevant entities of the United Nations system and coordinate their contribution to the intergovernmental process aimed at promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its eightieth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

## RESOLUTION 78/130

Adopted at the 48th plenary meeting, on 18 December 2023, without a vote, on the basis of draft resolution [A/78/L.14](#), sponsored by: Antigua and Barbuda, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Fiji, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Honduras, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kiribati, Malaysia, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Zambia

### **78/130. Sustainable, safe and universal water, sanitation, hygiene, waste and electricity services in health-care facilities**

*The General Assembly,*

*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 Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>358</sup> the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights<sup>359</sup> and the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health,

*Recalling also* the 2023 political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly (Sustainable Development Goals Summit),<sup>360</sup>

*Recalling further* the 2023 political declaration of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage,<sup>361</sup> which reaffirms the right of every human being, without distinction of any kind, to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and recognizes the importance of water, sanitation, hygiene, waste management and electricity services in health-care facilities for health promotion, disease prevention and the safety of both patients and health workers,

*Recalling* the Declaration of Astana of the Global Conference on Primary Health Care, which envisages strengthening primary health care as the most inclusive, effective and efficient approach to enhance people’s physical and mental health, as well as social well-being, and that primary health care is a cornerstone of a sustainable health system for effective universal health coverage and health-related Sustainable Development Goals,

*Recalling also* the 2023 political declarations on universal health coverage and on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response,<sup>362</sup> which recognizes that infection prevention and control, including hygiene, and access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation services, particularly in health facilities, are essential for preventing the emergence and spread of infectious diseases,

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<sup>358</sup> Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

<sup>359</sup> See resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

<sup>360</sup> Resolution [78/1](#), annex.

<sup>361</sup> Resolution [78/4](#), annex.

<sup>362</sup> Resolution [78/3](#), annex.

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*Recalling further* the 2016 political declaration of the high-level meeting to tackle antimicrobial resistance<sup>363</sup> through the five overarching strategic objectives of the World Health Organization global action plan on antimicrobial resistance,<sup>364</sup>

*Reaffirming* the call to promote zero-waste initiatives and support Member States in sustainable waste management,

*Reaffirming also* the importance of promoting the resilience of new and existing critical infrastructure, including water, hospitals and other health facilities, to ensure that they remain safe, effective and operational during and after disasters in order to provide life-saving and essential services,

*Recalling* its resolution 76/153 of 16 December 2021 on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation,

*Recalling also* its resolution 69/2 of 22 September 2014 on the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, and the commitment therein to ensure equal access to high-quality services such as water and sanitation and other economic and social programmes, and the recognition of the importance of Indigenous Peoples' health practices and their traditional medicine and knowledge, in this regard stressing the importance of working with Indigenous Peoples to improve water, sanitation, hygiene, waste and electricity in Indigenous health-care facilities, and in this regard welcoming the establishment of the World Health Organization Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in Jamnagar, Gujarat, India,

*Welcoming* the convening of the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028, in New York from 22 to 24 March 2023,

*Recognizing* that, without sufficient and safe water, sanitation, hygiene, waste and electricity services in health-care facilities, countries will not accelerate needed progress to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Goals,

*Recognizing also* that the provision of safe water, sanitation, hygiene, waste and electricity services is fundamental for achieving universal health coverage, strengthening primary health care, improving quality care, and saving lives by ending preventable maternal and newborn deaths, as well as reducing costs of health care-associated infections and spread of antimicrobial resistance,

*Deeply concerned* that the latest data indicate huge gaps in services: globally, one in five health-care facilities lacks basic water, one in five has no sanitation, one in two lacks basic hand hygiene; one in four does not segregate health-care waste, and, furthermore, 1 billion people access health-care facilities without reliable electricity or without electricity access at all, underscoring the grave implications of not having these basic services, especially the 8 million people that die annually from poor-quality care, resulting in 6 trillion United States dollars in losses,

*Deeply concerned also* that the lack of access to adequate water and sanitation services, including for menstrual health and hygiene management in health-care facilities, negatively affects gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls and their enjoyment of human rights, including the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and recognizing the specific hygiene needs of women and girls during menstruation, and that women have specific hygiene needs during pregnancy, childbearing and rearing and throughout the life course,

*Noting* the importance, in accordance with international humanitarian law, of respecting and protecting, in situations of armed conflict, medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, and hospitals and other medical facilities, which must not be unlawfully attacked, and ensuring that the wounded and sick receive, to the fullest extent practicable and with the least possible delay, the medical care and attention required,

*Taking note* of the work of the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund through the Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene, and their global leadership and coordination of efforts to improve water, sanitation, hygiene and electricity in health-care facilities, and of the baseline reports and

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<sup>363</sup> Resolution 71/3.

<sup>364</sup> World Health Organization, document WHA68/2015/REC/1, annex 3.

progress updates for the provision of safe drinking water and sanitation in health-care facilities, and the articulation of evidence-based actions and tools to improve services, including Water and Sanitation for Health Facility Improvement,

*Taking note* of World Health Assembly resolution 72.7 of 28 May 2019 on water, sanitation and hygiene in health-care facilities<sup>365</sup> and subsequent global progress reports highlighting the large gaps in services as well as the reports on the practical actions, while noting that progress is greatest in establishing baselines and strengthening standards and least in integrating these with health systems, including through improving water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure, training and education,

*Emphasizing* the importance of a coordinated, strategic response that accelerates action and investments at the global, regional and national levels, taking into consideration, as appropriate, the main recommendations contained in the most recent global progress report of the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund on water, sanitation, hygiene, waste and electricity in health-care facilities,<sup>366</sup> and the outcomes of the Global Summit on WASH, Waste and Electricity in Health Care Facilities, held in Amman from 13 to 15 June 2023,<sup>367</sup>

1. *Encourages* all Member States to integrate water, sanitation, hygiene, waste and electricity in health-care facilities and to mainstream these efforts, as appropriate, into national health planning, programming, financing, monitoring and evaluation, and to empower the health workforce to demand, appropriately use and maintain such services, in accordance with national standards and contexts, including by:

(a) Facilitating cross-sectoral engagement through intersectoral task forces, joint sector reviews and joint planning and funding;

(b) Establishing, updating and implementing, according to national context, standards for safe, sustainable water, sanitation, hygiene, health-care waste, electricity and infection prevention and control, taking into consideration the impact of extreme events on health-care settings and integrating such standards into accreditation and regulation systems; and establishing accountability mechanisms to follow up on their efforts to reinforce standards and practice;

(c) Developing, resourcing and implementing national road maps, so that every health-care facility can have and maintain safe and sustainable water and sanitation supplies, hygiene services and practices, waste management, and electricity services for all;

(d) Ensuring adequate budgets and resourcing for water, sanitation, hygiene, waste and electricity services for all facilities across all relevant sectors, including for operation, maintenance and workforce capacity-building, with regular tracking and reporting;

(e) Integrating harmonized water, sanitation, hygiene, waste and electricity indicators into national monitoring and evaluation systems, and regularly collecting, analysing, reviewing and disseminating data findings at the national level;

(f) Developing and capacitating structures to enable local and national coordination mechanisms, where relevant, for the provision of water, sanitation, hygiene, waste and electricity services, including by engaging community health workers in supporting such efforts and linking between hygiene practices in health-care facilities;

2. *Invites* international and regional organizations, international and regional financial institutions and development agencies engaged in the provision of water, sanitation, hygiene, waste and electricity support, as appropriate, to enhance the coordination of their strategies and engage with the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund as the co-coordinators of global efforts on water, sanitation, hygiene, waste and electricity in health-care facilities alongside other core partners continuing to increase data coverage through the inclusion of global indicators in facility and programme surveys;

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<sup>365</sup> See World Health Organization, document WHA72/2019/REC/1.

<sup>366</sup> World Health Organization and United Nations Children's Fund, *Water, Sanitation, Hygiene, Waste and Electricity Services in Health Care Facilities: Progress on the Fundamentals* (Geneva, 2023).

<sup>367</sup> The World Health Organization and United Nations Children's Fund Global Summit brought together 35 countries to share approaches, strategies and develop the Global Framework for Action (2024–2030): Water, sanitation, hygiene, waste and electricity services in all health care facilities achieves essential quality health services. The meeting report and presentations are available at [www.washinhc.org/resource/global-summit-meeting-report-amman-jordan/](http://www.washinhc.org/resource/global-summit-meeting-report-amman-jordan/).

3. *Urges* Member States to strengthen international cooperation to support efforts to finance, build, strengthen and maintain capacity in developing countries to improve water, sanitation, hygiene, waste and electricity services in health-care facilities;

4. *Recognizes* that health financing requires global solidarity and collective effort, and urges Member States to strengthen international cooperation to support efforts to build and strengthen capacity in developing countries, including through enhanced official development assistance and financial and technical support and support to research, development and innovation programmes;

5. *Encourages* all relevant entities of the United Nations system to promote the optimum use of resources and to support developing countries, at their request, in the acceleration of efforts to improve water, sanitation, hygiene, waste and electricity in health-care facilities;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with the Director General of the World Health Organization and the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund, as well as core partners such as the World Bank and other relevant organizations, to strengthen and support, as appropriate, within their mandates, the existing global initiatives co-led by the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, to provide assistance to Member States, upon their request, towards the achievement of universal, safe, sustainable water, sanitation, hygiene, waste and electricity services in health-care facilities as a core measure to achieve universal health coverage, primary health care and the related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals;<sup>368</sup>

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to provide, in consultation with the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund and other relevant international organizations, within existing resources, a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution in 2025 during the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly, which will serve to inform States and the United Nations development system, and in this context invites all States to contribute to the report of the Secretary-General, including by providing data through the World Health Organization and United Nations Children's Fund Joint Monitoring Programme on water, sanitation and hygiene in health-care facilities.

#### RESOLUTION 78/131

Adopted at the 48th plenary meeting, on 18 December 2023, without a vote, on the basis of draft resolution [A/78/L.24](#), as amended in [A/78/L.31](#), sponsored by: Afghanistan, Albania, Austria, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Montenegro, Morocco, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Korea, Thailand, Türkiye, United States of America

#### **78/131. Enhancing action at the national, regional and international levels to address the global public health and security challenges posed by synthetic drugs**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recognizing* that the world drug problem continues to constitute a serious threat to public health and security and to the well-being of humanity, and recognizing in particular the significant challenges posed by the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in synthetic drugs, as well as their distribution, consumption and use for non-medical and non-scientific purposes,

*Recalling* that, in the Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem of 2019,<sup>369</sup> Member States reaffirmed their shared commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem through concerted and sustained action at the national, regional and international levels, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility, including accelerating the implementation of existing drug policy commitments contained in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, held in 2016, entitled "Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug

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<sup>368</sup> See resolution [70/1](#).

<sup>369</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2019, Supplement No. 8 (E/2019/28)*, chap. I, sect. B.



problem”,<sup>370</sup> in the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem<sup>371</sup> and in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action of 2009,<sup>372</sup> and that Member States have recognized those documents as complementary and mutually reinforcing,

*Stressing with grave concern* the international challenge, particularly to public health, welfare and security, including law enforcement, posed by the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in synthetic drugs, as well as their distribution, consumption and use for non-medical and non-scientific purposes, and reaffirming its determination to prevent and treat the non-medical use of such drugs, minimize the adverse health and social consequences associated with their use and prevent and counter their illicit production, manufacture, diversion and trafficking,

*Recognizing* that the world drug problem, including the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in synthetic drugs, as well as their distribution, consumption and use for non-medical and non-scientific purposes, remains a common and shared responsibility that should be addressed, inter alia, in a multilateral setting through effective and increased international cooperation and demands an integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing, balanced, scientific evidence-based and comprehensive approach,

*Underscoring* that the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,<sup>373</sup> the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,<sup>374</sup> the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988<sup>375</sup> and other relevant international instruments constitute the cornerstone of the international drug control system,

*Reaffirming* the principal role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as the policymaking body of the United Nations system with prime responsibility for drug control and other drug-related matters, and of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as the leading entity in the United Nations system for addressing and countering all aspects of the world drug problem, as well as the treaty-mandated roles of the International Narcotics Control Board and the World Health Organization, and recognizing the relevant contributions of other relevant United Nations entities and international organizations, including the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), within their respective mandates,

*Reaffirming also its unwavering commitment* to ensuring that all aspects of demand reduction and related measures, supply reduction and related measures, and international cooperation are addressed in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>376</sup> with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, all human rights, fundamental freedoms, the inherent dignity of all individuals and the principles of equal rights and mutual respect among States,

*Recalling* relevant United Nations resolutions, including all General Assembly resolutions related to addressing and countering the world drug problem, the most recent of which is resolution [77/238](#) of 15 December 2022, entitled “Addressing and countering the world drug problem through a comprehensive, integrated and balanced approach”, as well as all relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

*Reaffirming its commitment* to the goals and objectives of the three international drug control conventions, including concern about the health and welfare of humankind as well as the individual and public health-related, social and safety problems resulting from the abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, in particular among children and young people, and drug-related crime, and reaffirming its determination to prevent and treat the abuse of such substances and prevent and counter their illicit cultivation, production, manufacturing and trafficking,

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<sup>370</sup> Resolution [S-30/1](#), annex.

<sup>371</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2014, Supplement No. 8 (E/2014/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

<sup>372</sup> *Ibid.*, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28), chap. I, sect. C.

<sup>373</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

<sup>374</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

<sup>375</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

<sup>376</sup> Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

*Reaffirming* that the three international drug control conventions seek to achieve a balance between ensuring access to and the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances under international control for medical and scientific purposes and preventing their diversion and misuse,

*Noting with deep concern* that the availability of internationally controlled drugs for medical and scientific purposes, including for the relief of pain and suffering, remains low to non-existent in many countries, in particular in developing countries, and highlighting the need to enhance national efforts and international cooperation at all levels to address that situation by promoting measures to ensure their availability, affordability and accessibility for medical and scientific purposes, within the framework of national legal systems, while simultaneously preventing their diversion, abuse and trafficking, in order to fulfil the aims and objectives of the three international drug control conventions,

*Stressing with grave concern* the increase in the number of overdose deaths associated with the use of synthetic drugs, and the urgent need to raise awareness of and improve access to the prevention and treatment of drug overdose,

*Underscoring* the need for Member States, consistent with their national legislation and contexts, to facilitate non-discriminatory and voluntary access to drug-related prevention, treatment, education, care, sustained recovery, rehabilitation, social reintegration and related support services, in particular for people who may face obstacles when accessing those services, including those impacted by social marginalization, while mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development and implementation of those services,

*Recognizing* that civil society, as well as the scientific community and academia, play an important role in addressing and countering all aspects of the world drug problem, and noting that affected populations and representatives of civil society entities, where appropriate, should be enabled to play a participatory role in the formulation, implementation, and the providing of relevant scientific evidence in support of, as appropriate, the evaluation of drug control policies and programmes, and recognizing the importance of cooperation with the private sector in this regard,

*Taking note* of the publication of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime *World Drug Report 2023*, in particular its chapter entitled “The synthetic drug phenomenon,” and noting with concern its findings that synthetic drugs are proliferating globally and offer criminals, including organized crime groups, significant advantages with regard to the scalability of manufacturing, operational costs, geographic flexibility and reduced risks of detection, interdiction and prosecution, that consumers of synthetic drugs face growing challenges related to the unknown pharmacology and harms of such drugs, lack of available treatments, therapies or antagonists for some new drugs, the potential development of an underground and unsafe market for such therapies, with the inherent risks of misuse and abuse of an unregulated practice, and increasingly dangerous mixtures of harmful substances in the drug supply, and also that developments in digital communications platforms have added a new dimension to drug distribution, including the use of the clear web, encrypted communications tools, certain social media applications, and darknet markets,

*Taking note with appreciation* of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Synthetic Drug Strategy 2021–2025,

*Taking note* of the report on precursors of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2022, in which the Board expressed its readiness to fully support Governments in their efforts to implement articles 12 and 13 of the 1988 Convention, with regard to precursors under international control, chemicals not included in the tables of the Convention, and illicit drug manufacturing equipment,

*Bearing in mind* that, in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, Member States resolved to review in the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in 2029 progress in implementing all international drug policy commitments, with a midterm review in the Commission in 2024, and that Member States decided, in Commission resolution 66/1 of 17 March 2023,<sup>377</sup> to convene in 2024 a high-level segment of the Commission to take stock of the implementation of all international drug policy commitments and outline the way forward to 2029,

1. *Calls upon* Member States, consistent with the principle of common and shared responsibility, to carry out coordinated actions at the national, regional and international levels to address, in accordance with domestic law and circumstances, the global public health and security challenges posed by the illicit manufacture of and trafficking

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<sup>377</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2023, Supplement No. 8 (E/2023/28)*, chap. I, sect. B.



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in synthetic drugs, as well as their distribution, consumption and use for non-medical and non-scientific purposes, including through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as the body with a treaty-mandated function to consider all matters pertaining to the aims of the three international drug control conventions and as the policymaking body of the United Nations system with prime responsibility for drug control and other drug-related matters;

2. *Encourages* Member States, as appropriate, to explore innovative and forward-looking approaches to more effectively address the threats posed by the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in synthetic drugs, as well as their distribution, consumption and use for non-medical and non-scientific purposes, by involving all relevant sectors, building the capacity of law enforcement and health-care systems to respond to those threats, broadening domestic, regional and international controls over synthetic drugs, and voluntarily establishing and strengthening partnerships or cooperation with civil society, academia, and private sector entities where relevant and in accordance with domestic law, as well as addressing drug-related socioeconomic factors;

3. *Urges* Member States to develop and carry out comprehensive, balanced, scientific evidence-based and forward-looking strategies at all applicable levels to effectively address and counter challenges posed by the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in synthetic drugs, as well as their distribution, consumption and use for non-medical and non-scientific purposes, including interventions related to prevention, treatment and recovery support, measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of synthetic drug use, as well as preventing and countering drug-related crime and violence and the trafficking and diversion of synthetic drugs, their precursor chemicals, including non-scheduled and designer precursor chemicals, and equipment used in the illicit manufacture of synthetic drugs;

4. *Calls upon* Member States to improve access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes by appropriately addressing existing barriers in this regard, including those related to legislation, regulatory systems, health-care systems, affordability, the training of health-care professionals, education, awareness-raising, estimates, assessment and reporting, benchmarks for consumption of substances under international control and international cooperation and coordination, while concurrently preventing their diversion, abuse and trafficking;

5. *Encourages* Member States to enhance information exchange on the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in synthetic drugs and trafficking and diversion of scheduled and non-scheduled precursor chemicals through existing international and regional mechanisms, including those operated by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Narcotics Control Board, as well as the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), and to share best practices to counter these threats;

6. *Also encourages* Member States to continue to collect and share information, in accordance with domestic law, on the adverse impacts and risks to public health and safety posed by new psychoactive substances, using chemical and toxicological data, data from hospitals and treatment and toxicology centres and data reported by individuals;

7. *Calls upon* Member States to continue to advance efforts to address and counter international challenges related to synthetic drugs through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, taking into consideration the midterm review in the Commission in 2024 to take stock of the implementation of all international drug policy commitments and outline the way forward to 2029;

8. *Invites* relevant United Nations entities, in particular the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as the leading entity in the United Nations system for addressing and countering the world drug problem, within existing mandates and upon request, to continue to provide technical assistance, including capacity-building, to Member States to support their efforts to address the multifaceted challenges posed by the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in synthetic drugs, as well as their distribution, consumption and use for non-medical and non-scientific purposes;

9. *Encourages* enhanced cooperation and collaboration within the United Nations system in accordance with established mandates, and with relevant international organizations within their respective mandates, including INTERPOL, and invites the International Narcotics Control Board and the World Health Organization to continue to undertake their treaty-mandated roles.

### RESOLUTION 78/258

Adopted at the 50th (resumed) plenary meeting, on 22 December 2023, without a vote, on the basis of draft resolution [A/78/L.33](#), sponsored by Honduras

**78/258. Fight against corruption and impunity in Honduras**

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* the Charter of the United Nations, including the purposes and principles embodied therein,

*Welcoming* the commitment and constant efforts of the Government of the first female President in the history of Honduras, Iris Xiomara Castro Sarmiento, to defend human rights and fundamental freedoms, reinforce the rule of law, especially access to justice, and fight corruption, including continued efforts to collaborate with the United Nations towards the establishment of an international, impartial, independent and autonomous mechanism against corruption and impunity in Honduras,

*Reaffirming* that the United Nations Convention against Corruption<sup>378</sup> is the most comprehensive and universal instrument on corruption, and recognizing the need to continue to promote its ratification or accession thereto and its full and effective implementation,

*Emphasizing* respect for the national sovereignty and the constitutional and legal framework of Honduras,

*Acknowledging* that, on 15 December 2022, the Government of Honduras and the United Nations signed a memorandum of understanding which signified the start of efforts towards the establishment of an international, impartial, independent and autonomous mechanism against corruption and impunity in Honduras, in which it was recognized that the establishment of said mechanism would be subject, inter alia, to the existence of a mandate emanating from one of the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations,

1. *Takes note* of the ongoing efforts of the Government of Honduras to combat corruption, including its initiative to establish an international, impartial, independent and autonomous mechanism against corruption and impunity in Honduras, which responds to the will and interests of the people of Honduras;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General, on an exceptional basis and without creating a precedent, to support the initiative of the Government of Honduras in its fight against corruption and impunity with a view to its prompt implementation.

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<sup>378</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

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RESOLUTION 78/13

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 138 to 4, with 42 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/401, para. 7)<sup>1</sup>

\* *In favour:* Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, 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, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against:* France, Israel, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Abstaining:* Albania, Andorra, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Sudan, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine

**78/13. Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, contained in its resolution 2832 (XXVI) of 16 December 1971, and recalling also its resolutions 54/47 of 1 December 1999, 56/16 of 29 November 2001, 58/29 of 8 December 2003, 60/48 of 8 December 2005, 62/14 of 5 December 2007, 64/23 of 2 December 2009, 66/22 of 2 December 2011, 68/24 of 5 December 2013, 70/22 of 7 December 2015, 72/21 of 4 December 2017, 74/25 of 12 December 2019 and 76/17 of 6 December 2021 and other relevant resolutions,

*Recalling also* the report of the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean, held in New York from 2 to 13 July 1979,<sup>2</sup>

*Recalling further* paragraph 102 of the Final Document of the Thirteenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Kuala Lumpur on 24 and 25 February 2003,<sup>3</sup> in which it was noted, inter alia, that the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean would continue his informal consultations on the future work of the Committee,

*Emphasizing* the need to foster consensual approaches that are conducive to the pursuit of such endeavours,

*Noting* the initiatives taken by countries of the region to promote cooperation, in particular economic cooperation, in the Indian Ocean area and the possible contribution of such initiatives to overall objectives of a zone of peace,

*Convinced* that the participation of all permanent members of the Security Council and the major maritime users of the Indian Ocean in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee is important and would assist the progress of a mutually beneficial dialogue to develop conditions of peace, security and stability in the Indian Ocean region,

*Considering* that greater efforts and more time are required to develop a focused discussion on practical measures to ensure conditions of peace, security and stability in the Indian Ocean region,

<sup>1</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by Indonesia (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries).

<sup>2</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 45* and corrigendum (A/34/45 and A/34/45/Corr.1).

<sup>3</sup> A/57/759-S/2003/332, annex I

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*Having considered* the report of the Ad Hoc Committee,<sup>4</sup>

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean;
2. *Reiterates its conviction* that the participation of all permanent members of the Security Council and the major maritime users of the Indian Ocean in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee is important and would greatly facilitate the development of a mutually beneficial dialogue to advance peace, security and stability in the Indian Ocean region;
3. *Requests* the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee to continue his informal consultations with the members of the Committee and to report through the Committee to the General Assembly at its eightieth session;
4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to render, within existing resources, all necessary assistance to the Ad Hoc Committee, including the provision of summary records;
5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its eightieth session the item entitled “Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace”.

### RESOLUTION 78/14

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/402, para. 7)<sup>5</sup>

#### 78/14. African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 51/53 of 10 December 1996 and 56/17 of 29 November 2001 and all its other relevant resolutions, as well as those of the Organization of African Unity and of the African Union,

*Recalling also* the signing of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba) in Cairo on 11 April 1996,<sup>6</sup>

*Recalling further* the Cairo Declaration adopted on that occasion,<sup>7</sup> in which it was emphasized that nuclear-weapon-free zones, especially in regions of tension, such as the Middle East, enhance global and regional peace and security,

*Recalling* the statement made by the President of the Security Council on behalf of the members of the Council on 12 April 1996,<sup>8</sup> in which the Council affirmed that the signature of the Treaty constituted an important contribution by the African countries to the maintenance of international peace and security,

*Considering* that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, especially in the Middle East, would enhance the security of Africa and the viability of the African nuclear-weapon-free zone,

1. *Recalls with satisfaction* the entry into force of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba) on 15 July 2009;
2. *Calls upon* African States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Treaty as soon as possible;
3. *Recalls* the convening of the first Conference of States Parties to the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba), on 4 November 2010, the second Conference of States Parties, on 12 and 13 November

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<sup>4</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/78/29).

<sup>5</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Australia, Fiji, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Malta, Mexico, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Nigeria (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States), Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

<sup>6</sup> A/50/426, annex.

<sup>7</sup> A/51/113-S/1996/276, annex.

<sup>8</sup> S/PRST/1996/17; see *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1996* (S/INF/52).

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2012, the third Conference of States Parties, on 29 and 30 May 2014, the fourth Conference of States Parties, on 14 and 15 March 2018, and the fifth Conference of States Parties, on 17 and 18 May 2022, all held in Addis Ababa;

4. *Expresses its appreciation* to the nuclear-weapon States that have signed the Protocols to the Treaty<sup>9</sup> that concern them, and calls upon those that have not yet ratified the Protocols that concern them to do so as soon as possible;

5. *Calls upon* the States contemplated in Protocol III to the Treaty that have not yet done so to take all measures necessary to ensure the speedy application of the Treaty to territories for which they are, de jure or de facto, internationally responsible and which lie within the limits of the geographical zone established in the Treaty;

6. *Calls upon* the African States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons<sup>10</sup> that have not yet done so to conclude comprehensive safeguards agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency pursuant to the Treaty, thereby satisfying the requirements of article 9 (b) and annex II to the Treaty of Pelindaba, and encourages them to conclude additional protocols to their safeguards agreements on the basis of the model protocol approved by the Board of Governors of the Agency on 15 May 1997;

7. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency for the diligence with which they have rendered effective assistance to the signatories to the Treaty;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session the item entitled “African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty”.

### RESOLUTION 78/15

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 180 to 3, with 1 abstention,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/403, para. 7)<sup>11</sup>

\* *In favour:* Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, 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, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against:* Israel, Ukraine, United States of America

*Abstaining:* South Sudan

<sup>9</sup> See A/50/426, annex.

<sup>10</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

<sup>11</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Armenia, Belarus, China, Cuba, Equatorial Guinea, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Nicaragua, Philippines, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).



### **78/15. Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its previous resolutions on the prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons,

*Recalling also* its resolutions [51/37](#) of 10 December 1996, [54/44](#) of 1 December 1999, [57/50](#) of 22 November 2002, [60/46](#) of 8 December 2005, [63/36](#) of 2 December 2008, [66/21](#) of 2 December 2011, [69/27](#) of 2 December 2014, [72/23](#) of 4 December 2017 and [75/31](#) of 7 December 2020 relating to the prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons,

*Recalling further* paragraph 77 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,<sup>12</sup>

*Determined* to prevent the emergence of new types of weapons of mass destruction that have characteristics comparable in destructive effect to those of weapons of mass destruction identified in the definition of weapons of mass destruction adopted by the United Nations in 1948,<sup>13</sup>

*Noting with appreciation* the discussions which have been held in the Conference on Disarmament under the item entitled “New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons”,<sup>14</sup>

*Noting* the desirability of keeping the matter under review, as appropriate,

1. *Reaffirms* that effective measures should be taken to prevent the emergence of new types of weapons of mass destruction;
2. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament, without prejudice to further overview of its agenda, to keep the matter under review, as appropriate, with a view to making, when necessary, recommendations on undertaking specific negotiations on identified types of such weapons;
3. *Calls upon* all States, immediately following any recommendations of the Conference on Disarmament, to give favourable consideration to those recommendations;
4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the Conference on Disarmament all documents relating to the consideration of this item by the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session;
5. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament to report the results of any consideration of the matter in its annual reports to the General Assembly;
6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its eighty-first session the item entitled “Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament”.

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<sup>12</sup> Resolution [S-10/2](#).

<sup>13</sup> The definition was adopted by the Commission for Conventional Armaments (see [S/C.3/32/Rev.1](#) and [S/C.3/32/Rev.1/Corr.1](#)).

<sup>14</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/64/27)*, chap. III, sect. E; *ibid.*, *Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/65/27)*, chap. III, sect. E; *ibid.*, *Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/66/27)*, chap. III, sect. E; *ibid.*, *Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/67/27)*, chap. III, sect. E; *ibid.*, *Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/68/27)*, chap. III, sect. E; *ibid.*, *Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/69/27)*, chap. III, sect. E; *ibid.*, *Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/70/27)*, chap. III, sect. E; *ibid.*, *Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/71/27)*, chap. III, sect. E; *ibid.*, *Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/72/27)*, chap. III, sect. E; *ibid.*, *Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/73/27)*, chap. III, sect. E; *ibid.*, *Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/74/27)*, chap. III, sect. E; *ibid.*, *Seventy-fifth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/75/27)*, chap. III, sect. E; *ibid.*, *Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/76/27)*, chap. III, sect. E; and *ibid.*, *Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/78/27)*, chap. III, sect. E.

RESOLUTION 78/16

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 161 to 9, with 11 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/404, para. 14)<sup>15</sup>

\* *In favour:* Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against:* Belarus, Burundi, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Mali, Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic

*Abstaining:* Azerbaijan, Brunei Darussalam, Cuba, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Pakistan, Singapore

**78/16. Programme of action to advance responsible State behaviour in the use of information and communications technologies in the context of international security**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 43/78 H of 7 December 1988, 53/70 of 4 December 1998, 54/49 of 1 December 1999, 55/28 of 20 November 2000, 56/19 of 29 November 2001, 57/53 of 22 November 2002, 58/32 of 8 December 2003, 59/61 of 3 December 2004, 60/45 of 8 December 2005, 61/54 of 6 December 2006, 62/17 of 5 December 2007, 63/37 of 2 December 2008, 64/25 of 2 December 2009, 65/41 of 8 December 2010, 66/24 of 2 December 2011, 67/27 of 3 December 2012, 68/243 of 27 December 2013, 69/28 of 2 December 2014, 70/237 of 23 December 2015, 71/28 of 5 December 2016, 73/27 of 5 December 2018, 73/266 of 22 December 2018, 74/28 and 74/29 of 12 December 2019, 75/32 of 7 December 2020, 75/240 of 31 December 2020, 76/19 of 6 December 2021 and 77/37 of 7 December 2022,

*Noting* that considerable progress has been achieved in developing and applying the latest information technologies and means of telecommunication,

*Expressing concern* that information technologies and means of telecommunication can potentially be used for purposes that are inconsistent with the objectives of maintaining international stability and security, to the detriment of security in both civil and military fields,

*Expressing concern also* about malicious information and communications technology activities aimed at critical infrastructure and critical information infrastructure facilities supporting essential services to the public,

*Considering* that it is necessary to prevent the use of information resources or technologies for criminal or terrorist purposes,

<sup>15</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Andorra, Angola, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tonga, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

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*Stressing* that it is in the interest of all States to seek the settlement of disputes by peaceful means, and to promote the use of information and communications technologies for peaceful purposes and to prevent conflicts arising from the use of information and communications technologies,

*Underlining* the importance of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in the use of information and communications technologies while bridging digital divides, building resilience in every society and sector and maintaining a human-centric approach,

*Calling upon* Member States to be guided in their use of information and communications technologies by the assessments and recommendations of the 2010, 2013, 2015 and 2021 groups of governmental experts, as well as those of the 2021 Open-ended Working Group on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security, and the first<sup>16</sup> and second<sup>17</sup> annual progress reports of the open-ended working group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021–2025, in particular the cumulative and evolving framework for responsible State behaviour in the use of information and communications technologies elaborated and adopted by consensus through these processes,

*Recalling* the conclusion of the groups of governmental experts and the 2021 Open-ended Working Group that international law, and in particular the Charter of the United Nations, is applicable and essential to maintaining peace and stability and promoting an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful information and communications technology environment,

*Reaffirming* that voluntary, non-binding norms of responsible State behaviour in the use of information and communications technologies can reduce risks to international peace, security and stability, and do not seek to limit or prohibit action that is otherwise consistent with international law but nonetheless to set standards for responsible State behaviour, while also reaffirming that, given the unique attributes of information and communications technologies, additional norms could be developed over time and, separately, noting the possibility of future elaboration of additional binding obligations, if appropriate,

*Recalling* that confidence-building measures in the field of information and communications technology security can contribute to preventing conflicts, avoiding misperceptions, misunderstandings and the reduction of tensions, and that regional and subregional organizations have made significant efforts in developing confidence-building measures, and welcoming the establishment of a global intergovernmental directory of points of contact as a confidence-building measure,

*Supporting* the open-ended working group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021–2025, underlining the complementarity of the proposal for a programme of action with the work of the current 2021–2025 open-ended working group, and reaffirming that the programme of action is to take into account the consensus outcomes adopted by the 2021–2025 open-ended working group,

*Reaffirming* that any future mechanism for regular institutional dialogue under the auspices of the United Nations should be an action-oriented process with specific objectives, building on previous outcomes, and be inclusive, transparent, consensus-driven and results-based,

*Recognizing* the utility of exploring mechanisms dedicated to following up on the implementation of the agreed norms and rules as well as the development of further ones,

*Stressing* the urgent need to assist States in their efforts to implement the framework for responsible State behaviour and tackle emerging threats in the information and communications technology environment, and, in this context, that capacity-building is essential for cooperation of States and confidence-building in the field of information and communications technology security, and that capacity-building in relation to State use of information and communications technologies in the context of international security should be guided by the principles for capacity-building included in the final report of the 2021 Open-ended Working Group<sup>18</sup> and by the first and second annual progress reports of the 2021–2025 open-ended working group,

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<sup>16</sup> See [A/77/275](#).

<sup>17</sup> See [A/78/265](#).

<sup>18</sup> See [A/75/816](#).

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*Underlining* that a holistic approach to capacity-building in the context of information and communications technology security is essential and that, in order to bridge the digital divide, sustainable, effective and affordable connectivity solutions, particularly for developing States, are necessary,

*Emphasizing* the value of further strengthening collaboration, when appropriate, with civil society, the private sector, academia and the technical community, to strengthen security and stability in the information and communications technology environment,

*Underlining* the importance of narrowing the “gender digital divide” and of promoting the full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership of women in decision-making processes related to the use of information and communications technologies in the context of international security,

*Welcoming* the consensus recommendations of the second annual progress report of the 2021–2025 open-ended working group, including on the common elements for a future mechanism for regular institutional dialogue and its call for States to engage in discussions on the scope, structure and content of the programme of action at the sixth, seventh and eighth substantive sessions of the open-ended working group,

*Recalling* that the proposed United Nations programme of action to advance responsible State behaviour in the use of information and communications technologies in the context of international security is conceived as a permanent, inclusive, action-oriented mechanism to discuss existing and potential threats, to support States’ capacities and efforts to implement and advance commitments to be guided by the framework for responsible State behaviour, to discuss and further develop, if appropriate, this framework, to promote engagement and cooperation with relevant stakeholders, and to periodically review the progress made in the implementation of the programme of action as well as the programme’s future work,

*Highlighting* the conclusions contained in the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 77/37,<sup>19</sup> including on the normative framework for responsible State behaviour, underpinned by a universal affirmation of the applicability of international law and a commitment to confidence-building and capacity-building, which represents a significant milestone in international cooperation towards an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful information and communications technology environment and must serve as a baseline for all future multilateral work in this area, highlighting also that inclusive and transparent consideration of proposals for action-oriented mechanisms to advance implementation of the universally endorsed normative framework, and to support State capacities in implementing it, including through capacity-building, is most welcome, and highlighting further that the 2021–2025 open-ended working group should play a key role in further work on the programme of action, including by holding dedicated intersessional meetings in both 2024 and 2025 to ensure that all positions are heard,

1. *Welcomes* the report on the proposal for a United Nations programme of action to advance responsible State behaviour in the use of information and communications technologies in the context of international security, prepared by the Secretary-General on the basis of the views expressed by States, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 77/37, including the observations and conclusions of the Secretary-General contained in the report;

2. *Also welcomes* the regional consultations convened by the Office of Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat with relevant regional organizations to share views on the programme of action;

3. *Encourages* States to discuss and provide recommendations on the scope, structure and content of the programme of action, and the modalities for its establishment, through the discussions on regular institutional dialogue at the sixth, seventh and eighth sessions of the open-ended working group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021–2025, as well as dedicated intersessional meetings, including on how the programme of action would:

(a) Support States, including through capacity-building, in the implementation of the framework for responsible State behaviour, which includes international law, norms, rules and principles for responsible State behaviour, and confidence-building measures;

(b) Enable discussions on the further development of the framework, including by deepening common understandings on the norms and on how existing international law applies in the use of information and

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<sup>19</sup> A/78/76.

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communications technologies, identifying any gaps in those understandings and, if appropriate, considering the need for additional voluntary, non-binding norms or additional legally binding obligations;

(c) Facilitate inclusive dialogue and cooperation, including with relevant stakeholders where appropriate;

4. *Decides* to establish a mechanism under the auspices of the United Nations, upon the conclusion of the 2021–2025 open-ended working group and no later than 2026, that will be permanent, inclusive and action-oriented, with the specific objectives affirmed in General Assembly resolution 77/37 and with the common elements for future regular institutional dialogue agreed by consensus in the 2023 annual progress report of the 2021–2025 open-ended working group, and also decides that the scope, structure, content and modalities of this mechanism shall be based on consensus outcomes of the 2021–2025 open-ended working group, taking into account the report of the Secretary-General prepared pursuant to resolution 77/37, the views submitted by States therein, the regional consultations as well as dialogue with relevant stakeholders;

5. *Also decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session the item entitled “Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security”.

### RESOLUTION 78/17

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 179 to 1, with 3 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/405, para. 7)<sup>20</sup>

\* *In favour:* Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, 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, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against:* Israel

*Abstaining:* Cameroon, South Sudan, United States of America

#### 78/17. Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 3263 (XXIX) of 9 December 1974, 3474 (XXX) of 11 December 1975, 31/71 of 10 December 1976, 32/82 of 12 December 1977, 33/64 of 14 December 1978, 34/77 of 11 December 1979, 35/147 of 12 December 1980, 36/87 A and B of 9 December 1981, 37/75 of 9 December 1982, 38/64 of 15 December 1983, 39/54 of 12 December 1984, 40/82 of 12 December 1985, 41/48 of 3 December 1986, 42/28 of 30 November 1987, 43/65 of 7 December 1988, 44/108 of 15 December 1989, 45/52 of 4 December 1990, 46/30 of 6 December 1991, 47/48 of 9 December 1992, 48/71 of 16 December 1993, 49/71 of 15 December 1994, 50/66 of 12 December 1995, 51/41 of 10 December 1996, 52/34 of 9 December 1997, 53/74 of 4 December 1998, 54/51 of 1 December 1999, 55/30 of 20 November 2000, 56/21 of 29 November 2001, 57/55 of 22 November 2002, 58/34 of 8 December 2003, 59/63 of 3 December 2004, 60/52 of 8 December 2005, 61/56 of 6 December 2006, 62/18 of 5 December 2007, 63/38 of 2 December 2008, 64/26 of 2 December 2009, 65/42 of 8 December 2010, 66/25 of 2 December 2011, 67/28 of 3 December 2012, 68/27 of 5 December 2013, 69/29 of 2 December 2014, 70/24 of 7 December 2015, 71/29 of

<sup>20</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by Egypt.

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5 December 2016, [72/24](#) of 4 December 2017, [73/28](#) of 5 December 2018, [74/30](#) of 12 December 2019, [75/33](#) of 7 December 2020, [76/20](#) of 6 December 2021 and [77/38](#) of 7 December 2022 on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East,

*Recalling also* the recommendations for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East consistent with paragraphs 60 to 63, and in particular paragraph 63 (d), of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,<sup>21</sup>

*Emphasizing* the basic provisions of the above-mentioned resolutions, in which all parties directly concerned are called upon to consider taking the practical and urgent steps required for the implementation of the proposal to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East and, pending and during the establishment of such a zone, to declare solemnly that they will refrain, on a reciprocal basis, from producing, acquiring or in any other way possessing nuclear weapons and nuclear explosive devices and from permitting the stationing of nuclear weapons on their territory by any third party, to agree to place their nuclear facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards and to declare their support for the establishment of the zone and to deposit such declarations with the Security Council for consideration, as appropriate,

*Reaffirming* the inalienable right of all States to acquire and develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes,

*Emphasizing* the need for appropriate measures on the question of the prohibition of military attacks on nuclear facilities,

*Bearing in mind* the consensus reached by the General Assembly since its thirty-fifth session that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East would greatly enhance international peace and security,

*Desirous* of building on that consensus so that substantial progress can be made towards establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East,

*Welcoming* all initiatives leading to general and complete disarmament, including in the region of the Middle East, and in particular on the establishment therein of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons,

*Noting* the peace negotiations in the Middle East, which should be of a comprehensive nature and represent an appropriate framework for the peaceful settlement of contentious issues in the region,

*Recognizing* the importance of credible regional security, including the establishment of a mutually verifiable nuclear-weapon-free zone,

*Emphasizing* the essential role of the United Nations in the establishment of a mutually verifiable nuclear-weapon-free zone,

*Having examined* the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution [77/38](#),<sup>22</sup>

1. *Urges* all parties directly concerned seriously to consider taking the practical and urgent steps required for the implementation of the proposal to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and, as a means of promoting this objective, invites the countries concerned to adhere to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;<sup>23</sup>

2. *Calls upon* all countries of the region that have not yet done so, pending the establishment of the zone, to agree to place all their nuclear activities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards;

3. *Takes note* of resolution GC(67)/RES/13, adopted on 28 September 2023 by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its sixty-seventh regular session, concerning the application of Agency safeguards in the Middle East;

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<sup>21</sup> Resolution [S-10/2](#).

<sup>22</sup> [A/78/205 \(Part I\)](#).

<sup>23</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.



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4. *Notes* the importance of the ongoing bilateral Middle East peace negotiations and the activities of the multilateral Working Group on Arms Control and Regional Security in promoting mutual confidence and security in the Middle East, including the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone;
5. *Invites* all countries of the region, pending the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East, to declare their support for establishing such a zone, consistent with paragraph 63 (d) of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, and to deposit those declarations with the Security Council;
6. *Also invites* those countries, pending the establishment of the zone, not to develop, produce, test or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons or permit the stationing on their territories, or territories under their control, of nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices;
7. *Invites* the nuclear-weapon States and all other States to render their assistance in the establishment of the zone and at the same time to refrain from any action that runs counter to both the letter and the spirit of the present resolution;
8. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 77/38;
9. *Invites* all parties to consider the appropriate means that may contribute towards the goal of general and complete disarmament and the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the region of the Middle East;
10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to pursue consultations with the States of the region and other concerned States, in accordance with paragraph 7 of resolution 46/30 and taking into account the evolving situation in the region, and to seek from those States their views on the measures outlined in chapters III and IV of the study annexed to the report of the Secretary-General of 10 October 1990<sup>24</sup> or other relevant measures, in order to move towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East;
11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;
12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session the item entitled “Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East”.

### RESOLUTION 78/18

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 123 to none, with 62 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/406, para. 7)<sup>25</sup>

\* *In favour:* Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, 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, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against:* None

*Abstaining:* Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania,

<sup>24</sup> A/45/435.

<sup>25</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Algeria, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Paraguay, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Uzbekistan and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

### **78/18. Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons**

*The General Assembly,*

*Bearing in mind* the need to allay the legitimate concern of the States of the world with regard to ensuring lasting security for their peoples,

*Convinced* that nuclear weapons pose the greatest threat to humankind and to the survival of civilization,

*Noting* that the renewed interest in nuclear disarmament should be translated into concrete actions for the achievement of general and complete disarmament under effective international control,

*Convinced* that nuclear disarmament and the complete elimination of nuclear weapons are essential to remove the danger of nuclear war,

*Determined* to abide strictly by the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations on the non-use of force or threat of force,

*Recognizing* that the independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of non-nuclear-weapon States need to be safeguarded against the use or threat of use of force, including the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

*Considering* that, until nuclear disarmament is achieved on a universal basis, it is imperative for the international community to develop effective measures and arrangements to ensure the security of non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons from any quarter,

*Recognizing* that effective measures and arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons can contribute positively to the prevention of the spread of nuclear weapons,

*Bearing in mind* paragraph 59 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament,<sup>26</sup> in which it urged the nuclear-weapon States to pursue efforts to conclude, as appropriate, effective arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, and desirous of promoting the implementation of the relevant provisions of the Final Document,

*Recalling* the relevant parts of the special report of the Committee on Disarmament<sup>27</sup> submitted to the General Assembly at its twelfth special session, the second special session devoted to disarmament,<sup>28</sup> and of the special report of the Conference on Disarmament submitted to the Assembly at its fifteenth special session, the third special session devoted to disarmament,<sup>29</sup> as well as the report of the Conference on its 1992 session,<sup>30</sup>

*Recalling also* paragraph 12 of the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade, contained in the annex to its resolution 35/46 of 3 December 1980, in which it is stated, inter alia, that all efforts should be exerted by the Committee on Disarmament urgently to negotiate with a view to reaching agreement on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

*Noting* the in-depth negotiations undertaken in the Conference on Disarmament and its Ad Hoc Committee on Effective International Arrangements to Assure Non-Nuclear-Weapon States against the Use or Threat of Use of Nuclear Weapons,<sup>31</sup> with a view to reaching agreement on this question,

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<sup>26</sup> Resolution S-10/2.

<sup>27</sup> The Committee on Disarmament was redesignated the Conference on Disarmament as from 7 February 1984.

<sup>28</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twelfth Special Session, Supplement No. 2 (A/S-12/2)*, sect. III.C.

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.*, *Fifteenth Special Session, Supplement No. 2 (A/S-15/2)*, sect. III.F.

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid.*, *Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/47/27)*, sect. III.F.

<sup>31</sup> *Ibid.*, *Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/48/27)*, sect. III.E.



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*Taking note* of the proposals submitted under the item in the Conference on Disarmament, including the drafts of an international convention,

*Taking note also* of the relevant decision of the Thirteenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Kuala Lumpur on 24 and 25 February 2003,<sup>32</sup> which was reiterated at the Seventeenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held on Margarita Island, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, from 13 to 18 September 2016, as well as the relevant recommendations of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation,

*Taking note further* of the unilateral declarations made by all the nuclear-weapon States on their policies of non-use or non-threat of use of nuclear weapons against the non-nuclear-weapon States,

*Noting* the support expressed in the Conference on Disarmament and in the General Assembly for the elaboration of an international convention to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, as well as the difficulties pointed out in evolving a common approach acceptable to all,

*Taking note* of Security Council resolution 984 (1995) of 11 April 1995 and the views expressed on it,

*Recalling* its relevant resolutions adopted in previous years, in particular resolutions 45/54 of 4 December 1990, 46/32 of 6 December 1991, 47/50 of 9 December 1992, 48/73 of 16 December 1993, 49/73 of 15 December 1994, 50/68 of 12 December 1995, 51/43 of 10 December 1996, 52/36 of 9 December 1997, 53/75 of 4 December 1998, 54/52 of 1 December 1999, 55/31 of 20 November 2000, 56/22 of 29 November 2001, 57/56 of 22 November 2002, 58/35 of 8 December 2003, 59/64 of 3 December 2004, 60/53 of 8 December 2005, 61/57 of 6 December 2006, 62/19 of 5 December 2007, 63/39 of 2 December 2008, 64/27 of 2 December 2009, 65/43 of 8 December 2010, 66/26 of 2 December 2011, 67/29 of 3 December 2012, 68/28 of 5 December 2013, 69/30 of 2 December 2014, 70/25 of 7 December 2015, 71/30 of 5 December 2016, 72/25 of 4 December 2017, 73/29 of 5 December 2018, 74/31 of 12 December 2019, 75/34 of 7 December 2020, 76/21 of 6 December 2021 and 77/39 of 7 December 2022,

1. *Reaffirms* the urgent need to reach an early agreement on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;
2. *Notes with satisfaction* that in the Conference on Disarmament there is no objection, in principle, to the idea of an international convention to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, although the difficulties with regard to evolving a common approach acceptable to all have also been pointed out;
3. *Appeals* to all States, especially the nuclear-weapon States, to work actively towards an early agreement on a common approach and, in particular, on a common formula that could be included in an international instrument of a legally binding character;
4. *Recommends* that further intensive efforts be devoted to the search for such a common approach or common formula and that the various alternative approaches, including, in particular, those considered in the Conference on Disarmament, be further explored in order to overcome the difficulties;
5. *Also recommends* that the Conference on Disarmament actively continue intensive negotiations with a view to reaching early agreement and concluding effective international agreements to assure the non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, taking into account the widespread support for the conclusion of an international convention and giving consideration to any other proposals designed to secure the same objective;
6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session the item entitled “Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons”.

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<sup>32</sup> See A/57/759-S/2003/332, annex I.

RESOLUTION 78/19

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/407, para. 15)<sup>33</sup>

**78/19. Prevention of an arms race in outer space**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recognizing* the common interest of all humankind in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

*Reaffirming* the will of all States that the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, shall be for peaceful purposes and shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interest of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development,

*Reaffirming also* the provisions of articles III and IV of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies,<sup>34</sup>

*Recalling* the obligation of all States to observe the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations regarding the use or threat of use of force in their international relations, including in their space activities,

*Reaffirming* paragraph 80 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,<sup>35</sup> in which it is stated that, in order to prevent an arms race in outer space, further measures should be taken and appropriate international negotiations held in accordance with the spirit of the Treaty,

*Recalling* its previous resolutions on this issue, the most recent of which is resolution 77/40 of 7 December 2022, and taking note of the proposals submitted to the General Assembly at its tenth special session and at its regular sessions and of the recommendations made to the competent organs of the United Nations and to the Conference on Disarmament,

*Recognizing* that the prevention of an arms race in outer space would avert a grave danger for international peace and security,

*Emphasizing* the paramount importance of strict compliance with existing arms limitation and disarmament agreements relevant to outer space, including bilateral agreements, and with the existing legal regime concerning the use of outer space,

*Considering* that wide participation in the legal regime applicable to outer space could contribute to enhancing its effectiveness,

*Noting* that the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, taking into account its previous efforts since its establishment in 1985 and seeking to enhance its functioning in qualitative terms, continued the examination and identification of various issues, existing agreements and existing proposals, as well as future initiatives relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space, and that this contributed to a better understanding of a number of problems and to a clearer perception of the various positions,

*Noting also* that there were no objections in principle in the Conference on Disarmament to the re-establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee, subject to re-examination of the mandate contained in the decision of the Conference on Disarmament of 13 February 1992,<sup>36</sup>

*Emphasizing* the mutually complementary nature of bilateral and multilateral efforts for the prevention of an arms race in outer space, and hoping that concrete results will emerge from those efforts as soon as possible,

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<sup>33</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Algeria, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burundi, China, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mongolia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tunisia, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

<sup>34</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 610, No. 8843.

<sup>35</sup> Resolution S-10/2.

<sup>36</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/47/27)*, para. 76.

## II. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the First Committee

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*Convinced* that further measures should be examined in the search for effective and verifiable bilateral and multilateral agreements in order to prevent an arms race in outer space, including the weaponization of outer space,

*Stressing* that the growing use of outer space increases the need for greater transparency and better information on the part of the international community,

*Recalling*, in this context, its previous resolutions, in particular resolutions [45/55](#) B of 4 December 1990, [47/51](#) of 9 December 1992 and [48/74](#) A of 16 December 1993, in which, inter alia, it reaffirmed the importance of confidence-building measures as a means conducive to ensuring the attainment of the objective of the prevention of an arms race in outer space,

*Conscious* of the benefits of confidence- and security-building measures in the military field,

*Recognizing* that negotiations for the conclusion of an international agreement or agreements to prevent an arms race in outer space remain a priority task of the Conference on Disarmament and that the concrete proposals on confidence-building measures could form an integral part of such agreements,

*Welcoming* the consensual adoption in 2023 by the Disarmament Commission of the recommendations to promote the practical implementation of transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities with the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space,<sup>37</sup>

*Noting with satisfaction* the constructive, structured and focused debate on the prevention of an arms race in outer space at the Conference on Disarmament each year from 2009 to 2021,

*Noting* the introduction by China and the Russian Federation at the Conference on Disarmament of the draft treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space and of the threat or use of force against outer space objects in 2008 and the submission of its updated version in 2014,<sup>38</sup>

*Recalling* the comprehensive and substantive discussions of the Group of Governmental Experts that was convened in 2018 and 2019 pursuant to its resolution [72/250](#) of 24 December 2017,

*Taking note* of the decision of the Conference on Disarmament to establish for its 2009 session a working group to discuss, substantially, without limitation, all issues related to the prevention of an arms race in outer space, and the decision to establish for its 2021 session a subsidiary body on the prevention of an arms race in outer space,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance and urgency of preventing an arms race in outer space and the readiness of all States to contribute to that common objective, in conformity with the provisions of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies;

2. *Reaffirms its recognition*, as stated in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, that the legal regime applicable to outer space by itself does not guarantee the prevention of an arms race in outer space, that the regime plays a significant role in the prevention of an arms race in that environment, that there is a need to consolidate and reinforce that regime and enhance its effectiveness and that it is important to comply strictly with existing agreements, both bilateral and multilateral;

3. *Emphasizes* the necessity of further measures with appropriate and effective provisions for verification to prevent an arms race in outer space;

4. *Calls upon* all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the objective of the peaceful use of outer space and of the prevention of an arms race in outer space and to refrain from actions contrary to that objective and to the relevant existing treaties in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international cooperation;

5. *Reiterates* that the Conference on Disarmament, as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, has the primary role in the negotiation of a multilateral agreement or agreements, as appropriate, on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects;

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<sup>37</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/78/42)*, annex.

<sup>38</sup> See [CD/1839](#) and [CD/1985](#).

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6. *Invites* the Conference on Disarmament to establish a working group under its agenda item entitled “Prevention of an arms race in outer space” as early as possible;

7. *Recognizes*, in this respect, the growing convergence of views on the elaboration of measures designed to strengthen transparency, confidence and security in the peaceful uses of outer space, without prejudice to efforts towards the conclusion of an effective and verifiable multilateral agreement or agreements on the prevention of an arms race in outer space;

8. *Urges* States conducting activities in outer space, as well as States interested in conducting such activities, to keep the Conference on Disarmament informed of the progress of bilateral and multilateral negotiations on the matter, if any, so as to facilitate its work;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session the item entitled “Prevention of an arms race in outer space”.

### RESOLUTION 78/20

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 166 to 9, with 4 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/407, para. 15)<sup>39</sup>

\* *In favour:* Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Canada, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against:* Belarus, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Mali, Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic

*Abstaining:* India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan

### 78/20. Reducing space threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviours

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 75/36 of 7 December 2020 and 76/231 of 24 December 2021,

*Recalling also* its resolutions 68/50 of 5 December 2013, 77/40, 77/41 and 77/42 of 7 December 2022 and 77/250 of 30 December 2022,

*Reaffirming* the applicability of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, to outer space activities and the right of all States to explore and use outer space without discrimination of any kind, on a basis of equality and in accordance with such law, and emphasizing the importance of full compliance with such law,

<sup>39</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

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*Reaffirming* also the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies,<sup>40</sup> and the obligations therein to explore and use outer space for the benefit and in the interests of all countries, to be guided by the principle of cooperation and mutual assistance, and to conduct all activities in outer space with due regard for the corresponding interests of all States parties to the Treaty,

*Emphasizing* the need to maintain outer space as a peaceful, safe, stable, secure and sustainable environment for the benefit of all and the significant contribution of outer space activities to social, economic, scientific and technological development, as well as to international peace and security,

*Urging* all States, when developing, planning and executing their space activities, to remain committed to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space and to refrain from conducting activities contrary to their obligations under international law, including those that could threaten the ability of all States to freely use and explore outer space, now and in the future,

*Seriously concerned* about the possibility of an arms race in outer space, and reaffirming that the prevention of an arms race in outer space would avert a grave danger for international peace and security, as well as being an essential condition for the promotion and strengthening of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

*Stressing* that the deliberate destruction of space systems increases the amount of long-lived orbital debris, the risk of in-orbit collisions and the potential for misunderstanding and miscalculations that could lead to conflict, and welcoming the commitment of several States not to conduct destructive direct-ascent anti-satellite missile tests,

*Noting* the rapid advances of technologies in space systems, the uses of which are diverse and could have positive or negative effects on international security, and encouraging further discussion among States of the impact of these developments,

*Recognizing* the need for States to seek to avoid and mitigate the potential impact on peace and security arising from accidents, miscommunication or a lack of transparency, which could lead to miscalculations and the escalation of tensions and contribute to an arms race,

*Acknowledging* the importance of space systems in the provision of services critical to civilians, and concerned at the risk of harm arising from threats to these systems,

*Recalling* paragraph 80 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,<sup>41</sup> in which it is stated that, in order to prevent an arms race in outer space, further measures should be taken and appropriate international negotiations held in accordance with the spirit of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies,

*Convinced* that possible solutions to outer space security, including norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviours, can involve a combination of legally binding obligations and political commitments, and that work in both of these areas can be further pursued in a progressive, sustained and complementary manner, without undermining existing legal obligations,

*Recognizing* that efforts to prevent an arms race and to prevent conflict from beginning in or extending into outer space must include consideration of the use of all potential technologies and means, whether on Earth or in outer space,

*Reiterating* the common objective of preventing an arms race in outer space in all its aspects and the consequent need for all States to work together to reduce threats to space systems through the further development and implementation of norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviours, including an appropriate combination of both political commitments and legally binding instruments, with the aim of preventing an arms race in outer space in all its aspects and of maintaining a peaceful, safe, stable, secure and sustainable outer space environment,

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<sup>40</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 610, No. 8843.

<sup>41</sup> Resolution [S-10/2](#).

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*Reaffirming* that verification is one of the essential components of legally binding arms control instruments, and encouraging further consideration of effective verification regarding space systems,

*Recalling* the primary role of the Conference on Disarmament on questions relating to the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects, including the weaponization of outer space and threats from capabilities on Earth, and the relevant responsibilities of the First Committee of the General Assembly and the Disarmament Commission,

*Welcoming* the ongoing work by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the implementation of the 21 Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities,<sup>42</sup> which may have a positive effect on international peace and security,

*Welcoming also* the recommendations to promote the practical implementation of transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space with the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space in accordance with the recommendations set out in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities adopted by the Disarmament Commission at its substantive session of 2023,<sup>43</sup>

*Recognizing* the importance of the full, equal, meaningful and effective participation of women and men in discussions on reducing space threats through responsible behaviours and the need to address the possible differentiated impacts of such threats,

1. *Reaffirms* that all States must conduct their activities in the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, in conformity with international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, urges Member States to ensure that their space policies comply with their obligations, and encourages those States that have not yet become parties to the international treaties governing the exploration and use of outer space to give consideration to ratifying or acceding to them in accordance with their national law;

2. *Welcomes* the deliberations held in 2022 and 2023 by the open-ended working group on reducing space threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviours established by the General Assembly in its resolution 76/231, which, together with the working papers and presentations submitted to the Assembly, constitute an important contribution to outer space security and the prevention of an arms race in outer space;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the participants of the open-ended working group for their constructive contribution to its work;

4. *Decides* to convene, in Geneva, a new open-ended working group, building on the work of the 2022–2023 open-ended working group and other relevant bodies, including the Group of Government Experts established in its resolution 77/250, and the existing international legal framework, including principles of international law, to further elaborate the concept, and to make recommendations on the prevention of an arms race in outer space through the development of norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviours, including, but not exclusively, in the following areas:

- (a) Intentional damage to and destruction of space systems;
- (b) Threats to the safe operation of space objects;
- (c) Rendezvous operations and proximity operations that could increase the risk of misunderstanding and miscalculation;
- (d) Protecting critical space-based services to civilians as well as services that support humanitarian operations;
- (e) Other activities and measures that could reduce the risk of unintended escalation and conflict;

and to consider how the implementation of norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviours could be monitored and verified, including through the provision of capacity-building, cooperation on space situational awareness and the possible establishment of a mechanism for inter-State coordination and consultation on matters pertaining to space

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<sup>42</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/74/20)*, annex II.

<sup>43</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/78/42)*, annex.



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security, and how they would contribute to the negotiation of legally binding instruments, including on the prevention of an arms race in outer space;

5. *Also decides* that the open-ended working group shall submit its report to the General Assembly at its eighty-first session, and that it shall adopt its final conclusions and recommendations by consensus;

6. *Further decides* that the open-ended working group shall hold a two-day organizational session and two substantive sessions of five days each in 2025, and two substantive sessions of five days each in 2026, and that the Chair may also hold intersessional consultative meetings with interested parties to exchange views on the issues within the mandate of the open-ended working group;

7. *Reaffirms* that intergovernmental organizations and other entities having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the work of the General Assembly and representatives of non-governmental organizations that are in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, may participate, including by speaking and submitting documents, in the formal and informal meetings of the open-ended working group as observers;

8. *Requests* the Chair of the open-ended working group to draw up a list of representatives of other relevant non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions and the private sector who may participate, including by speaking and submitting documents, in the open-ended working group, taking into account the principles of transparency and equitable geographical representation, with due regard for gender parity, to submit the proposed list to Member States for their consideration on a non-objection basis<sup>44</sup> and to bring the list to the attention of the open-ended working group for a final decision by the open-ended working group on participation;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all necessary assistance to the open-ended working group and its Chair and to transmit its report to the Conference on Disarmament and the Disarmament Commission;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “Prevention of an arms race in outer space”, the sub-item entitled “Reducing space threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviours”.

### RESOLUTION 78/21

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 127 to 51, with 6 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/407, para. 15)<sup>45</sup>

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

*Against:* Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro,

<sup>44</sup> The list will include proposed as well as final names. The general basis of any objections, if requested by one or more States Members of the United Nations, will be made known to the Chair of the open-ended working group, the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat and the requester.

<sup>45</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Cambodia, China, Comoros, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Zimbabwe.

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Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Abstaining:* Côte d'Ivoire, Papua New Guinea, Seychelles, South Sudan, Switzerland, Türkiye

### 78/21. No first placement of weapons in outer space

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions [69/32](#) of 2 December 2014, [70/27](#) of 7 December 2015, [71/32](#) of 5 December 2016, [72/27](#) of 4 December 2017, [73/31](#) of 5 December 2018, [74/33](#) of 12 December 2019, [75/37](#) of 7 December 2020, [76/23](#) of 6 December 2021 and [77/42](#) of 7 December 2022, and its resolutions [45/55](#) B of 4 December 1990 and [48/74](#) B of 16 December 1993, which, inter alia, confirm the importance of transparency and confidence-building measures as a means conducive to ensuring the attainment of the objective of preventing an arms race in outer space,

*Recognizing* the common interest of all humankind in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

*Seriously concerned* about the possibility of an arms race in outer space and of outer space turning into an arena for military confrontation, and bearing in mind the importance of articles III and IV of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies,<sup>46</sup>

*Conscious* that the prevention of an arms race in outer space would avert a grave danger to international peace and security,

*Reaffirming* that practical measures should be examined and taken in the search for agreements to prevent an arms race in outer space in a common effort towards a community of shared future for humankind,

*Emphasizing* the paramount importance of strict compliance with the existing legal regime providing for the peaceful use of outer space,

*Reaffirming its recognition* that the legal regime applicable to outer space by itself does not guarantee prevention of an arms race in outer space and that there is a need to consolidate and reinforce that regime,

*Convinced* that such measures could critically improve conditions for efficiently addressing the threat of an arms race in outer space, including the placement of weapons in outer space,

*Welcoming*, in this regard, the draft treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space and of the threat or use of force against outer space objects, introduced by China and the Russian Federation at the Conference on Disarmament in 2008,<sup>47</sup> and the submission of its updated version in 2014,<sup>48</sup>

*Considering* that transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities are an integral part of the draft treaty referred to above,

*Stressing* the importance of the political statements made by a number of States<sup>49</sup> that they would not be the first to place weapons in outer space,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance and urgency of the objective of preventing an arms race in outer space and the willingness of States to contribute to reaching this common goal;

<sup>46</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 610, No. 8843.

<sup>47</sup> See [CD/1839](#).

<sup>48</sup> See [CD/1985](#).

<sup>49</sup> Argentina, Armenia, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Burundi, Cambodia, Comoros, Congo, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Togo, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.



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2. *Reiterates* that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral negotiating forum on this subject,<sup>50</sup> has the primary role in the negotiation of a multilateral agreement, or agreements, as appropriate, on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects;

3. *Urges* an early commencement of substantive work based on the updated draft treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space and of the threat or use of force against outer space objects, introduced by China and the Russian Federation at the Conference on Disarmament in 2008, under the agenda item entitled “Prevention of an arms race in outer space”;

4. *Stresses* that, while such an agreement is not yet concluded, other measures may contribute to ensuring that weapons are not placed in outer space;

5. *Encourages* all States, especially spacefaring nations, to consider the possibility of upholding, as appropriate, a political commitment not to be the first to place weapons in outer space;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “Prevention of an arms race in outer space”, the sub-item entitled “No first placement of weapons in outer space”.

### RESOLUTION 78/22

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/408, para. 7)<sup>51</sup>

#### 78/22. Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament

*The General Assembly,*

*Recognizing* that scientific and technological developments can have both civilian and military applications and that progress in science and technology for civilian applications needs to be maintained and encouraged,

*Underlining* the keen interest of the international community to keep abreast of the latest developments in science and technology of relevance to international security and disarmament and to channel scientific and technological developments for beneficial purposes,

*Mindful* of the need to regulate the transfer of technologies for peaceful uses, in accordance with relevant international obligations, to address the risk of proliferation by States or non-State actors,

*Acknowledging* the need to continue the exchange of technologies for peaceful uses, including in accordance with relevant international obligations,

*Mindful* of the rights of States, reflected in relevant international agreements, regarding the development, production, transfer and use of technologies for peaceful purposes, in accordance with relevant international obligations, as well as the need for all Member States to fulfil their obligations in relation to arms control and disarmament and to prevent proliferation in all its aspects of all weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery,

*Cognizant* of the discussions on developments in science and technology at the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the decision of the Ninth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction to develop with a view to establishing a

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<sup>50</sup> See resolution S-10/2.

<sup>51</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Afghanistan, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Congo, Croatia, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Finland, Germany, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Malta, Mauritius, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Nicaragua, North Macedonia, Norway, Paraguay, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

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mechanism to review and assess scientific and technological developments relevant to the Convention<sup>52</sup> and to provide States parties with relevant advice,<sup>53</sup>

*Cognizant also* of the discussions in the Conference on Disarmament in 2023,

*Mindful* of the discussions in other forums, such as the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities and on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in the United Nations disarmament machinery,

*Noting* the discussions on various dimensions of emerging technologies under the framework of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects,<sup>54</sup> and recalling the discussions and progress made by the Group of Governmental Experts on lethal autonomous weapons systems during its sessions held from 2018 to 2023,

*Noting also* the discussions within the United Nations and the specialized agencies on developments in the field of information and communications technologies, including in the context of international security,

*Acknowledging* that the accelerating pace of technological change necessitates a system-wide assessment of the potential impact of developments in science and technology on international security and disarmament, with due regard to avoiding duplication and complementing efforts already under way in United Nations entities and in the framework of the relevant international conventions,

*Noting* the discussions on current developments in science and technology and their potential impact on international security and disarmament efforts in the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters,

1. *Invites* Member States to continue efforts to apply developments in science and technology for disarmament-related purposes, including the verification of disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation instruments, and to make disarmament-related technologies available to interested States;

2. *Calls upon* Member States to remain vigilant in understanding new and emerging developments in science and technology that could imperil international security, and underlines the importance of Member States engaging with experts from industry, the research community and civil society in addressing this challenge;

3. *Takes note* of the updated report of the Secretary-General on current developments in science and technology and their potential impact on international security and disarmament efforts;<sup>55</sup>

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session an updated report on the matter;

5. *Encourages* the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters to continue its discussions on current developments in science and technology and their potential impact on international security and disarmament efforts;

6. *Encourages* Member States to organize events such as conferences, seminars, workshops and exhibitions, at the national, regional and international levels, on the role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament, in order to facilitate multilateral dialogue, as well as dialogue among relevant stakeholders, on current developments in science and technology and their potential impact on international security and disarmament efforts;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session the item entitled “Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament”.

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<sup>52</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1015, No. 14860.

<sup>53</sup> [BWC/CONF.IX/9](#), sect. II.E.

<sup>54</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1342, No. 22495.

<sup>55</sup> [A/78/268](#).

**RESOLUTION 78/23**

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/409, para. 89)<sup>56</sup>

**78/23. Relationship between disarmament and development**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* that the Charter of the United Nations envisages the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources,

*Recalling also* the provisions of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly concerning the relationship between disarmament and development,<sup>57</sup> as well as the adoption on 11 September 1987 of the Final Document of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development,<sup>58</sup>

*Recalling further* its resolutions 49/75 J of 15 December 1994, 50/70 G of 12 December 1995, 51/45 D of 10 December 1996, 52/38 D of 9 December 1997, 53/77 K of 4 December 1998, 54/54 T of 1 December 1999, 55/33 L of 20 November 2000, 56/24 E of 29 November 2001, 57/65 of 22 November 2002, 59/78 of 3 December 2004, 60/61 of 8 December 2005, 61/64 of 6 December 2006, 62/48 of 5 December 2007, 63/52 of 2 December 2008, 64/32 of 2 December 2009, 65/52 of 8 December 2010, 66/30 of 2 December 2011, 67/40 of 3 December 2012, 68/37 of 5 December 2013, 69/56 of 2 December 2014, 70/32 of 7 December 2015, 71/62 of 5 December 2016, 72/46 of 4 December 2017, 73/37 of 5 December 2018, 74/57 of 12 December 2019, 75/43 of 7 December 2020, 76/37 of 6 December 2021 and 77/45 of 7 December 2022 and its decision 58/520 of 8 December 2003,

*Bearing in mind* the Final Document of the Eighteenth Summit of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Baku on 25 and 26 October 2019,<sup>59</sup>

*Mindful* of the changes in international relations that have taken place since the adoption in 1987 of the Final Document of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, including the development agenda that has emerged over the past decade,

*Bearing in mind* the new challenges for the international community in the fields of development, poverty eradication and the elimination of the diseases that afflict humanity,

*Stressing* the importance of the symbiotic relationship between disarmament and development and the important role of security in this connection, and concerned at increasing global military expenditure, which could otherwise be spent on development needs,

*Recalling* the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the relationship between disarmament and development<sup>60</sup> and its reappraisal of this significant issue in the current international context,

*Bearing in mind* the importance of following up on the implementation of the action programme adopted at the 1987 International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to resolution 77/45,<sup>61</sup>

1. *Stresses* the central role of the United Nations in the relationship between disarmament and development, and requests the Secretary-General to strengthen further the role of the Organization in this field, in particular the high-

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<sup>56</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by Indonesia (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries).

<sup>57</sup> See resolution S-10/2.

<sup>58</sup> See *Report of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, New York, 24 August–11 September 1987* (A/CONF.130/39).

<sup>59</sup> A/74/548, annex.

<sup>60</sup> See A/59/119.

<sup>61</sup> A/78/128.

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level Steering Group on Disarmament and Development, in order to ensure continued and effective coordination and close cooperation between the relevant United Nations departments, agencies and subagencies;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take action, through appropriate organs and within available resources, for the implementation of the action programme adopted on 11 September 1987 at the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development;

3. *Urges* the international community to devote part of the resources made available by the implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements to economic and social development, with a view to reducing the ever-widening gap between developed and developing countries;

4. *Encourages* the international community to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals<sup>62</sup> and to make reference to the contribution that disarmament could provide in meeting them when it reviews its progress towards this purpose, as well as to make greater efforts to integrate disarmament, humanitarian and development activities;

5. *Encourages* the relevant regional and subregional organizations and institutions, non-governmental organizations and research institutes to incorporate issues related to the relationship between disarmament and development into their agendas and, in this regard, to take into account the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the relationship between disarmament and development;

6. *Reiterates its invitation* to Member States to provide the Secretary-General with information regarding measures and efforts to devote part of the resources made available by the implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements to economic and social development, with a view to reducing the ever-widening gap between developed and developing countries;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution, including the information provided by Member States pursuant to paragraph 6 above;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “General and complete disarmament”, the sub-item entitled “Relationship between disarmament and development”.

### RESOLUTION 78/24

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/409, para. 89)<sup>63</sup>

#### 78/24. Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 49/75 I of 15 December 1994, 50/70 F of 12 December 1995, 51/45 C of 10 December 1996, 52/38 F of 9 December 1997, 53/77 AA of 4 December 1998, 54/54 U of 1 December 1999, 55/33 M of 20 November 2000, 56/24 D of 29 November 2001, 57/61 of 22 November 2002, 59/71 of 3 December 2004, 61/60 of 6 December 2006, 62/29 of 5 December 2007, 65/66 of 8 December 2010, 72/49 of 4 December 2017, 73/42 of 5 December 2018, 74/56 of 12 December 2019, 75/44 of 7 December 2020, 76/38 of 6 December 2021 and 77/46 of 7 December 2022, as well as its decisions 58/521 of 8 December 2003, 60/518 of 8 December 2005, 60/559 of 6 June 2006, 63/519 of 2 December 2008, 64/515 of 2 December 2009 and 70/551 of 23 December 2015,

*Recalling also* that, there being a consensus to do so in each case, three special sessions of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament were held in 1978, 1982 and 1988, respectively,

*Bearing in mind* the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, adopted by consensus at the first special session devoted to disarmament,<sup>64</sup>

<sup>62</sup> See resolution 70/1.

<sup>63</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by Indonesia (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries).

<sup>64</sup> Resolution S-10/2.

## II. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the First Committee

*Bearing in mind also* the ultimate objective of general and complete disarmament under effective international control,

*Reiterating its conviction* that a special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament can set the future course of action in the fields of disarmament, arms control, non-proliferation and related international security matters,

*Emphasizing* the importance of multilateralism in the process of disarmament, arms control, non-proliferation and related international security matters,

*Recalling* the conclusion of the work of the Open-ended Working Group on the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament to consider the objectives and agenda of the fourth special session, and to adopt its report and substantive recommendations by consensus,

*Recalling also* the report of the Open-ended Working Group and the recommendations contained therein,<sup>65</sup>

1. *Recalls* the adoption by consensus of the recommendations on the objectives and agenda of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament by the Open-ended Working Group on the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, which was established by the Assembly by its resolution 65/66 and its decision 70/551 and which met in New York in 2016 and 2017;

2. *Also recalls* the report of the Open-ended Working Group and the substantive recommendations contained therein;

3. *Reiterates its appreciation* to the participants of the Open-ended Working Group for their constructive contribution to its work;

4. *Encourages* Member States to continue consultations on the next steps for the convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “General and complete disarmament”, the sub-item entitled “Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament”.

### RESOLUTION 78/25

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/409, para. 89)<sup>66</sup>

#### **78/25. Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 50/70 M of 12 December 1995, 51/45 E of 10 December 1996, 52/38 E of 9 December 1997, 53/77 J of 4 December 1998, 54/54 S of 1 December 1999, 55/33 K of 20 November 2000, 56/24 F of 29 November 2001, 57/64 of 22 November 2002, 58/45 of 8 December 2003, 59/68 of 3 December 2004, 60/60 of 8 December 2005, 61/63 of 6 December 2006, 62/28 of 5 December 2007, 63/51 of 2 December 2008, 64/33 of 2 December 2009, 65/53 of 8 December 2010, 66/31 of 2 December 2011, 67/37 of 3 December 2012, 68/36 of 5 December 2013, 69/55 of 2 December 2014, 70/30 of 7 December 2015, 71/60 of 5 December 2016, 72/47 of 4 December 2017, 73/39 of 5 December 2018, 74/52 of 12 December 2019, 75/53 of 7 December 2020, 76/39 of 6 December 2021 and 77/44 of 7 December 2022,

*Emphasizing* the importance of the observance of environmental norms in the preparation and implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements,

<sup>65</sup> A/AC.268/2017/2.

<sup>66</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by Indonesia (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries).

## II. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the First Committee

*Recognizing* that it is necessary to take duly into account the agreements adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as well as prior relevant agreements, in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms limitation,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to resolution 77/44,<sup>67</sup>

*Noting* that the Eighteenth Summit of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Baku on 25 and 26 October 2019, welcomed the adoption by the General Assembly, without a vote, of resolution 73/39 on the observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control,<sup>68</sup>

*Mindful* of the detrimental environmental effects of the use of nuclear weapons,

1. *Reaffirms* that international disarmament forums should take fully into account the relevant environmental norms in negotiating treaties and agreements on disarmament and arms limitation and that all States, through their actions, should contribute fully to ensuring compliance with the aforementioned norms in the implementation of treaties and conventions to which they are parties;
2. *Calls upon* States to adopt unilateral, bilateral, regional and multilateral measures so as to contribute to ensuring the application of scientific and technological progress within the framework of international security, disarmament and other related spheres, without detriment to the environment or to its effective contribution to attaining sustainable development;
3. *Welcomes* the information provided by Member States on the implementation of the measures that they have adopted to promote the objectives envisaged in the present resolution;
4. *Invites* all Member States to communicate to the Secretary-General information on the measures that they have adopted to promote the objectives envisaged in the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report containing that information to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session;
5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “General and complete disarmament”, the sub-item entitled “Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control”.

### RESOLUTION 78/26

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 130 to 5, with 50 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/409, para. 89)<sup>69</sup>

\* *In favour:* Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, 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, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against:* Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

<sup>67</sup> A/78/116.

<sup>68</sup> See A/74/548, annex.

<sup>69</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by Indonesia (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries).



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*Abstaining:* Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Sudan, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tonga, Türkiye, Ukraine

### 78/26. Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation

*The General Assembly,*

*Determined* to foster strict respect for the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

*Recalling* its resolution 56/24 T of 29 November 2001 on multilateral cooperation in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation and global efforts against terrorism and other relevant resolutions, as well as its resolutions 57/63 of 22 November 2002, 58/44 of 8 December 2003, 59/69 of 3 December 2004, 60/59 of 8 December 2005, 61/62 of 6 December 2006, 62/27 of 5 December 2007, 63/50 of 2 December 2008, 64/34 of 2 December 2009, 65/54 of 8 December 2010, 66/32 of 2 December 2011, 67/38 of 3 December 2012, 68/38 of 5 December 2013, 69/54 of 2 December 2014, 70/31 of 7 December 2015, 71/61 of 5 December 2016, 72/48 of 4 December 2017, 73/41 of 5 December 2018, 74/55 of 12 December 2019, 75/47 of 7 December 2020, 76/40 of 6 December 2021 and 77/48 of 7 December 2022 on the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation,

*Recalling also* the purpose of the United Nations to maintain international peace and security and, to that end, to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace, as enshrined in the Charter,

*Recalling further* the United Nations Millennium Declaration,<sup>70</sup> in which it is stated, inter alia, that the responsibility for managing worldwide economic and social development, as well as threats to international peace and security, must be shared among the nations of the world and should be exercised multilaterally and that, as the most universal and most delegation organization in the world, the United Nations must play the central role,

*Convinced* that, in the globalization era and with the information revolution, arms regulation, non-proliferation and disarmament problems are more than ever the concern of all countries in the world, which are affected in one way or another by these problems and therefore should have the possibility to participate in the negotiations that arise to tackle them,

*Bearing in mind* the existence of a broad structure of disarmament and arms regulation agreements resulting from non-discriminatory and transparent multilateral negotiations with the participation of a large number of countries, regardless of their size and power,

*Aware* of the need to advance further in the field of arms regulation, non-proliferation and disarmament on the basis of universal, multilateral, non-discriminatory and transparent negotiations with the goal of reaching general and complete disarmament under strict international control,

*Recognizing* the complementarity of bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral negotiations on disarmament,

*Recognizing also* that the proliferation and development of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, are among the most immediate threats to international peace and security which need to be dealt with, with the highest priority,

*Considering* that the multilateral disarmament agreements provide the mechanism for States parties to consult one another and to cooperate in solving any problems which may arise in relation to the objective of, or in the application of, the provisions of the agreements and that such consultations and cooperation may also be undertaken through appropriate international procedures within the framework of the United Nations and in accordance with the Charter,

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<sup>70</sup> Resolution 55/2.

## II. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the First Committee

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*Stressing* that international cooperation, the peaceful settlement of disputes, dialogue and confidence-building measures would make an essential contribution to the creation of multilateral and bilateral friendly relations among peoples and nations,

*Being gravely concerned* at the continuous and progressive erosion of multilateralism in the field of arms regulation, non-proliferation and disarmament, and recognizing that the abrogation of major instruments of the arms control and non-proliferation architecture as a result of unilateral actions by Member States in resolving their security concerns would jeopardize international peace and security and undermine confidence in the international security system as well as the foundations of the United Nations itself,

*Noting* that the Eighteenth Summit of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Baku on 25 and 26 October 2019, welcomed the adoption of resolution [73/41](#) on the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation and underlined the fact that multilateralism and multilaterally agreed solutions, in accordance with the Charter, provide the only sustainable method of addressing disarmament and international security issues,<sup>71</sup>

*Reaffirming* the absolute validity of multilateral diplomacy in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, and determined to promote multilateralism as an essential way to develop arms regulation and disarmament negotiations,

1. *Reaffirms* multilateralism as the core principle in negotiations in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation with a view to maintaining and strengthening universal norms and enlarging their scope;

2. *Also reaffirms* multilateralism as the core principle in resolving disarmament and non-proliferation concerns;

3. *Urges* the participation of all interested States in multilateral negotiations on arms regulation, non-proliferation and disarmament in a non-discriminatory and transparent manner;

4. *Underlines* the importance of preserving the existing agreements on arms regulation and disarmament and the multilateral disarmament forums, which constitute an expression of the results of international cooperation and multilateral negotiations in response to the challenges facing humankind;

5. *Calls once again upon* all Member States to renew and fulfil their individual and collective commitments to multilateral cooperation as an important means of pursuing and achieving their common objectives in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation;

6. *Requests* the States parties to the relevant instruments on weapons of mass destruction to consult and cooperate among themselves in resolving their concerns with regard to cases of non-compliance as well as on implementation, in accordance with the procedures defined in those instruments, and to refrain from resorting or threatening to resort to unilateral actions or directing unverified non-compliance accusations against one another to resolve their concerns;

7. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General containing the replies of Member States on the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, submitted pursuant to resolution [77/48](#);<sup>72</sup>

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on the issue of the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation and to submit a report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “General and complete disarmament”, the sub-item entitled “Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation”.

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<sup>71</sup> See [A/74/548](#), annex.

<sup>72</sup> [A/78/117](#).



### RESOLUTION 78/27

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 140 to 35, with 10 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/409, para. 89)<sup>73</sup>

\* *In favour:* Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, 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, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against:* Albania, Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Monaco, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Abstaining:* Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Georgia, Japan, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, South Sudan, Switzerland

#### 78/27. Follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 67/39 of 3 December 2012, 68/32 of 5 December 2013, 69/58 of 2 December 2014, 70/34 of 7 December 2015, 71/71 of 5 December 2016, 72/251 of 24 December 2017, 73/40 of 5 December 2018, 74/54 of 12 December 2019, 75/45 of 7 December 2020, 76/36 of 6 December 2021 and 77/47 of 7 December 2022,

*Welcoming* the convening of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament, on 26 September 2013, and recognizing its contribution to furthering the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons,

*Emphasizing* the importance of seeking a safer world for all and achieving peace and security in a world without nuclear weapons,

*Reaffirming* that effective measures of nuclear disarmament have the highest priority, as affirmed at the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament,

*Convinced* that nuclear disarmament and the total elimination of nuclear weapons are the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

*Acknowledging* the significant contribution made by a number of countries towards realizing the objective of nuclear disarmament by the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, as well as by the voluntary renunciation of nuclear weapon programmes or withdrawal of all nuclear weapons from their territories, and strongly supporting the speedy establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East,

*Recalling* the resolve of the Heads of State and Government, as contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,<sup>74</sup> to strive for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, and to keep all options open for achieving this aim, including the possibility of convening an international conference to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers,

<sup>73</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by Indonesia (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries).

<sup>74</sup> Resolution 55/2.

## II. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the First Committee

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*Reaffirming* the central role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament, and reaffirming also the continued importance and relevance of multilateral disarmament machinery as mandated by the General Assembly at its first special session devoted to disarmament,

*Acknowledging* the important role of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, academia, parliamentarians and the mass media, in advancing the objective of nuclear disarmament,

*Sharing the deep concern* at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, and in this context reaffirming the need for all States at all times to comply with applicable international law, including international humanitarian law,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to resolution [77/47](#),<sup>75</sup> and welcoming the fact that a large number of Member States contributed their views to this report,

*Noting* the adoption, with a vote, of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons<sup>76</sup> on 7 July 2017 at the United Nations conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination, its entry into force on 22 January 2021 and the first Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty, held in Vienna from 21 to 23 June 2022,

*Mindful* of the solemn obligations of States parties, undertaken in article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,<sup>77</sup> particularly to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to the cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament,

*Expressing its concern* that improvements in existing nuclear weapons and the development of new types of nuclear weapons, as provided for in the military doctrines of some nuclear-weapon States, violate their legal obligations on nuclear disarmament, as well as the commitments made to diminish the role of nuclear weapons in their military and security policies, and contravene the negative security assurances provided by the nuclear-weapon States,

*Expressing its deep concern* that the negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament for the conclusion of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons have not yet commenced,

*Determined* to work collectively towards the realization of nuclear disarmament,

1. *Underlines* the strong support, expressed at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament, held on 26 September 2013, for taking urgent and effective measures to achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons;

2. *Calls for* urgent compliance with the legal obligations and the fulfilment of the commitments undertaken on nuclear disarmament;

3. *Endorses* the wide support expressed at the high-level meeting for a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons;

4. *Calls for* the urgent commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on effective nuclear disarmament measures to achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons, including, in particular, on a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons;

5. *Decides* to convene, in New York, on a date to be decided later, a United Nations high-level international conference on nuclear disarmament to review the progress made in this regard;

6. *Takes note* of the views provided by Member States with regard to achieving the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons, in particular on the elements of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons, as reflected in the report submitted by the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution [77/47](#), and requests the Secretary-General to forward this report to the Conference on Disarmament and the Disarmament Commission for their early consideration;

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<sup>75</sup> [A/78/133](#).

<sup>76</sup> [A/CONF.229/2017/8](#).

<sup>77</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

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7. *Welcomes* the commemoration and promotion of 26 September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons devoted to furthering this objective;

8. *Expresses its appreciation* to Member States, the United Nations system and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, academia, parliamentarians, the mass media and individuals that developed activities in promotion of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons;

9. *Reiterates its request* to the President of the General Assembly to organize, on 26 September every year, a one-day high-level plenary meeting of the Assembly to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons;

10. *Decides* that the aforementioned high-level plenary meeting shall be held with the participation of Member and observer States, represented at the highest possible level, as well as with the participation of the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to update the platform for the promotion of these activities and to undertake all the arrangements, providing all the necessary resources and services, including webcasts, to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, including through the United Nations Offices at Geneva and Vienna, as well as the United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament;

12. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations system and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, academia, parliamentarians, the mass media and individuals, to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons through all means of educational and public awareness-raising activities about the threat posed to humanity by nuclear weapons and the necessity for their total elimination in order to mobilize international efforts towards achieving the common goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States with regard to achieving the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons, in particular on effective nuclear disarmament measures, including elements of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons, and to submit a report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session, and also to transmit the report to the Conference on Disarmament;

14. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session;

15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “General and complete disarmament”, the sub-item entitled “Follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament”.

### RESOLUTION 78/28

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 160 to 5, with 20 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/409, para. 89)<sup>78</sup>

\* *In favour*: Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia,

<sup>78</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Canada, Germany and Netherlands (Kingdom of the).

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Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against:* China, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Mali, Pakistan, Russian Federation

*Abstaining:* Algeria, Burundi, Comoros, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Nicaragua, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen

### **78/28. Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 48/75 L of 16 December 1993 and all subsequent resolutions and decisions on the subject of a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices,

*Marking* 30 years since the adoption of resolution 48/75 L and, in that regard, noting with grave concern the lack of substantial progress towards a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices,

*Stressing* the importance of political will to make progress and welcoming the commemorative high-level event entitled “Whittle down fissile material, whittle down nuclear weapons”, aimed at refocusing political attention on the matter, held on the margins of high-level week of the General Assembly in September 2023 in this regard,

*Mindful* of the continuing importance and relevance of the Conference on Disarmament, and recalling the past achievements of that body in successfully negotiating non-proliferation and disarmament agreements,

*Gravely concerned* by the years of stalemate in the Conference on Disarmament, regretting that negotiations have not been pursued on this issue, and looking forward to the Conference again fulfilling its mandate as the world's single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum,

*Convinced* that a non-discriminatory, multilateral and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices would represent a significant practical contribution to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation efforts,

*Recognizing* the essential role of fissile material in the manufacture of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices and the long-standing efforts of the international community to negotiate a treaty that would ban its production for such purposes,

*Welcoming* the declared voluntary moratoriums by some nuclear-weapon States on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons as an important interim step before the entry into force of a non-discriminatory, multilateral and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices,

*Recognizing* that a future treaty should not prohibit the production of fissile material for non-proscribed military purposes or civilian use, consistent with the obligations of States parties to such a treaty, or interfere in any other way with a State's right to peaceful uses of nuclear energy,

*Recalling* actions 15, 16, 17 and 18 of the conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions agreed by consensus at the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,<sup>79</sup>

*Noting with appreciation* the consensus report of the Group of Governmental Experts, mandated in resolution 67/53 of 3 December 2012, as contained in document A/70/81,

*Noting with appreciation also* the work accomplished in 2017 and 2018 by the high-level fissile material cut-off treaty expert preparatory group convened by the Secretary-General following resolution 71/259 of 23 December 2016, on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, to consider and make recommendations on substantial elements of a future non-discriminatory, multilateral and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile

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<sup>79</sup> See 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, vol. I (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I)), part I, Conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions.

## II. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the First Committee

material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, on the basis of document [CD/1299](#) and the mandate contained therein,

*Noting with concern* that the tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons was not able to make progress in facilitating negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, as called for in resolution [76/51](#) of 6 December 2021,

*Reaffirming* the need to ensure the equal, full and meaningful participation of women in the negotiation process of a future treaty,

*Reaffirming also* its desire to achieve substantive progress in nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, and in particular on a non-discriminatory, multilateral and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices,

1. *Urges* the Conference on Disarmament to immediately commence negotiations on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices on the basis of document [CD/1299](#) and the mandate contained therein;

2. *Calls upon* Member States to make innovative contributions in all appropriate formal and informal forums for facilitating negotiations on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices;

3. *Calls upon* those States that possess or produce fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices to declare, if they have not already done so, and uphold a voluntary moratorium on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices;

4. *Also calls upon* those States that possess or produce fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices to engage in transparency and confidence-building measures among themselves with a view to launching negotiations, as referenced above, of a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, and requests that the Secretary-General and the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs facilitate any such efforts, taking into account existing confidence-building measures and preparatory work, including in the Conference on Disarmament;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “General and complete disarmament”, the sub-item entitled “Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices”.

### RESOLUTION 78/29

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 159 to 7, with 16 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee ([A/78/409](#), para. 89)<sup>80</sup>

\* *In favour*: Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia

<sup>80</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by Poland.

*Against:* China, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Mali, Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic, Zimbabwe  
*Abstaining:* Algeria, Armenia, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burundi, Cuba, Egypt, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Mongolia, Rwanda, Sudan, Tajikistan, Uganda, Uzbekistan

### **78/29. Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its previous resolutions on the subject of chemical weapons, in particular resolution [77/73](#) of 7 December 2022,

*Determined* to achieve the effective prohibition of the development, production, acquisition, transfer, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and their destruction,

*Honouring* the memory of and paying tribute to all victims of chemical weapons,

*Reaffirming its strong support* for the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction<sup>81</sup> and for the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and its deep appreciation of the Organisation, which was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 2013 for its extensive efforts to eliminate chemical weapons,

*Recalling* decisions C-24/DEC.4 and C-24/DEC.5 of 27 November 2019 adopted by the Conference of the States Parties at its twenty-fourth session, introducing changes to schedules 1 (A) and 1, respectively, of the Annex on Chemicals to the Convention,

*Re-emphasizing its unequivocal support* for the decision of the Director General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to continue the mission to establish the facts surrounding the allegations of the use of chemical weapons, including toxic chemicals, for hostile purposes in the Syrian Arab Republic, while stressing that the safety and security of mission personnel remains the top priority, and recalling the work, pursuant to Security Council resolutions [2235 \(2015\)](#) of 7 August 2015 and [2319 \(2016\)](#) of 17 November 2016, of the Joint Investigative Mechanism of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the United Nations,

*Recalling* the work related to the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, held in The Hague from 21 to 30 November 2018,

*Noting* the work related to the Fifth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, held in The Hague from 15 to 19 May 2023,

*Reaffirming* the importance of the outcome of the Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, held in The Hague from 8 to 19 April 2013 (the Third Review Conference), including its consensus final report, in which the Conference addressed all aspects of the Convention and made important recommendations on its continued implementation,

*Emphasizing* that the Third Review Conference welcomed the fact that the Convention is a unique multilateral agreement banning an entire category of weapons of mass destruction in a non-discriminatory and verifiable manner under strict and effective international control and noted with satisfaction that the Convention continues to be a remarkable success and an example of effective multilateralism,

*Recalling* that 29 April 2022 marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention,

*Convinced* that the Convention, 26 years after its entry into force, has reinforced its role as the international norm against chemical weapons, and that it constitutes a major contribution to:

- (a) International peace and security,
- (b) Eliminating chemical weapons and preventing their re-emergence,
- (c) The ultimate objective of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control,

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<sup>81</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1974, No. 33757.



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(d) Excluding completely, for the sake of all mankind, the possibility of the use of chemical weapons,

(e) Promoting international cooperation and exchange in scientific and technical information in the field of chemical activities among States parties for peaceful purposes in order to enhance the economic and technological development of all States parties,

*Noting* the efforts to ensure the effectiveness of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and its business continuity in all circumstances, drawing lessons from the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19),

1. *Reaffirms its condemnation in the strongest possible terms* of the use of chemical weapons by anyone under any circumstances, emphasizing that any use of chemical weapons anywhere, at any time, by anyone, under any circumstances is unacceptable and is and would be a violation of international law and expressing its strong conviction that those individuals responsible for the use of chemical weapons must and should be held accountable;

2. *Condemns in the strongest possible terms* the use of a toxic chemical as a weapon against Alexei Navalny in the Russian Federation, and notes with grave concern the note by the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons of 6 October 2020 on the summary of the report on activities carried out in support of a request for technical assistance by Germany;<sup>82</sup>

3. *Also condemns in the strongest possible terms* that chemical weapons have since 2012 been used in Iraq, Malaysia, the Syrian Arab Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, including as reported by the Joint Investigative Mechanism of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the United Nations and by the Investigation and Identification Team of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in:

(a) The reports of the Joint Investigative Mechanism of 24 August 2016<sup>83</sup> and 21 October 2016,<sup>84</sup> which concluded that there was sufficient information to determine that the Syrian Arab Armed Forces were responsible for the attacks which released toxic substances in Talmenes, Syrian Arab Republic, on 21 April 2014, in Sarmin, Syrian Arab Republic, on 16 March 2015, and in Qmenas, Syrian Arab Republic, also on 16 March 2015, and that the so-called “Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant” used sulfur mustard in Marea, Syrian Arab Republic, on 21 August 2015;

(b) The report of the Joint Investigative Mechanism of 26 October 2017,<sup>85</sup> which concluded that there was sufficient information to be confident that Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant was responsible for the use of sulfur mustard at Umm Hawsh on 15 and 16 September 2016 and that the Syrian Arab Republic was responsible for the release of sarin at Khan Shaykhun on 4 April 2017;

(c) The first report of the Investigation and Identification Team, of 8 April 2020,<sup>86</sup> which concluded that there were reasonable grounds to believe that the Syrian Arab Air Force used chemical weapons in Ltamenah on 24, 25 and 30 March 2017;

(d) The second report of the Investigation and Identification Team, of 12 April 2021,<sup>87</sup> which concluded that there were reasonable grounds to believe that a military helicopter of the Syrian Arab Air Force carried out a chemical weapons attack on Saraqib on 4 February 2018;

(e) The third report of the Investigation and Identification Team, of 27 January 2023,<sup>88</sup> which concluded that there were reasonable grounds to believe that the Syrian Arab Air Force carried out a chemical weapons attack on 7 April 2018 in Duma, Syrian Arab Republic;

and demands that the perpetrators be held accountable;

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<sup>82</sup> S/1906/2020.

<sup>83</sup> See [S/2016/738/Rev.1](#).

<sup>84</sup> See [S/2016/888](#).

<sup>85</sup> See [S/2017/904](#), annex.

<sup>86</sup> See [S/2020/310](#), annex.

<sup>87</sup> See [S/2021/371](#), annex.

<sup>88</sup> See [S/2023/81](#), annex.

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4. *Takes note with great concern in that regard* of the reports of the fact-finding mission of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons regarding alleged incidents in Ltamenah,<sup>89</sup> Saraqib<sup>90</sup> and Duma,<sup>91</sup> Syrian Arab Republic, as well as reports regarding the alleged incidents in Marea<sup>92</sup> and Kafr Zayta,<sup>93</sup> Syrian Arab Republic, which concluded there were reasonable grounds to believe that a toxic chemical or a vesicant chemical substance from 1.A.04 scheduled chemicals under the Convention had been used as a weapon;

5. *Takes note* of the report of the fact-finding mission of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons of 28 June 2023,<sup>94</sup> which concluded that information obtained and analysed by the fact-finding mission did not provide reasonable grounds to determine that chemicals were used as a weapon in the reported incidents that occurred in Kharbit Massasneh, Syrian Arab Republic, on 7 July and 4 August 2017;

6. *Recalls* the adoption of:

(a) Decision C-SS-4/DEC.3 of the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties, entitled “Addressing the threat from chemical weapons use”, of 27 June 2018;

(b) Decision EC-94/DEC.2 of the Executive Council, entitled “Addressing the possession and use of chemical weapons by the Syrian Arab Republic”, of 9 July 2020;

(c) Decision C-25/DEC.9 of the Conference of the States Parties, entitled “Addressing the possession and use of chemical weapons by the Syrian Arab Republic”, of 21 April 2021;

and stresses the importance of their implementation, in accordance with the Convention, and, accordingly, expresses concern with the conclusions contained in the report of the Director General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons of 14 October 2020 on the implementation of decision EC-94/DEC.2;<sup>95</sup>

7. *Also recalls* decision C-26/DEC.10 of the Conference of the States Parties, entitled “Understanding regarding the aerosolised use of central nervous system-acting chemicals for law enforcement purposes”, of 1 December 2021;

8. *Emphasizes* that the universality of the Convention is essential to achieving its object and purpose and to enhancing the security of States parties, as well as to international peace and security, underlines the fact that the objectives of the Convention will not be fully realized as long as there remains even a single State not party to the Convention that could possess or acquire such weapons, calls upon all States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Convention without delay, and in this regard recalls the outcome of the Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (the Third Review Conference);

9. *Underlines* the fact that the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of all articles of the Convention makes a major contribution to international peace and security through the elimination of existing stockpiles of chemical weapons and the prohibition of their acquisition and use, and provides for assistance and protection in the event of use or threat of use of chemical weapons and for international cooperation for peaceful purposes in the field of chemical activities;

10. *Notes* the impact of scientific and technological progress on the effective implementation of the Convention and the importance for the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and its policymaking organs of taking due account of such developments;

11. *Reaffirms* that the obligation of the States parties to complete the destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles and the destruction or conversion of chemical weapons production facilities in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and the Annex on Implementation and Verification (Verification Annex) and under the

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<sup>89</sup> See [S/2017/931](#), annex, and [S/2018/620](#), annex.

<sup>90</sup> See [S/2018/478](#), annex.

<sup>91</sup> See [S/2019/208](#), annex.

<sup>92</sup> See [S/2022/85](#), annex.

<sup>93</sup> See [S/2022/116](#), annex.

<sup>94</sup> See [S/2023/508](#), annex.

<sup>95</sup> EC-96/DG.1.



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verification of the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons is essential for the realization of the object and purpose of the Convention;

12. *Stresses* the importance to the Convention that all possessors of chemical weapons, chemical weapons production facilities or chemical weapons development facilities, including previously declared possessor States, should be among the States parties to the Convention, and welcomes progress to that end;

13. *Recalls* that the Third Review Conference expressed concern regarding the statement made by the Director General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in his report to the Executive Council of the Organisation at its sixty-eighth session, provided in accordance with paragraph 2 of decision C-16/DEC.11 of 1 December 2011 adopted by the Conference of the States Parties at its sixteenth session, that three possessor States parties, namely, Libya, the Russian Federation and the United States of America, had been unable to fully meet the final extended deadline of 29 April 2012 for the destruction of their chemical weapons stockpiles, and also expressed determination that the destruction of all categories of chemical weapons should be completed in the shortest time possible in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and the Verification Annex, and with the full application of the relevant decisions that have been taken;

14. *Welcomes* the confirmation by the Director General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons expressed in his report of 5 October 2017,<sup>96</sup> based upon information received from the Russian Federation and independent information received from the inspectors of the Organisation, regarding the completion of the full destruction of chemical weapons declared by the Russian Federation;

15. *Also welcomes* the completed destruction of Libya's remaining category 2 chemical weapons, as reported by the Director General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in his report of 22 December 2017,<sup>97</sup> as well as the completed destruction by Iraq of its entire declared stockpile of chemical weapons remnants, as reported by the Director General in his report of 28 February 2018;<sup>98</sup>

16. *Further welcomes* the confirmation by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons that the last chemical munition of the declared chemical weapons stockpile of the United States of America was irreversibly destroyed in accordance with the Convention on 7 July 2023;

17. *Underlines* that the end of destruction of all declared chemical weapons stockpiles is an important milestone for the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and a critical step towards achieving its mission to permanently eliminate all chemical weapons;

18. *Notes with concern* that, along with the threat of the possible production, acquisition and use of chemical weapons by States, the international community also faces the danger of the production, acquisition and use of chemical weapons by non-State actors, including terrorists, concerns which have highlighted the necessity of achieving universal adherence to the Convention, as well as the high level of readiness of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, and stresses that the full and effective implementation of all provisions of the Convention, including those on national implementation (article VII) and assistance and protection (article X), constitutes an important contribution to the efforts of the United Nations in the global fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;

19. *Notes* that the effective application of the verification system builds confidence in compliance with the Convention by States parties;

20. *Stresses* the importance of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in verifying compliance with the provisions of the Convention as well as in promoting the timely and efficient accomplishment of all its objectives;

21. *Expresses grave concern* that, despite the verified destruction of all 27 chemical weapons production facilities declared by the Syrian Arab Republic, the Technical Secretariat, as recently reported by the Director General in his report of 25 September 2023,<sup>99</sup> assesses that the Syrian Arab Republic has submitted a declaration that still

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<sup>96</sup> EC-86/DG.31.

<sup>97</sup> EC-87/DG.6.

<sup>98</sup> EC-87/DG.18.

<sup>99</sup> EC-104/DG.19.

## II. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the First Committee

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cannot be considered accurate and complete in accordance with the Convention, Executive Council decisions EC-M-33/DEC.1 and EC-94/DEC.2 and Security Council resolution 2118 (2013), as well as with the conclusion of decision C-SS-4/DEC.3, of the Fourth Review Conference, that the Syrian Arab Republic failed to declare and destroy all of its chemical weapons and chemical weapons production facilities, and underscores the importance of such full verification;

22. *Urges* all States parties to the Convention to meet in full and on time their obligations under the Convention and to support the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in its implementation activities;

23. *Welcomes* the progress made in the national implementation of article VII obligations, commends the States parties and the Technical Secretariat for assisting other States parties, on request, with the implementation of the follow-up to the plan of action regarding article VII obligations, urges States parties that have not fulfilled their obligations under article VII to do so without further delay, in accordance with their constitutional processes, and in this context reaffirms that full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of article VII is essential for the realization of the object and purpose of the Convention;

24. *Emphasizes* the continuing relevance and importance of the provisions of article X of the Convention, welcomes the activities of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in relation to assistance and protection against chemical weapons, supports further efforts by both States parties and the Technical Secretariat to promote a high level of readiness to respond to chemical weapons threats as articulated in article X, and welcomes the effectiveness and efficiency of the increased focus on making full use of regional and subregional capacities and expertise, including taking advantage of established training centres;

25. *Reaffirms* that the provisions of the Convention shall be implemented in a manner that avoids hampering the economic or technological development of States parties and international cooperation in the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited under the Convention, including the international exchange of scientific and technical information, and chemicals and equipment for the production, processing or use of chemicals for purposes not prohibited under the Convention;

26. *Emphasizes* the importance of the provisions of article XI of the Convention relating to the economic and technological development of States parties, recalls that the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of those provisions contributes to universality, and reaffirms the undertaking of the States parties to foster international cooperation for peaceful purposes in the field of chemical activities of the States parties and the importance of that cooperation and its contribution to the promotion of the Convention as a whole;

27. *Notes with appreciation* the ongoing work of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to achieve the object and purpose of the Convention, to ensure the full implementation of its provisions, including those for international verification of compliance with it, and to provide a forum for consultation and cooperation among States parties;

28. *Regrets* that, despite the constructive engagement of most of the States parties in the preparatory process leading to the Fifth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, it was not possible to adopt a final document, notwithstanding the fact that the majority of subjects covered at the Fifth Review Conference received very broad support and that a wide range of delegations undertook efforts towards a consensual outcome;

29. *Welcomes* the opening of the Centre for Chemistry and Technology, which strengthens the capabilities of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and its member States to implement the Chemical Weapons Convention, uphold the global norm against chemical weapons, address threats and opportunities arising from rapid progress in science and technology in the evolving global security landscape, and support international cooperation;

30. *Takes note* of decision EC-102/DEC.6 of the Executive Council, entitled “Allowing the convening of Executive Council meetings or sessions in extraordinary circumstances”, of 16 March 2023;

## II. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the First Committee

31. *Welcomes* the cooperation between the United Nations and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons within the framework of the relationship agreement between the United Nations and the Organisation,<sup>100</sup> in accordance with the provisions of the Convention;

32. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “General and complete disarmament”, the sub-item entitled “Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction”.

### RESOLUTION 78/30

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 116 to 45, with 19 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/409, para. 89)<sup>101</sup>

\* *In favour:* Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against:* Albania, Australia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Abstaining:* Andorra, Armenia, Austria, China, El Salvador, Georgia, India, Japan, Liechtenstein, Malawi, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, South Sudan, Switzerland, Tonga, Türkiye

### 78/30. Follow-up to nuclear disarmament obligations agreed to at the 1995, 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its various resolutions in the field of nuclear disarmament, including resolutions 60/72 of 8 December 2005, 62/24 of 5 December 2007, 64/31 of 2 December 2009, 66/28 of 2 December 2011, 68/35 of 5 December 2013, 69/43 and 69/48 of 2 December 2014, 70/38 of 7 December 2015, 72/29 of 4 December 2017, 74/36 of 12 December 2019 and 76/31 of 6 December 2021,

*Bearing in mind* its resolution 2373 (XXII) of 12 June 1968, the annex to which contains the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,<sup>102</sup>

*Noting* the provisions of article VIII, paragraph 3, of the Treaty regarding the convening of review conferences at five-year intervals,

*Recalling* its resolution 50/70 Q of 12 December 1995, in which the General Assembly noted that the States parties to the Treaty affirmed the need to continue to move with determination towards the full realization and effective implementation of the provisions of the Treaty, and accordingly adopted a set of principles and objectives,

<sup>100</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2160, No. 1240.

<sup>101</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

<sup>102</sup> See also United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

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*Recalling also* that, on 11 May 1995, the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons adopted three decisions on, respectively, strengthening the review process for the Treaty, principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, and extension of the Treaty,<sup>103</sup>

*Reaffirming* the resolution on the Middle East adopted on 11 May 1995 by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference, in which the Conference reaffirmed the importance of the early realization of universal adherence to the Treaty and placement of nuclear facilities under full-scope International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards,

*Reaffirming also* its resolution 55/33 D of 20 November 2000, in which the General Assembly welcomed the adoption by consensus on 19 May 2000 of the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,<sup>104</sup> including, in particular, the documents entitled “Review of the operation of the Treaty, taking into account the decisions and the resolution adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference” and “Improving the effectiveness of the strengthened review process for the Treaty”,<sup>105</sup>

*Taking into consideration* the unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon States, in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference, to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament, to which all States parties to the Treaty are committed under article VI of the Treaty,

*Expressing concern* that the ninth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held from 27 April to 22 May 2015, as well as the tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held from 1 to 26 August 2022, were not able to reach agreement on a substantive final document,

1. *Recalls* that the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons reaffirmed the continued validity of the practical steps agreed to in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;<sup>106</sup>

2. *Determines* to pursue practical steps for systematic and progressive efforts to implement article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and paragraphs 3 and 4 (c) of the decision on principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;

3. *Calls for* practical steps, as agreed to at the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to be taken by all nuclear-weapon States, that would lead to nuclear disarmament in a way that promotes international stability and, based on the principle of undiminished security for all:

- (a) Further efforts to be made by the nuclear-weapon States to reduce their nuclear arsenals unilaterally;
- (b) Increased transparency by the nuclear-weapon States with regard to nuclear weapons capabilities and the implementation of agreements pursuant to article VI of the Treaty and as a voluntary confidence-building measure to support further progress in nuclear disarmament;
- (c) The further reduction of non-strategic nuclear weapons, based on unilateral initiatives and as an integral part of the nuclear arms reduction and disarmament process;
- (d) Concrete agreed measures to reduce further the operational status of nuclear weapons systems;
- (e) A diminishing role for nuclear weapons in security policies so as to minimize the risk that these weapons will ever be used and to facilitate the process of their total elimination;
- (f) The engagement, as soon as appropriate, of all the nuclear-weapon States in the process leading to the total elimination of their nuclear weapons;

<sup>103</sup> See 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, Part I (NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I) and NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I)/Corr.2), annex.

<sup>104</sup> 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, vols. I–III (NPT/CONF.2000/28 (Parts I and II), NPT/CONF.2000/28 (Part III) and NPT/CONF.2000/28 (Part IV)).

<sup>105</sup> Ibid., vol. I (NPT/CONF.2000/28 (Parts I and II)), part I.

<sup>106</sup> Ibid., section entitled “Article VI and eighth to twelfth preambular paragraphs”, para. 15.

## II. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the First Committee

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4. *Notes* that the 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences agreed that legally binding security assurances by the five nuclear-weapon States to the non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime;

5. *Urges* the States parties to the Treaty to follow up on the implementation of the nuclear disarmament obligations under the Treaty agreed to at the 1995, 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences within the framework of review conferences and their preparatory committees;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its eightieth session, under the item entitled “General and complete disarmament”, the sub-item entitled “Follow-up to nuclear disarmament obligations agreed to at the 1995, 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons”.

### RESOLUTION 78/31

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/409, para. 89)<sup>107</sup>

#### **78/31. Youth, disarmament and non-proliferation**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 74/64 of 12 December 2019 and 76/45 of 6 December 2021,

*Recalling also* its resolution 75/1 of 21 September 2020 on the declaration on the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, in which the Heads of State and Government representing the peoples of the world have committed to listen to and work with youth,

*Recognizing* that young people in all countries are key agents for social change, economic development and technological innovation,

*Reaffirming* the important and positive contribution that young people can make to the promotion and attainment of sustainable peace and security,

*Noting* that engagement with young people can provide opportunities to benefit from their views, insights and ideas,

*Bearing in mind* its resolution 77/52 of 7 December 2022, which highlights the need for disarmament and non-proliferation education, particularly among youth,

*Recalling* its resolution 77/55 of 7 December 2022, in which it reaffirmed that the full, equal and meaningful participation of both women and men is one of the essential factors for the promotion and attainment of sustainable peace and security,

*Recalling also* its resolution 76/306 of 8 September 2022, in which it underlined the important role of youth in the promotion of peace and security, and established the United Nations Youth Office to promote meaningful, inclusive and effective engagement of youth in the United Nations system,

*Recalling further* relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions on the issue of youth, peace and security,

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<sup>107</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), North Macedonia, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam.

## II. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the First Committee

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*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General on youth, disarmament and non-proliferation, submitted pursuant to resolution 76/45,<sup>108</sup> on the views of Member States, the United Nations, other relevant international and regional organizations and civil society organizations on the issue of the promotion of youth engagement and empowerment activities in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, in which the Secretary-General reported on the implementation of the resolution,

*Noting* the launch on 24 September 2018 of Youth 2030: The United Nations Youth Strategy, which includes peace and security as a thematic priority area,

*Noting also* action 38 of the disarmament agenda put forward by the Secretary-General, in which he describes the young generation as the ultimate force for change and proposes actions to promote youth engagement,

*Mindful* of the initiatives and activities undertaken by Member States, the United Nations entities and relevant civil society organizations for the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth<sup>109</sup> and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,<sup>110</sup>

*Acknowledging* the initiatives and activities undertaken by Member States, the United Nations, other relevant international and regional organizations and civil society organizations to engage, educate and empower youth in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation,

*Recognizing* the role of civil society in promoting the engagement of young people in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation,

1. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations, relevant specialized agencies and regional and subregional organizations to continue to promote the meaningful and inclusive participation of young people in discussions in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, including through dialogue platforms, mentoring, internships, fellowships, scholarships, model events and youth group activities;

2. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations, relevant specialized agencies and regional and subregional organizations to consider developing and implementing policies and programmes for young people to increase and facilitate their constructive engagement in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation;

3. *Stresses* the importance of realizing the full potential of young people through education and capacity-building, bearing in mind the ongoing efforts and the need to promote the sustainable entry of young people into the field of disarmament and non-proliferation;

4. *Notes* the holding of a youth panel discussion in formal plenary session by the Conference on Disarmament on 10 August 2023, during which youth participants expressed their readiness to contribute to the consideration of issues of disarmament and non-proliferation, including those on the agenda of the Conference;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek specific measures to promote the meaningful and inclusive participation and empowerment of youth on disarmament and non-proliferation issues, including through the effective utilization of the dedicated digital platform Youth4Disarmament,<sup>111</sup> and through token grants and awards supported by voluntary contributions with a view to building upon established networks and strengthening coordination and partnership with and among Member States, the United Nations, relevant specialized agencies and regional and subregional organizations, and civil society, including youth-led and youth-focused organizations;

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States, the United Nations, other relevant international and regional organizations and civil society organizations on the issue of the promotion of youth engagement and empowerment activities in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation and to submit a report thereon to the General Assembly at its eightieth session;

7. *Encourages* Member States to continue efforts to raise awareness and strengthen coordination within the United Nations system and beyond on the ongoing efforts to promote the role of youth;

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<sup>108</sup> A/78/164.

<sup>109</sup> Resolution 50/81, annex, and resolution 62/126, annex.

<sup>110</sup> See resolution 70/1.

<sup>111</sup> <https://youth4disarmament.org>.



## II. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the First Committee

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its eightieth session, under the item entitled “General and complete disarmament”, the sub-item entitled “Youth, disarmament and non-proliferation”.

### RESOLUTION 78/32

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 148 to 1, with 36 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/409, para. 89)<sup>112</sup>

\* *In favour:* Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Yemen, Zambia

*Against:* Russian Federation

*Abstaining:* Argentina, Bahrain, Belarus, Brazil, Cambodia, Cyprus, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Greece, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Latvia, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, South Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe

#### 78/32. Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 63/71 of 2 December 2008 on the Convention on Cluster Munitions and 70/54 of 7 December 2015, 71/45 of 5 December 2016, 72/54 of 4 December 2017, 73/54 of 5 December 2018, 74/62 of 12 December 2019, 75/62 of 7 December 2020, 76/47 of 6 December 2021 and 77/79 of 7 December 2022 on the implementation of the Convention,

*Reaffirming its determination* to put an end for all time to the suffering and casualties caused by cluster munitions at the time of their use, when they fail to function as intended or when they are abandoned,

*Deploring* the recent cases of cluster munitions use and the related significant increase in civilian casualties, and calling upon those who continue to use cluster munitions to cease any such activity immediately,

*Conscious* that cluster munition remnants kill or maim civilians, including women and children, obstruct economic and social development, including through the loss of livelihood, impede post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction, delay or prevent the return of refugees and internally displaced persons, can have a negative impact on national and international peacebuilding and humanitarian assistance efforts, and have other severe consequences for many years after use,

*Concerned* about the dangers presented by the large national stockpiles of cluster munitions retained for operational use, and determined to ensure their rapid destruction,

*Recognizing* the impact of cluster munitions on women, men, girls and boys and the importance of relevant States providing adequate, gender- and age-sensitive assistance to victims of cluster munitions,

*Believing it necessary* to contribute effectively in an efficient, coordinated manner to resolving the challenge of removing cluster munition remnants located throughout the world, and to ensure their destruction,

<sup>112</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Germany, Iraq, Italy, Lebanon, Malawi, Mexico, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Norway, Panama, Peru, Switzerland and Zambia.



## II. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the First Committee

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*Mindful* of the need to adequately coordinate efforts undertaken in various forums, including through the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,<sup>113</sup> to address the rights and needs of victims of various types of weapons, and resolved to avoid discrimination among victims of various types of weapons,

*Reaffirming* that in cases not covered by the Convention on Cluster Munitions<sup>114</sup> or by other international agreements, civilians and combatants remain under the protection and authority of the principles of international law, derived from established custom, from the principles of humanity and from the dictates of public conscience,

*Welcoming* the steps taken nationally, regionally and globally in recent years aimed at prohibiting, restricting or suspending the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of cluster munitions, and welcoming also in this regard that, since 2014, all Central American States have joined the Convention, thus fulfilling their aspiration to become the first cluster munitions-free region in the world,

*Stressing* the role of public conscience in furthering the principles of humanity, as evidenced by the global call for an end to civilian suffering caused by cluster munitions, and recognizing the efforts to that end undertaken by the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Cluster Munition Coalition and numerous other non-governmental organizations around the world,

*Noting* that a total of 124 States have joined the Convention, 112 as States parties by the ratification of Nigeria and the accession of South Sudan and 12 as signatories,

*Emphasizing* the need to make further efforts in accelerating the universalization process,

*Noting* the outcome of the second Review Conference of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, held in Geneva from 25 to 27 November 2020 and on 20 and 21 September 2021, and in particular the adoption of the Lausanne Declaration entitled “Protecting lives, empowering victims, enabling development” and the Lausanne Action Plan 2021–2026<sup>115</sup> to support the full and effective implementation of the Convention,

*Welcoming* the dialogue undertaken by the Iraq presidency of the eleventh Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, with States not parties to the Convention, in support of universal adherence to the Convention, and recognizing the efforts undertaken to adapt the reporting templates, in compliance with action 45 of the Lausanne Action Plan,

*Recognizing* the importance of full involvement and equal opportunities for the meaningful participation of women and men in disarmament processes, policy and programming decisions related to the Convention,

1. *Urges* all States not parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions to ratify or accede to it as soon as possible, and all States parties that are in a position to do so to promote adherence to the Convention through bilateral, subregional and multilateral contacts, outreach and other means;

2. *Stresses* the importance of the full and effective implementation of and compliance with the Convention, including through the implementation of the Lausanne Action Plan, as appropriate;

3. *Expresses grave concern* regarding the number of allegations, reports or documented evidence of the use of cluster munitions in different parts of the world, and at the related significant increase in civilian casualties and other consequences that impede the achievement of sustainable development;

4. *Urges* all States parties to provide the Secretary-General with complete and timely information as required under article 7 of the Convention in order to promote transparency and compliance with the Convention;

5. *Invites* all States that have not ratified the Convention or acceded to it to provide, on a voluntary basis, information that could make the clearance and destruction of cluster munition remnants and related activities more effective;

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<sup>113</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

<sup>114</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2688, No. 47713.

<sup>115</sup> [CCM/CONF/2021/6](#), annexes I and II.

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6. *Reiterates* the invitation to States not parties to participate in a continued dialogue on issues relevant to the Convention in order to enhance its humanitarian impact and to promote its universalization, as well as to engage in a military-to-military dialogue in order to address specific security issues related to cluster munitions;

7. *Reiterates its invitation and encouragement* to all States parties, interested States, the United Nations, other relevant international organizations or institutions, regional organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Cluster Munition Coalition and other relevant non-governmental organizations to participate in the upcoming formal meetings under the Convention;

8. *Invites and encourages* all interested States, the United Nations, other relevant international organizations or institutions, regional organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and relevant non-governmental organizations to attend the twelfth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, to be held in Geneva from 10 to 13 September 2024, and to participate in the future programme of meetings of the States parties to the Convention;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to convene the Meetings of States Parties to the Convention and to continue to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services as may be necessary to fulfil the tasks entrusted to him under the Convention and in the relevant decisions of the Meetings of States Parties and the second Review Conference;

10. *Calls upon* States parties and participating States to address issues arising from outstanding dues, including options to ensure sustainable financing for all formal meetings and prompt payment of respective shares of the estimated costs;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “General and complete disarmament”, the sub-item entitled “Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions”.

### RESOLUTION 78/33

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 135 to 35, with 15 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/409, para. 89)<sup>116</sup>

\* *In favour:* Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against:* Albania, Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Monaco, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Abstaining:* Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Georgia, Iceland, India, Japan, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Norway, Serbia, South Sudan

<sup>116</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Algeria, Angola, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Eswatini, Fiji, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

**78/33. Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions [49/75](#) K of 15 December 1994, [51/45](#) M of 10 December 1996, [52/38](#) O of 9 December 1997, [53/77](#) W of 4 December 1998, [54/54](#) Q of 1 December 1999, [55/33](#) X of 20 November 2000, [56/24](#) S of 29 November 2001, [57/85](#) of 22 November 2002, [58/46](#) of 8 December 2003, [59/83](#) of 3 December 2004, [60/76](#) of 8 December 2005, [61/83](#) of 6 December 2006, [62/39](#) of 5 December 2007, [63/49](#) of 2 December 2008, [64/55](#) of 2 December 2009, [65/76](#) of 8 December 2010, [66/46](#) of 2 December 2011, [67/33](#) of 3 December 2012, [68/42](#) of 5 December 2013, [69/43](#) of 2 December 2014, [70/56](#) of 7 December 2015, [71/58](#) of 5 December 2016, [72/58](#) of 4 December 2017, [73/64](#) of 5 December 2018, [74/59](#) of 12 December 2019, [75/66](#) of 7 December 2020, [76/53](#) of 6 December 2021 and [77/57](#) of 7 December 2022,

*Convinced* that the continuing existence of nuclear weapons poses a threat to humanity and all life on Earth, and recognizing that the only defence against a nuclear catastrophe is the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the certainty that they will never be produced again,

*Reaffirming* the commitment of the international community to the realization of the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world through the total elimination of nuclear weapons,

*Mindful* of the solemn obligations of States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,<sup>117</sup> in particular the obligations undertaken in article VI of the Treaty, to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament,

*Recalling* the principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,<sup>118</sup> the unequivocal commitment of nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament, agreed at the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,<sup>119</sup> and the action points agreed at the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as part of the conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions on nuclear disarmament,<sup>120</sup>

*Expressing concern* at the consecutive failure of the 2015 and 2020 Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to reach consensus on a substantive outcome document,

*Sharing deep concern* at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, and in this context reaffirming the need for all States at all times to comply with applicable international law, including international humanitarian law,

*Calling upon* all nuclear-weapon States to undertake concrete disarmament efforts, and stressing that all States need to make special efforts to achieve and maintain a world without nuclear weapons,

*Recalling* the 2008 five-point proposal for nuclear disarmament of the Secretary-General, in which he proposed, inter alia, the consideration of negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention or agreement on a framework of separate mutually reinforcing instruments, backed by a strong system of verification,

*Noting* continued efforts towards realizing nuclear disarmament, including through the Secretary-General's disarmament agenda, *Securing Our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament*,

*Recalling* the adoption of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in its resolution [50/245](#) of 10 September 1996, and expressing its satisfaction at the increasing number of States that have signed and ratified the Treaty,

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<sup>117</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

<sup>118</sup> 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, *Final Document, Part I* (NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I) and NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I)/Corr.2), annex, decision 2.

<sup>119</sup> See 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, *Final Document*, vol. I (NPT/CONF.2000/28 (Parts I and II)), part I, section entitled "Article VI and eighth to twelfth preambular paragraphs", para. 15.

<sup>120</sup> See 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, *Final Document*, vol. I (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I)), part I.

## II. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the First Committee

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*Recognizing with satisfaction* that the Antarctic Treaty,<sup>121</sup> the Treaties of Tlatelolco,<sup>122</sup> Rarotonga,<sup>123</sup> Bangkok<sup>124</sup> and Pelindaba<sup>125</sup> and the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia,<sup>126</sup> as well as Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status, are gradually freeing the entire southern hemisphere and adjacent areas covered by those Treaties from nuclear weapons,

*Recognizing* the need for a multilaterally negotiated and legally binding instrument to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the threat or use of nuclear weapons pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons,

*Reaffirming* the central role of the Conference on Disarmament as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum,

*Emphasizing* the need for the Conference on Disarmament to commence negotiations on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified framework of time,

*Stressing* the urgent need for the nuclear-weapon States to accelerate concrete progress on the 13 practical steps to implement article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons leading to nuclear disarmament, contained in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference,

*Recalling* the Model Nuclear Weapons Convention submitted to the Secretary-General by Costa Rica and Malaysia in 2007 and circulated by the Secretary-General,<sup>127</sup>

*Recalling also* the adoption on 7 July 2017 of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons,<sup>128</sup> and welcoming the entry into force of the Treaty on 22 January 2021 and the successful convening of the first Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty, held in Vienna from 21 to 23 June 2022, which have contributed to achieving the objective of a legally binding prohibition of the development, production, testing, deployment, stockpiling, threat or use of nuclear weapons and their destruction under effective international control,

*Recalling further* the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons, issued on 8 July 1996,<sup>129</sup>

1. *Underlines once again* the unanimous conclusion of the International Court of Justice that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control;

2. *Calls once again upon* all States to immediately engage in multilateral negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control, including under the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons;

3. *Requests* all States to inform the Secretary-General of the efforts and measures which they have taken with respect to the implementation of the present resolution and nuclear disarmament, and requests the Secretary-General to apprise the General Assembly of that information at its seventy-ninth session;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons".

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<sup>121</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 402, No. 5778.

<sup>122</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 634, No. 9068.

<sup>123</sup> *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, vol. 10: 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.IX.7), appendix VII.

<sup>124</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1981, No. 33873.

<sup>125</sup> [A/50/426](#), annex.

<sup>126</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2970, No. 51633.

<sup>127</sup> [A/62/650](#), annex.

<sup>128</sup> [A/CONF.229/2017/8](#).

<sup>129</sup> [A/51/218](#), annex.

RESOLUTION 78/34

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 141 to 11, with 33 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/409, para. 89)<sup>130</sup>

\* *In favour:* Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Austria, 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, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against:* Czechia, Estonia, France, Hungary, Israel, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Abstaining:* Albania, Armenia, Australia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Croatia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), North Macedonia, Norway, Pakistan, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Sudan, Spain, Sweden, Türkiye, Ukraine

**78/34. Humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 70/47 of 7 December 2015, 71/46 of 5 December 2016, 72/30 of 4 December 2017, 73/47 of 5 December 2018, 74/42 of 12 December 2019, 75/39 of 7 December 2020, 76/30 of 6 December 2021 and 77/53 of 7 December 2022,

*Reiterating* the deep concern about the catastrophic consequences of nuclear weapons,

*Stressing* that the immense and uncontrollable destructive capability and indiscriminate nature of nuclear weapons cause unacceptable humanitarian consequences, as has been demonstrated through their past use and testing,

*Recalling* that concern about the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons has been reflected in numerous United Nations resolutions, including the first resolution adopted by the General Assembly, on 24 January 1946,

*Recalling also* that at the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, in 1978, the Assembly stressed that nuclear weapons posed the greatest danger to mankind and to the survival of civilization,<sup>131</sup>

*Welcoming* the renewed interest and resolve of the international community, together with the International Committee of the Red Cross and international humanitarian organizations, to address the catastrophic consequences of nuclear weapons,

<sup>130</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Fiji, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Tuvalu, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Zimbabwe.

<sup>131</sup> See resolution S-10/2.

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*Recalling* that the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons expressed deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons,<sup>132</sup>

*Noting* the resolutions of 26 November 2011 and 22 June 2022 of the Council of Delegates of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement entitled “Working towards the elimination of nuclear weapons”,

*Recalling* the joint statements on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons delivered to the General Assembly and during the ninth and tenth cycles of the review of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,<sup>133</sup> including most recently at the tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

*Welcoming* the facts-based discussions on the effects of a nuclear weapon detonation that were held at the conferences on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, convened by Norway, on 4 and 5 March 2013, Mexico, on 13 and 14 February 2014, and Austria, on 8 and 9 December 2014, and, most recently, on 20 June 2022,

*Cognizant* that a key message from experts and international organizations at those conferences was that no State or international body could address the immediate humanitarian emergency caused by a nuclear weapon detonation or provide adequate assistance to victims,

*Firmly believing* that it is in the interest of all States to engage in discussions on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons with the aim of further broadening and deepening the understanding of this matter, and welcoming civil society’s ongoing engagement,

*Reaffirming* the role of civil society, in partnership with Governments, in raising awareness about the unacceptable humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons,

*Emphasizing* that the catastrophic consequences of nuclear weapons affect not only Governments but each and every citizen of our interconnected world and have deep implications for human survival, for the environment, for socioeconomic development, for our economies and for the health of future generations,

1. *Stresses* that it is in the interest of the very survival of humanity that nuclear weapons never be used again, under any circumstances;
2. *Emphasizes* that the only way to guarantee that nuclear weapons will never be used again is their total elimination;
3. *Stresses* that the catastrophic effects of a nuclear weapon detonation, whether by accident, miscalculation or design, cannot be adequately addressed;
4. *Expresses its firm belief* that awareness of the catastrophic consequences of nuclear weapons must underpin all approaches and efforts towards nuclear disarmament;
5. *Calls upon* all States, in their shared responsibility, to prevent the use of nuclear weapons, to prevent their vertical and horizontal proliferation and to achieve nuclear disarmament;
6. *Urges* States to exert all efforts to totally eliminate the threat of these weapons of mass destruction;
7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “General and complete disarmament”, the sub-item entitled “Humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons”.

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<sup>132</sup> See 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, vol. I (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I)), part I, Conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions.

<sup>133</sup> United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 729, No. 10485.



RESOLUTION 78/35

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 123 to 43, with 17 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/409, para. 89)<sup>134</sup>

\* *In favour:* Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against:* Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Croatia, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), North Macedonia, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Abstaining:* Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Marshall Islands, Niger, Republic of Moldova, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, South Sudan, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Tonga

**78/35. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 72/31 of 4 December 2017, 73/48 of 5 December 2018, 74/41 of 12 December 2019, 75/40 of 7 December 2020, 76/34 of 6 December 2021 and 77/54 of 7 December 2022,

1. *Recalls* the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons<sup>135</sup> on 7 July 2017;
2. *Welcomes* the entry into force of the Treaty on 22 January 2021;
3. *Notes* that the Treaty has been open for signature at United Nations Headquarters in New York since 20 September 2017;
4. *Welcomes* that already 93 States had signed the Treaty and 69 States had become parties to it as at 9 October 2023;
5. *Also welcomes* the convening of the first Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, held in Vienna, Austria from 21 to 23 June 2022, which examined the status and implementation of the Treaty and considered the progress towards achieving its objectives, purpose and the goal of a world free from nuclear weapons;
6. *Further welcomes* the decisions taken at the first Meeting of States Parties,<sup>136</sup> including the adoption of the declaration entitled “Our commitment to a world free of nuclear weapons” and the Vienna Action Plan, as well as the ongoing informal intersessional work to implement it;
7. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Treaty's Scientific Advisory Group;

<sup>134</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Chile, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Fiji, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Indonesia, Ireland, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Zimbabwe.

<sup>135</sup> A/CONF.229/2017/8.

<sup>136</sup> See TPNW/MSP/2022/6.



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8. *Also welcomes* the participation of States signatories, as well as of other States not party to the Treaty, the relevant entities of the United Nations system, other relevant international organizations or institutions, regional organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and relevant non-governmental organizations at the first Meeting of States Parties as observers;

9. *Confirms* that the second Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons will be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 27 November to 1 December 2023;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services, as may be required, for the second Meeting of States Parties and its informal intersessional process;

11. *Calls upon* all States that have not yet done so to sign, ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Treaty at the earliest possible date;

12. *Calls upon* those States in a position to do so to promote adherence to the Treaty through bilateral, subregional, regional and multilateral contacts, outreach and other means;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General, as depositary of the Treaty, to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session on the status of signature and ratification, acceptance, approval or accession of the Treaty;

14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “General and complete disarmament”, the sub-item entitled “Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons”.

### RESOLUTION 78/36

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/409, para. 89)<sup>137</sup>

#### 78/36. Regional disarmament

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 45/58 P of 4 December 1990, 46/36 I of 6 December 1991, 47/52 J of 9 December 1992, 48/75 I of 16 December 1993, 49/75 N of 15 December 1994, 50/70 K of 12 December 1995, 51/45 K of 10 December 1996, 52/38 P of 9 December 1997, 53/77 O of 4 December 1998, 54/54 N of 1 December 1999, 55/33 O of 20 November 2000, 56/24 H of 29 November 2001, 57/76 of 22 November 2002, 58/38 of 8 December 2003, 59/89 of 3 December 2004, 60/63 of 8 December 2005, 61/80 of 6 December 2006, 62/38 of 5 December 2007, 63/43 of 2 December 2008, 64/41 of 2 December 2009, 65/45 of 8 December 2010, 66/36 of 2 December 2011, 67/57 of 3 December 2012, 68/54 of 5 December 2013, 69/45 of 2 December 2014, 70/43 of 7 December 2015, 71/40 of 5 December 2016, 72/34 of 4 December 2017, 73/33 of 5 December 2018, 74/37 of 12 December 2019, 75/49 of 7 December 2020, 76/41 of 6 December 2021 and 77/59 of 7 December 2022 on regional disarmament,

*Believing* that the efforts of the international community to move towards the ideal of general and complete disarmament are guided by the inherent human desire for genuine peace and security, the elimination of the danger of war and the release of economic, intellectual and other resources for peaceful pursuits,

*Affirming* the abiding commitment of all States to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations in the conduct of their international relations,

*Noting* that essential guidelines for progress towards general and complete disarmament were adopted at the tenth special session of the General Assembly,<sup>138</sup>

*Recalling* the guidelines and recommendations for regional approaches to disarmament within the context of global security adopted by the Disarmament Commission at its 1993 substantive session,<sup>139</sup>

<sup>137</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Bangladesh, Congo, Egypt, Iraq, Nepal, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Türkiye.

<sup>138</sup> Resolution S-10/2.

<sup>139</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/48/42), annex II.*

## II. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the First Committee

*Welcoming* the prospects of genuine progress in the field of disarmament engendered in recent years as a result of negotiations between the two super-Powers,

*Taking note* of the recent proposals for disarmament at the regional and subregional levels,

*Recognizing* the importance of confidence-building measures for regional and international peace and security,

*Convinced* that endeavours by countries to promote regional disarmament, taking into account the specific characteristics of each region and in accordance with the principle of undiminished security at the lowest level of armaments, would enhance the security of all States and would thus contribute to international peace and security by reducing the risk of regional conflicts,

1. *Stresses* that sustained efforts are needed, within the framework of the Conference on Disarmament and under the umbrella of the United Nations, to make progress on the entire range of disarmament issues;

2. *Affirms* that global and regional approaches to disarmament complement each other and should therefore be pursued simultaneously to promote regional and international peace and security;

3. *Calls upon* States to conclude agreements, wherever possible, for nuclear non-proliferation, disarmament and confidence-building measures at the regional and subregional levels;

4. *Welcomes* the initiatives towards disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and security undertaken by some countries at the regional and subregional levels;

5. *Supports and encourages* efforts aimed at promoting confidence-building measures at the regional and subregional levels to ease regional tensions and to further disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation measures at the regional and subregional levels;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "Regional disarmament".

### RESOLUTION 78/37

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 186 to 1, with no abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/409, para. 89)<sup>140</sup>

\* *In favour:* Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against:* India

*Abstaining:* None

<sup>140</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Bangladesh, Pakistan and Syrian Arab Republic.

### 78/37. Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions [48/75](#) J of 16 December 1993, [49/75](#) O of 15 December 1994, [50/70](#) L of 12 December 1995, [51/45](#) Q of 10 December 1996, [52/38](#) Q of 9 December 1997, [53/77](#) P of 4 December 1998, [54/54](#) M of 1 December 1999, [55/33](#) P of 20 November 2000, [56/24](#) I of 29 November 2001, [57/77](#) of 22 November 2002, [58/39](#) of 8 December 2003, [59/88](#) of 3 December 2004, [60/75](#) of 8 December 2005, [61/82](#) of 6 December 2006, [62/44](#) of 5 December 2007, [63/44](#) of 2 December 2008, [64/42](#) of 2 December 2009, [65/46](#) of 8 December 2010, [66/37](#) of 2 December 2011, [67/62](#) of 3 December 2012, [68/56](#) of 5 December 2013, [69/47](#) of 2 December 2014, [70/44](#) of 7 December 2015, [71/41](#) of 5 December 2016, [72/35](#) of 4 December 2017, [73/34](#) of 5 December 2018, [74/38](#) of 12 December 2019, [75/50](#) of 7 December 2020, [76/42](#) of 6 December 2021 and [77/61](#) of 7 December 2022,

*Recognizing* the crucial role of conventional arms control in promoting regional and international peace and security,

*Recognizing also* the importance of equitable representation of women in arms control discussions and negotiations,

*Convinced* that conventional arms control needs to be pursued primarily in the regional and subregional contexts since most threats to peace and security in the post-cold-war era arise mainly among States located in the same region or subregion,

*Aware* that the preservation of a balance in the defence capabilities of States at the lowest level of armaments would contribute to peace and stability and should be a prime objective of conventional arms control,

*Desirous* of promoting agreements to strengthen regional peace and security at the lowest possible level of armaments and military forces,

*Noting with particular interest* the initiatives taken in this regard in different regions of the world, in particular the commencement of consultations among a number of Latin American countries and the proposals for conventional arms control made in the context of South Asia, and recognizing, in the context of this subject, the relevance and value of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe,<sup>141</sup> which is a cornerstone of European security,

*Believing* that militarily significant States and States with larger military capabilities have a special responsibility in promoting such agreements for regional security,

*Believing also* that an important objective of conventional arms control in regions of tension should be to prevent the possibility of military attack launched by surprise and to avoid aggression,

1. *Decides* to give urgent consideration to the issues involved in conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels;

2. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament to consider the formulation of principles that can serve as a framework for regional agreements on conventional arms control, and looks forward to a report of the Conference on this subject;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in the meantime, to seek the views of Member States on the subject and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “General and complete disarmament”, the sub-item entitled “Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels”.

### RESOLUTION 78/38

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee ([A/78/409](#), para. 89)<sup>142</sup>

<sup>141</sup> See [CD/1064](#).

<sup>142</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Bangladesh, Pakistan and Syrian Arab Republic.

**78/38. Confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context**

*The General Assembly,*

*Guided by the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,*

*Recalling its resolutions 58/43 of 8 December 2003, 59/87 of 3 December 2004, 60/64 of 8 December 2005, 61/81 of 6 December 2006, 62/45 of 5 December 2007, 63/45 of 2 December 2008, 64/43 of 2 December 2009, 65/47 of 8 December 2010, 66/38 of 2 December 2011, 67/61 of 3 December 2012, 68/55 of 5 December 2013, 69/46 of 2 December 2014, 70/42 of 7 December 2015, 71/39 of 5 December 2016, 72/33 of 4 December 2017, 73/35 of 5 December 2018, 74/39 of 12 December 2019, 75/51 of 7 December 2020, 76/43 of 6 December 2021 and 77/60 of 7 December 2022 on confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context,*

*Recalling also its resolution 57/337 of 3 July 2003 on the prevention of armed conflict, in which the General Assembly calls upon Member States to settle their disputes by peaceful means, as set out in Chapter VI of the Charter, inter alia, by any procedures adopted by the parties,*

*Recalling further the resolutions and guidelines adopted by consensus by the General Assembly and the Disarmament Commission relating to confidence-building measures and their implementation at the global, regional and subregional levels,*

*Considering the importance and effectiveness of confidence-building measures taken at the initiative and with the agreement of all States concerned, and taking into account the specific characteristics of each region, since such measures can contribute to regional stability,*

*Convinced that resources released by disarmament, including regional disarmament, can be devoted to economic and social development and to the protection of the environment for the benefit of all peoples, in particular those of developing countries,*

*Recognizing the need for meaningful dialogue among States concerned to avert conflict,*

*Welcoming the peace processes already initiated by States concerned to resolve their disputes through peaceful means bilaterally or through mediation, inter alia, by third parties, regional organizations or the United Nations,*

*Recognizing that States in some regions have already taken steps towards confidence-building measures at the bilateral, subregional and regional levels in the political and military fields, including arms control and disarmament, and noting that such confidence-building measures have improved peace and security in those regions and contributed to progress in the socioeconomic conditions of their people,*

*Concerned that the continuation of disputes among States, particularly in the absence of an effective mechanism to resolve them through peaceful means, may contribute to the arms race and endanger the maintenance of international peace and security and the efforts of the international community to promote arms control and disarmament,*

1. *Calls upon* Member States to refrain from the use or threat of use of force in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

2. *Reaffirms its commitment* to the peaceful settlement of disputes under Chapter VI of the Charter, in particular Article 33, which provides for a solution by negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, resort to regional agencies or arrangements or other peaceful means chosen by the parties;

3. *Reaffirms* the ways and means regarding confidence- and security-building measures set out in the report of the Disarmament Commission on its 1993 session;<sup>143</sup>

4. *Calls upon* Member States to pursue these ways and means through sustained consultations and dialogue, while at the same time avoiding actions that may hinder or impair such a dialogue;

5. *Urges* States to comply strictly with all bilateral, regional and international agreements, including arms control and disarmament agreements, to which they are party;

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<sup>143</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/48/42), annex II, sect. III.A.*

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6. *Emphasizes* that the objective of confidence-building measures should be to help to strengthen international peace and security and to be consistent with the principle of undiminished security at the lowest level of armaments;

7. *Encourages* the promotion of bilateral and regional confidence-building measures, with the consent and participation of the parties concerned, to avoid conflict and prevent the unintended and accidental outbreak of hostilities;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session containing the views of Member States on confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “General and complete disarmament”, the sub-item entitled “Confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context”.

### RESOLUTION 78/39

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/409, para. 89)<sup>144</sup>

#### 78/39. Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (Bangkok Treaty)

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 66/43 of 2 December 2011, 68/49 of 5 December 2013 and 70/60 of 7 December 2015, entitled “Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (Bangkok Treaty)”,

*Welcoming* the desire of the South-East Asian States to maintain peace and stability in the region in the spirit of peaceful coexistence and mutual understanding and cooperation,

*Noting* the entry into force on 15 December 2008 of the Charter of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations,<sup>145</sup> in which it is stated, inter alia, that one of the purposes of the Association is to preserve South-East Asia as a nuclear-weapon-free zone, free of all other weapons of mass destruction,

*Welcoming* the convening by Indonesia of the third Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia on 24 April 2015, and encouraging the convening of the fourth Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia in line with its resolution 73/71 of 5 December 2018, as well as its decision 74/549 of 13 April 2020 and decision 75/575 of 29 July 2021,

*Reaffirming its conviction* of the important role of nuclear-weapon-free zones, established, where appropriate, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among States of the region concerned and in accordance with the Disarmament Commission guidelines of 1999,<sup>146</sup> in strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime, in contributing towards realizing the objectives of nuclear disarmament and in extending the areas of the world that are free of nuclear weapons, and, with particular reference to the responsibilities of the Nuclear-Weapon States, calling upon all States to seek a safer world for all and to achieve peace and security in a world without nuclear weapons in a way that promotes international stability and based on the principle of undiminished security for all,

*Convinced* that the establishment of a South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone, as an essential component of the Declaration on the Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality, signed in Kuala Lumpur on 27 November 1971, will contribute towards strengthening the security of States within the Zone and towards enhancing international peace and security as a whole,

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<sup>144</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Chile, Fiji, Indonesia (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the States parties to the Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (Bangkok Treaty)), Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Mexico, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste.

<sup>145</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2624, No. 46745.

<sup>146</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/54/42)*, annex I, sect. C.

## II. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the First Committee

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*Noting* the entry into force of the Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone<sup>147</sup> on 27 March 1997 and the twenty-sixth anniversary of its entry into force in 2023,

*Welcoming* the reaffirmation of South-East Asian States that the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone shall continue to play a pivotal role in the area of confidence-building measures, preventive diplomacy and the approaches to conflict resolution as enshrined in the Declaration of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Concord II (Bali Concord II),<sup>148</sup>

*Expressing concern* over the declining commitment and cooperation in global non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament mechanisms, and calling upon countries, especially Nuclear-Weapon States, to fully implement their commitments under these mechanisms, including in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,<sup>149</sup>

*Welcoming* the submission of the memorandums on activities<sup>150</sup> relating to the Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone as background documents for the ninth and tenth Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

*Reaffirming* the inalienable right of all the parties to the Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

*Recognizing* that, by signing and ratifying the relevant protocols to the treaties establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones, nuclear-weapon States would undertake individual legally binding commitments to respect the status of such zones and not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against States parties to such treaties,

*Recalling* the joint communiqué of the fifty-sixth meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, held in Jakarta on 11 and 12 July 2023,

*Recalling also* the applicable principles and rules of international law relating to the freedom of the high seas and the rights of innocent passage, archipelagic sea lanes passage or transit passage of ships and aircraft, particularly those of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,<sup>151</sup>

1. *Welcomes* the commitment and efforts of the Commission for the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone to further enhance and strengthen the implementation of the Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (Bangkok Treaty) by implementing the Plan of Action to Strengthen the Implementation of the Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (2023–2027), adopted in Phnom Penh in 2022, with a renewed commitment and a stronger emphasis on concrete actions, and the decision of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Political-Security Community Council, established under the Charter of the Association, to give priority to the implementation of the Plan of Action;

2. *Recognizes* the intention of States Parties to the Bangkok Treaty to continue exploring the possibility of allowing individual Nuclear-Weapon States which are willing to sign and ratify the Protocol to the Bangkok Treaty without reservations and provide prior formal assurance of this commitment in writing to go ahead with the signing, to welcome any Nuclear-Weapon States that are ready to do so, and the commitment of the States Parties to the Bangkok Treaty to continuously engage all the Nuclear-Weapon States, including those with reservations, and intensify efforts of all parties to resolve all outstanding issues in accordance with the objectives and principles of the Bangkok Treaty;

3. *Underlines* the value of enhancing and implementing further ways and means of cooperation among the States Parties to nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties and the protocols thereto, with a view to strengthening the non-proliferation regime and to contributing towards realizing the objective of nuclear disarmament;

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<sup>147</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1981, No. 33873.

<sup>148</sup> A/58/548, annex I.

<sup>149</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

<sup>150</sup> NPT/CONF.2020/16 and NPT/CONF.2015/23.

<sup>151</sup> Ibid., vol. 1833, No. 31363.



## II. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the First Committee

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its eightieth session, under the item entitled “General and complete disarmament”, the sub-item entitled “Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (Bangkok Treaty)”.

### RESOLUTION 78/40

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 148 to 7, with 29 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/409, para. 89)<sup>152</sup>

\* *In favour:* Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia

*Against:* China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Nicaragua, Russian Federation, South Africa, Syrian Arab Republic

*Abstaining:* Algeria, Austria, Belarus, Brazil, Burundi, Cameroon, Cuba, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Myanmar, Namibia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda, Zimbabwe

#### 78/40. Steps to building a common roadmap towards a world without nuclear weapons

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* that achieving a world without nuclear weapons is a common goal for the international community,

*Recalling* that it has been 78 years since the use of nuclear weapons in Hiroshima and Nagasaki,

*Reaffirming* the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons<sup>153</sup> as the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime, the foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament and an important element in facilitating the benefits of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and also reaffirming its determination to fully and steadily implement the Treaty in all its aspects, including article VI of the Treaty, and to further enhance the universality of the Treaty,

*Noting* that the States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons reaffirm the validity of all existing commitments undertaken, including those contained in the decisions and resolution of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,<sup>154</sup> the outcome document of the 2000 Review Conference,<sup>155</sup> especially the unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament, and the conclusions and

<sup>152</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominica, Finland, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Lesotho, Liberia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Türkiye, Tuvalu and United States of America.

<sup>153</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

<sup>154</sup> 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, *Final Document, Part I* (NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I) and NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I)/Corr.2).

<sup>155</sup> 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, *Final Document*, vols. I–III (NPT/CONF.2000/28 (Parts I and II), NPT/CONF.2000/28 (Part III) and NPT/CONF.2000/28 (Part IV)).



## II. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the First Committee

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recommendations for follow-on actions adopted by the 2010 Review Conference,<sup>156</sup> and also reaffirm that the full and effective implementation by all States parties of the commitments outlined above is essential to the integrity and credibility of the Treaty,

*Noting also* the deliberations at the working group on further strengthening the review process of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held from 24 to 28 July 2023, and the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the eleventh Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held from 31 July to 11 August 2023, as well as the Chair's draft factual summary and the "Reflections by the Chair of the first session of the Preparatory Committee on potential areas for focused discussions at the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2026 Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons" welcoming the practice of the Chair of drafting such papers, and stressing that such deliberations and papers are a useful basis for the second session of the Preparatory Committee,

*Expressing deep concern* at the deteriorated international security environment, including the ongoing actions against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, as well as irresponsible nuclear rhetoric affecting regional and international security, that make the threat of nuclear weapons use today higher than at any time since the heights of the cold war, and sharing the concern of non-nuclear-weapon States at the rapid and non-transparent quantitative expansion and opaque qualitative improvement of nuclear forces by some nuclear-weapon States that includes the development of advanced nuclear weapons and new types of means of their delivery, and the continued role of nuclear weapons in security policies, as well as the uneven level of transparency surrounding these activities,

*Expressing profound regret* over the purported suspension by the Russian Federation of the Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (New START Treaty), stressing the urgency and importance of the Russian Federation returning to full implementation of the New START Treaty, and calling for good-faith negotiations on a successor framework to New START before its expiration in 2026,

*Reaffirming* the special responsibility of the nuclear-weapon States to initiate and actively engage in arms control dialogues in good faith on effective measures to prevent nuclear arms racing and help to prepare the way for the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons, and calling upon nuclear-weapon States to pursue dialogue and concrete actions to reduce nuclear risks, both bilaterally and multilaterally,

*Affirming* the need for the nuclear-weapon States to pursue concrete actions for the implementation of the commitments contained in the Joint Statement of the Leaders of the Five Nuclear-Weapon States on Preventing Nuclear War and Avoiding Arms Races of 3 January 2022, and noting the commitments of the nuclear-weapon States to continuing structured efforts to exchange views on nuclear concepts, doctrines, policies and risk reduction,

*Recalling* that the year 2023 marks the thirtieth year since the consensual adoption of a General Assembly resolution calling for a treaty banning the production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, and welcoming efforts in this regard, including the event aimed at refocusing political attention held on the margins of the high-level week of the General Assembly in September 2023,

*Reaffirming* the importance of full adherence by all nuclear-weapon States to all existing obligations and commitments related to security assurances given to non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, either unilaterally or multilaterally, including the commitments under the Memorandum on Security Assurances in Connection with Ukraine's Accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons of 1994,

*Encouraging* the establishment of further nuclear-weapon-free zones, where appropriate, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among States of the region concerned, and in accordance with the 1999 guidelines of the Disarmament Commission,<sup>157</sup> adopted by consensus,

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<sup>156</sup> 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, vols. I–III (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I), NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. II) and NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. III)).

<sup>157</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/54/42), annex I, sect. C.

## II. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the First Committee

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*Recognizing* the continuing contributions that the Antarctic Treaty,<sup>158</sup> the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco),<sup>159</sup> the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Rarotonga),<sup>160</sup> the Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (Treaty of Bangkok),<sup>161</sup> the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba)<sup>162</sup> and the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia (Treaty of Semipalatinsk),<sup>163</sup> as well as the nuclear-weapon-free status of Mongolia, are making towards attaining the objectives of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation,

*Recognizing also* the importance of the decisions and the resolution on the Middle East of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons<sup>164</sup> and the Final Documents of the 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences, reaffirming its support for the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by the States of the region and in accordance with the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, and noting the efforts in this regard,

*Emphasizing* the importance for all States, especially for the nuclear-weapon States, of taking further practical steps and effective measures towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons, in a way that promotes international stability, peace and security, and based on the principle of undiminished and increased security for all,

*Recognizing* that nuclear risk will persist as long as nuclear weapons exist, reaffirming that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only way to eliminate all risks associated with these weapons,

*Reaffirming* that risk reduction is neither a substitute nor a prerequisite for nuclear disarmament and that efforts in this area should contribute to forward movement in and complement the implementation of article VI obligations and related nuclear disarmament commitments,

*Reiterating deep concern* at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons and reaffirming that this awareness ought to continue to underpin our approaches and efforts towards nuclear disarmament, and welcoming the visits of leaders, youth and others to Hiroshima and Nagasaki in this regard,

*Acknowledging* that the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was adopted on 7 July 2017, and noting that it was opened to signature by the Secretary-General of the United Nations on 20 September 2017, entered into force on 22 January 2021 and held its first Meeting of States parties from 21 to 23 June 2022,

*Reaffirming* that further strengthening of the international regime for nuclear non-proliferation is essential for international peace and security, and also reaffirming the inalienable right of all States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with the Treaty, as well as the importance of nuclear safeguards, safety and security for the fullest possible use and exchange of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, and stressing that the further development of such peaceful nuclear applications can make a significant contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Reaffirming also* the importance of ensuring the equal, full and effective participation and leadership of both women and men and of further integrating a gender perspective in all aspects of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation decision-making processes,

*Noting* that further work is required to ensure the transparency, verifiability and irreversibility of nuclear disarmament while enhancing accountability, and welcoming the deliberations at the working group on further strengthening the review process of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as well as transparency

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<sup>158</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 402, No. 5778.

<sup>159</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 634, No. 9068.

<sup>160</sup> *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, vol. 10: 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.IX.7), appendix VII.

<sup>161</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1981, No. 33873.

<sup>162</sup> [A/50/426](#), annex.

<sup>163</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2970, No. 51633.

<sup>164</sup> See 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, *Final Document, Part I* (NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I) and NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I)/Corr.2), annex.

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and reporting measures by some nuclear-weapon States on nuclear policy, doctrine, and budgeting, including public sharing of information on modernization plans in this regard,

1. *Urges* all States, especially the nuclear-weapon States, to make every effort to ensure that nuclear weapons are never used again, pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, and to refrain from any inflammatory rhetoric concerning the use of nuclear weapons, based on the recognition that all States have a shared interest in averting a nuclear war;

2. *Calls upon* the nuclear-weapon States, pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, to honour and respect all existing security assurances undertaken by them, including in connection with the treaties and relevant protocols of nuclear-weapon-free zones, and not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons consistent with their respective obligations and commitments;

3. *Calls upon* all States, in particular the nuclear-weapon States, to apply the principles of irreversibility, verifiability and transparency in relation to the implementation of their obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; to immediately pursue enhanced transparency measures by providing information in line with Action 21 of the 2010 Action Plan, related to concrete data on their nuclear arsenals and capabilities, without prejudice to their national security, as well as national measures related to nuclear disarmament including their nuclear policies, doctrines and nuclear risk reduction measures, including status of production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices; and to provide frequent and detailed reporting on the implementation of the Treaty and opportunities for discussion of these reports, taking into account Actions 20 and 21 of the 2010 Action Plan and paragraph 187 (35) of [NPT/CONF.2020/WP.77](#) as a useful reference, and calls upon nuclear-weapon States that have yet to do so to engage with non-nuclear-weapon States in a meaningful dialogue on transparency regarding their nuclear arsenals and avoiding an arms race, including through an open explanation of national reports coupled with an interactive discussion with non-nuclear-weapon States and civil society participants at future meetings related to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;

4. *Emphasizes* that maintaining the overall decreasing trend of the global stockpile of nuclear weapons, which is currently at risk due to the actions of some States, is vital in getting closer to a world free of nuclear weapons, and urges all States, especially the nuclear-weapon States, to maintain this trend and undertake further efforts to reduce and ultimately eliminate all types of nuclear weapons, deployed and non-deployed, regardless of their location, including through unilateral, bilateral, regional and multilateral measures;

5. *Calls upon* the Conference on Disarmament to immediately commence and bring to an early conclusion, negotiations on a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices in accordance with [CD/1299](#) and the mandate contained therein, and upon the nuclear-weapon States to declare or maintain voluntary moratoriums on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices, as well as encourages all States that have not yet done so to initiate a process towards the dismantling or conversion for peaceful uses of facilities for the production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices in line with Action 18 of the 2010 Action Plan, and, consistent with Action 16 of the 2010 Action Plan, encourages nuclear-weapon States to commit to declaring, as appropriate, to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) all fissile material designated by each of them as no longer required for military purposes and to place such material as soon as practicable under IAEA or other relevant international verification and arrangements for the disposition of such material for peaceful purposes, to ensure that such material remains permanently outside military programmes;

6. *Emphasizes* that the transparency of the management of civil plutonium must be maintained and any attempt to produce or support the production of plutonium for military programmes under the guise of civilian programmes undermines the objectives of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, underscores the importance of the implementation of the Guidelines for the Management of Plutonium (INFCIRC 549), and, in this regard, calls upon all States that committed to reporting annually their holdings of all plutonium in peaceful nuclear activities to IAEA to fulfil those commitments;

7. *Urges* all States that have yet to sign and/or ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty<sup>165</sup> to do so in all expediency, particularly the remaining eight States listed in its Annex 2, and, pending the entry into force of

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<sup>165</sup> See resolution [50/245](#) and [A/50/1027](#).

## II. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the First Committee

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the Treaty, to refrain from nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions, and any other action that would defeat the object and purpose of that Treaty, and to declare or maintain existing moratoriums on nuclear weapon test explosions, as well as to assist the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization in its work in preparing for the entry into force of the Treaty;

8. *Calls upon* all States, in particular the nuclear-weapon States, to commit to further identifying, exploring and implementing effective risk reduction measures necessary to mitigate risks relating to nuclear weapons use that arise from miscalculation, misperception, miscommunication or accident, inter alia, to intensify dialogue among and between the nuclear-weapon States and with the non-nuclear-weapon States, to develop and make every effort to implement effective crisis prevention and management arrangements, mechanisms and tools, to maintain the practice of not targeting each other or any other State with nuclear weapons and keep them at the lowest possible alert levels;

9. *Also calls upon* all States to strengthen support for initiatives to develop multilateral disarmament verification and capacity-building in support of nuclear disarmament and as an effective step towards achieving the objectives of article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and to further conceptual and practical work on nuclear disarmament verification, taking into account the importance of partnerships between nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States on this matter and encouraging broad participation by all States, and welcomes that the Group of Governmental Experts to further consider nuclear disarmament verification issues adopted its final report by consensus in May 2023;

10. *Underscores* the importance of complying with non-proliferation obligations and addressing all non-compliance matters in order to uphold the integrity of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the authority of the safeguards system;

11. *Reaffirms* the commitment to achieving the complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement of all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes, as well as all other existing weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programmes, of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in accordance with relevant Security Council resolutions, and the obligation of all Member States to fully implement all relevant Security Council resolutions, notes with serious concern the announcement by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of 9 September 2022 of an updated law on nuclear policy lowering the threshold for the use of nuclear weapons, urges the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to return at an early date to full compliance with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards, and confirms that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea cannot and will never have the status of a nuclear-weapon State under the Treaty;

12. *Calls upon* all States to facilitate efforts on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation education, which is a useful and effective means to advance the goals of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in support of achieving a world without nuclear weapons, inter alia, efforts in which the young generation can actively engage, including through dialogue platforms, mentoring, internships, fellowships, scholarships, model events and youth group activities, as well as to raise awareness of the realities of the use of nuclear weapons, including through, among others, visits by leaders, youth and others to and interactions with communities and people, including the hibakusha, those who have suffered the use of nuclear weapons irrespective of their nationalities and origins, who pass on their experiences to the future generations, and welcomes concrete measures in this regard, inter alia, the Young Professionals Network of P5 academics, the Youth4Disarmament Initiative, "Disarmament education: resources for learning" and the "Youth Leader Fund for a world without nuclear weapons";

13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "Steps to building a common roadmap towards a world without nuclear weapons".

RESOLUTION 78/41

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 135 to 38, with 12 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/409, para. 89)<sup>166</sup>

\* *In favour:* Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against:* Albania, Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Abstaining:* Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Georgia, India, Japan, North Macedonia, Pakistan, Serbia, South Sudan, Switzerland

**78/41. Ethical imperatives for a nuclear-weapon-free world**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 75/73 of 7 December 2020, adopted on the occasion of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, which was established to save succeeding generations from the untold suffering of the scourge of war, and its resolutions 76/25 of 6 December 2021 and 77/67 of 7 December 2022,

*Recalling also* that the United Nations emerged at the time of the immense trail of death and destruction resulting from the Second World War, over 75 years ago,

*Recalling further* the noble principles of the Charter of the United Nations, which enjoin the international community, individually and collectively, to spare no effort in promoting the ethical imperative of “in larger freedom”, so that all peoples may enjoy freedom from want, freedom from fear and the freedom to live in dignity,

*Convinced* that, given the catastrophic humanitarian consequences and risks associated with a nuclear weapon detonation, Member States have long envisaged nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation as urgent and interlinked ethical imperatives in achieving the objectives of the Charter, which is reflected in the first resolution, resolution 1 (I), adopted by the General Assembly on 24 January 1946, aimed at the elimination from national armaments of atomic weapons and of all other major weapons adaptable to mass destruction,

*Acknowledging*, in this connection, the ethical imperatives outlined in the provisions of its resolutions and reports and those of other related international initiatives on the catastrophic humanitarian consequences and risks posed by a nuclear weapon detonation, including the declaration that the use of nuclear weapons would cause indiscriminate suffering and as such is a violation of the Charter and the laws of humanity and international law,<sup>167</sup> the condemnation of nuclear war as contrary to human conscience and a violation of the fundamental right to life,<sup>168</sup> the threat to the very survival of humankind posed by the existence of nuclear weapons,<sup>169</sup> the detrimental

<sup>166</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Austria, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Burundi, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Fiji, Ghana, Guatemala, Indonesia, Ireland, Kiribati, Lesotho, Mexico, Namibia, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Palau, Panama, Peru, Philippines, San Marino, Senegal, South Africa, Thailand, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

<sup>167</sup> See resolution 1653 (XVI).

<sup>168</sup> See resolution 38/75.

<sup>169</sup> See resolution S-10/2.

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environmental effects of the use of nuclear weapons,<sup>170</sup> and the disquiet that was expressed at the continued spending on the development and maintenance of nuclear arsenals,<sup>171</sup>

*Acknowledging also* the preamble to and article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons<sup>172</sup> and the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons,<sup>173</sup> in which the Court unanimously concluded that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control,

*Acknowledging further* the United Nations Millennium Declaration,<sup>174</sup> in which Heads of State and Government resolved to strive for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, and to keep all options open for achieving that aim, including the possibility of convening an international conference to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers,

*Concerned* that, despite the long-standing recognition that it has accorded to these ethical imperatives and while much effort has been directed to addressing nuclear non-proliferation, limited progress has been made in meeting the nuclear disarmament obligations required to achieve and maintain the nuclear-weapon-free world that the international community demands,

*Disappointed* at the continued absence of progress towards multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament in the Conference on Disarmament, despite unrelenting efforts of Member States towards this end,

*Noting with satisfaction* the increasing awareness, renewed attention and growing momentum that has been generated by Member States and the international community since 2010 regarding the catastrophic humanitarian consequences and risks associated with nuclear weapons, which underpin the ethical imperatives for nuclear disarmament and the urgency of achieving and maintaining a nuclear-weapon-free world, together with all related international initiatives,

*Recalling* that the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons<sup>175</sup> acknowledges the ethical imperatives for nuclear disarmament,

*Conscious* of the absolute validity of multilateral diplomacy in relation to nuclear disarmament, and determined to promote multilateralism as essential to nuclear disarmament negotiations,

1. *Calls upon* all States to acknowledge the catastrophic humanitarian consequences and risks posed by a nuclear weapon detonation, whether by accident, miscalculation or design;

2. *Acknowledges* the ethical imperatives for nuclear disarmament and the urgency of achieving and maintaining a nuclear-weapon-free world, which is a “global public good of the highest order”, serving both national and collective security interests;

3. *Declares* that:

(a) The global threat posed by nuclear weapons must urgently be eliminated;

(b) Discussions, decisions and actions on nuclear weapons must focus on the effects of these weapons on human beings and the environment and must be guided by the unspeakable suffering and unacceptable harm that they cause;

(c) Greater attention must be given to the impact of a nuclear weapon detonation on women and the importance of their participation in discussions, decisions and actions on nuclear weapons;

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<sup>170</sup> See resolution [50/70 M](#).

<sup>171</sup> See [A/59/119](#).

<sup>172</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

<sup>173</sup> [A/51/218](#), annex.

<sup>174</sup> Resolution [55/2](#).

<sup>175</sup> [A/CONF.229/2017/8](#).



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(d) Nuclear weapons serve to undermine collective security, heighten the risk of nuclear catastrophe, aggravate international tension and make conflict more dangerous;

(e) Arguments in favour of the retention of nuclear weapons have a negative impact on the credibility of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime;

(f) The long-term plans for the modernization of nuclear weapons arsenals run contrary to commitments and obligations to nuclear disarmament and engender perceptions of the indefinite possession of these weapons;

(g) In a world where basic human needs have not yet been met, the vast resources allocated to the modernization of nuclear weapons arsenals could instead be redirected to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals;<sup>176</sup>

(h) Given the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, it is inconceivable that any use of nuclear weapons, irrespective of the cause, would be compatible with the requirements of international humanitarian law or international law, or the laws of morality, or the dictates of public conscience;

(i) Given their indiscriminate nature and potential to annihilate humanity, nuclear weapons are inherently immoral;

4. *Notes* that all responsible States have a solemn duty to take decisions that serve to protect their people and each other from the ravages of a nuclear weapon detonation, and that the only way for States to do so is through the total elimination of nuclear weapons;

5. *Stresses* that all States share an ethical responsibility to act with urgency and determination, with the support of all relevant stakeholders, to take the effective measures, including legally binding measures, necessary to eliminate and prohibit all nuclear weapons, given their catastrophic humanitarian consequences and associated risks;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “General and complete disarmament”, the sub-item entitled “Ethical imperatives for a nuclear-weapon-free world”.

### RESOLUTION 78/42

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 133 to 26, with 25 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/409, para. 89)<sup>177</sup>

\* *In favour:* Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against:* Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Estonia, France, Hungary, India, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Monaco, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Spain, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Abstaining:* Armenia, Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, China, Croatia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Japan, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), North Macedonia, Norway, Pakistan, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Serbia, Slovenia, South Sudan, Sweden

<sup>176</sup> See resolution 70/1.

<sup>177</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Austria, Brazil, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eswatini, Fiji, Honduras, Ireland, Kiribati, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Mexico, New Zealand, Palau, Philippines, San Marino, South Africa and Thailand.



### 78/42. Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 1 (I) of 24 January 1946 and its decision 77/516 of 7 December 2022,

*Noting* the twenty-fifth anniversary of the launch of the New Agenda Coalition and the joint declaration outlining a new agenda for disarmament adopted in Dublin on 9 June 1998,<sup>178</sup> and the press release issued on the occasion of the commemoration by senior officials of the New Agenda Coalition, held in Brasilia on 19 June 2023,

*Welcoming* the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Our Common Agenda”,<sup>179</sup> especially the reiteration by the Secretary-General of the commitment to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, and the disarmament recommendations of policy brief 9, entitled “A New Agenda for Peace”,<sup>180</sup> presented by the Secretary-General on 20 July 2023, in particular the recognition that the existential threat that nuclear weapons pose to humanity must motivate us to work towards their total elimination and the recommendation to States to recommit urgently to the pursuit of a world free of nuclear weapons and reverse the erosion of international norms against the spread and use of nuclear weapons, and recalling the importance of the Secretary-General’s disarmament agenda, *Securing Our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament*,

*Noting with deep concern* the profound global peace and security challenges currently taking hold and the increased prominence being given by some States to nuclear weapons in their security doctrines, the expansion of nuclear stockpiles, national plans by the nuclear-weapon States to expand, modernize and qualitatively improve nuclear arsenals, the disregard of negative security assurances, as well as plans by the nuclear-weapon States and States under extended nuclear security guarantees to maintain or increase the role of nuclear weapons in security doctrines, including with regard to the placement of nuclear weapons on the territory of non-nuclear-weapon States, all of which contribute to the erosion of the disarmament and non-proliferation regime and undermine the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free world,

*Alarmed* that recent international tensions have taken an increasing nuclear dimension, particularly with regard to threats to use nuclear weapons and increasingly strident nuclear rhetoric,

*Concerned* about other actions that weaken the disarmament and non-proliferation architecture and undermine key norms, such as the dismantling of core agreements among the nuclear-weapon States, including the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, the Treaty on Open Skies, and the suspension of the Treaty on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (New START Treaty),

*Recalling* the joint statement on preventing nuclear war and avoiding arms races issued by China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America on 3 January 2022, affirming that “a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought”, and the statement by the New Agenda Coalition issued on 25 January 2022,<sup>181</sup> calling for the five nuclear-weapon States to pursue tangible steps towards the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals in accordance with their obligations under article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,<sup>182</sup>

*Recalling also* the decisions and the resolution adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,<sup>183</sup> the basis upon which the Treaty was indefinitely extended, and the Final Documents of the 2000<sup>184</sup> and the 2010<sup>185</sup> Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty

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<sup>178</sup> [A/53/138](#), annex.

<sup>179</sup> [A/75/982](#).

<sup>180</sup> [A/77/CRP.1/Add.8](#).

<sup>181</sup> [CD/2226](#), annex.

<sup>182</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

<sup>183</sup> See 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, *Final Document, Part I* (NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I) and NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I)/Corr.2), annex.

<sup>184</sup> 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, *Final Document*, vols. I–III (NPT/CONF.2000/28 (Parts I and II), NPT/CONF.2000/28 (Part III) and NPT/CONF.2000/28 (Part IV)).

<sup>185</sup> 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, *Final Document*, vols. I–III (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I), NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. II) and NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. III)).

on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and in particular the unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals, leading to nuclear disarmament, in accordance with commitments made under article VI of the Treaty,

*Ever mindful* that, to preserve the credibility and strength of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, nuclear-weapon States must implement their respective obligations and commitments under the Treaty and therefore redress the imbalance in implementation with regard to non-nuclear-weapon States,

*Deeply concerned* by the successive failures of the two previous Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty, and dismayed that States parties to the Treaty were again unable to agree on actions that would strengthen the Treaty regime, enhance progress towards its full implementation and universality, or monitor implementation of the commitments made at the 1995, 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences,

*Noting with concern* that the working group on further strengthening the review process of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons could not agree on substantive outcomes and recommendations,

*Reiterating* the expression of deep concern by the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, and its resolve to seek a safer world for all and to achieve the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons,<sup>186</sup>

*Reiterating its grave concern* at the danger to humanity posed by nuclear weapons, highlighting that these concerns should underpin the need for nuclear disarmament and the urgency of achieving and maintaining a nuclear-weapon-free world,

*Welcoming* the attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences and inherent risks of nuclear weapons in multilateral disarmament forums since 2010, including in the Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, the most recent of which was held in Vienna on 20 June 2022,

*Recognizing* the highly disproportionate and gendered impact of exposure to ionizing radiation for women and girls, and the need to further integrate a gender perspective into all aspects of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation decision-making processes, inter alia by including the commitment to ensure the equal, full and effective participation and leadership of both women and men, including in the implementation and review of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

*Noting* the widespread support in the tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons for the view that enhanced accountability and transparency, including improving the process of reporting by nuclear-weapon States on their implementation of the nuclear disarmament commitments and obligations under the Treaty, would contribute to strengthening the review process, and that this fact was recognized by a majority of States parties during the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the 2026 Review Conference, and in the working group on further strengthening the review process of the Treaty,

*Recalling* that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons and the legitimate interest of non-nuclear-weapon States in receiving unequivocal and legally binding negative security assurances from nuclear-weapon States pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons,

*Underscoring* the important contribution made by nuclear-weapon-free zones to enhancing international peace and security, to a strengthened nuclear non-proliferation regime and as a practical contribution towards nuclear disarmament,

*Urging* States to strengthen all existing nuclear-weapon-free zones, inter alia, through the ratification of existing treaties and relevant protocols and the withdrawal or revision of any reservations or interpretative declarations contrary to the object and purpose of the treaties establishing such zones,

*Recalling* the encouragement expressed at the 2010 Review Conference for the establishment of further nuclear-weapon-free zones, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned, reaffirming the expectation that this will be followed by concerted international efforts to create such zones in areas where they do not currently exist, especially in the Middle East, in this context noting with deep disappointment the

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<sup>186</sup> Ibid., vol. I (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I)), part I, *Conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions*.

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non-fulfilment of the agreement at the 2010 Review Conference on practical steps to fully implement the 1995 resolution on the Middle East,

*Encouraged* by the successful organization in 2019, 2021 and 2022 by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in accordance with its decision 73/546 of 22 December 2018, of the sessions of a conference aimed at elaborating a treaty on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by the States of the region,

*Underlining* the importance of multilateralism in relation to nuclear disarmament, while recognizing the value of unilateral, bilateral and regional initiatives and the importance of compliance with the terms of these initiatives,

*Recalling* the twenty-seventh anniversary of the opening for signature of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty<sup>187</sup> and the continued vital importance of its entry into force to the advancement of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation objectives,

*Welcoming* the outcomes of the first Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and the convening of the second Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in New York in November and December 2023, and encouraging all States to participate in these proceedings,

*Urging* the immediate return to full implementation of the Treaty on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, urging both parties to the Treaty to re-engage in discussions on follow-on measures to achieve deeper reductions in their nuclear arsenals, and calling upon both States to negotiate a successor agreement as soon as possible, as encouraged by the 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences,

*Welcoming* the commemoration and promotion of 26 September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, as established by resolution 68/32 of 5 December 2013,

*Deeply disappointed* at the continued absence of progress towards multilateral nuclear disarmament at the Conference on Disarmament, which has been unable to agree upon and implement a programme of work since 1996, and that the Disarmament Commission has not produced a substantive outcome on nuclear disarmament since 1999,

1. *Condemns unequivocally* all nuclear threats, whether explicit or implicit, and irrespective of the circumstances, and calls upon all States, in particular the nuclear-weapon States, to reject any normalization of nuclear rhetoric and, in particular, the threat of use of nuclear weapons, which only serves to undermine the disarmament and non-proliferation regime and is against the Charter of the United Nations;

2. *Stresses* the fundamental role of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in achieving nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, and looks forward to achieving substantive progress during the eleventh review cycle, in order to strengthen the Treaty and its review process, overcoming the obstacles that prevented a substantive outcome in the two previous Review Conferences held in 2015 and 2022;

3. *Reaffirms* the continued validity of the decisions, resolutions and commitments as agreed to at the 1995, 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, including the specific reaffirmation of the unequivocal undertaking of the nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament, to which all States parties are committed under article VI of the Treaty;

4. *Urges* all State parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to implement their article VI obligations and to pursue multilateral negotiations without delay on effective measures for the achievement and maintenance of a nuclear weapon-free world, recalling in particular the commitment of the nuclear-weapon States to accelerating concrete progress on the steps leading to nuclear disarmament;

5. *Calls upon* all States to give due prominence to the humanitarian imperatives that underpin nuclear disarmament and to the urgency of achieving it, including new evidence presented at the Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, and those imperatives should inform all deliberations, decisions and

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<sup>187</sup> See resolution 50/245 and A/50/1027.

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actions relating to nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, including within the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;

6. *Urges* the nuclear-weapon States to fulfil their commitment to undertaking further efforts to reduce and eliminate all types of nuclear weapons, deployed and non-deployed, including through unilateral, bilateral, regional and multilateral measures, as agreed by the parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in the outcome documents of the 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences;

7. *Also urges* the nuclear-weapon States to make concrete reductions in the role and significance of nuclear weapons in all military and security concepts, doctrines and policies, pending their total elimination as agreed by the parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in the outcome documents of the 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences;

8. *Underlines* the recognition by States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons of the legitimate interest of non-nuclear-weapon States in the constraining by the nuclear-weapon States of the development and qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons and their ending the development of advanced new types of nuclear weapons, and calls upon the nuclear-weapon States to take urgent steps in this regard;

9. *Urges* all nuclear-weapon States to immediately lower the operational readiness of nuclear-weapon systems in a verifiable and transparent manner with a view to ensuring that all nuclear weapons are removed from high alert status;

10. *Encourages* all States that are part of regional alliances that include nuclear-weapon States to diminish the role of nuclear weapons in their collective security doctrines, pending their total elimination;

11. *Encourages* States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to advance measures on the agreed principles of transparency, verifiability and irreversibility, taking into account that they are strongly interrelated and are not an end in themselves and are not a prerequisite to commence nuclear disarmament;

12. *Stresses* the necessity for enhanced transparency by the nuclear-weapon States with regard to their nuclear weapons capabilities and the implementation of their article VI obligations and nuclear disarmament-related commitments, and urges nuclear-weapon States to implement their nuclear disarmament obligations and commitments, both qualitative and quantitative, in a manner that strengthens accountability and enables all States parties to regularly monitor progress, including through a standard detailed reporting format, thereby enhancing transparency and increasing mutual confidence, and facilitating the evidence-based evaluation of progress towards the full implementation of article VI and nuclear disarmament commitments;

13. *Urges* the nuclear-weapon States to report at least twice during a Review Conference cycle at appropriate intervals, and to include in their reports to be submitted during the eleventh review cycle of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons concrete and detailed information concerning the implementation of their obligations and commitments on nuclear disarmament;

14. *Encourages* States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to improve the measurability of the implementation of nuclear disarmament obligations and commitments, including but not limited to measures on improved and more structured reporting by the nuclear-weapon States, tools such as a set of benchmarks, timelines and/or similar criteria, in order to ensure and facilitate the objective evaluation of progress, as well as the establishment of a structured dialogue on this issue at the Preparatory Committee meetings and at the Review Conference on these improved and more structured reports, facilitated by the Chairs of the Preparatory Committee meetings, who will provide a joint report to each Review Conference that includes specific recommendations, targets and indicators, to improve the monitoring of and reporting on article VI and disarmament-related commitments;

15. *Encourages* the nuclear-weapon States, as part of their national reporting, to include details on their plans related to the modernization of nuclear weapons; their nuclear capabilities, including quantity, type and status of nuclear warheads, as well as delivery vehicles; doctrinal issues; risk reduction measures; de-alerting measures; quantity of fissile material; and the number and type of weapons and delivery systems they have disarmed;

16. *Encourages* further steps by all nuclear-weapon States to ensure the irreversible removal of all fissile material designated by each nuclear-weapon State as no longer required for military purposes, and calls upon all States to support, within the context of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the development of appropriate nuclear

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disarmament verification capabilities and legally binding verification arrangements, thereby ensuring that such material remains permanently outside military programmes in a verifiable and irreversible manner;

17. *Calls upon* all States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to work towards the full implementation of the resolution on the Middle East adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,<sup>188</sup> which is inextricably linked to the indefinite extension of the Treaty, and which remains valid until fully implemented;

18. *Urges* the co-sponsors of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East to exert their utmost efforts with a view to ensuring the early establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction as contained in the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, including through support for the convening of the conference on the establishment of such a zone;

19. *Calls upon* all concerned parties referred to in decision 73/546 of 22 December 2018 to actively engage in the sessions of the conference to elaborate a treaty to establish a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by all States of the region;

20. *Calls upon* all States parties to spare no effort to achieve the universality of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and in this regard urges India, Israel and Pakistan to accede to the Treaty as non-nuclear-weapon States promptly and without conditions, and to place all their nuclear facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards, and further calls upon South Sudan to join the Treaty at the earliest opportunity;

21. *Urges* the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to fulfil its commitments, to abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes, to return, at an early date, to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and to adhere to its International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards agreement,<sup>189</sup> with a view to achieving the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful, complete, verifiable and irreversible manner, and calls for diplomatic efforts to this end;

22. *Calls upon* all Member States to reflect on the vast amount of resources dedicated to the maintenance, development and modernization of nuclear arsenals and to consider whether these resources could be better utilized in pursuit of a better future as envisaged in the Sustainable Development Goals;

23. *Calls upon* Member States to continue to support efforts to identify, elaborate, negotiate and implement further effective legally binding measures for nuclear disarmament, inter alia, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons,<sup>190</sup> and welcomes the outcomes of the first Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty, including the political declaration and action plan;<sup>191</sup>

24. *Urges* all States to exert all efforts to advance diplomatic dialogue and work together towards overcoming obstacles that are inhibiting substantive work within the international disarmament machinery to advance the agenda of nuclear disarmament, particularly through multilateral negotiations;

25. *Recommends* that additional measures be taken to advance nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation education, in particular to increase awareness of the risks and catastrophic impacts and humanitarian consequences of any nuclear detonation, recognizing the important contributions made by academia, civil society and victims of nuclear weapons to this end;

26. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments" and to review the implementation of the present resolution at that session.

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<sup>188</sup> See *1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, Part I* (NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I) and NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I)/Corr.2), annex.

<sup>189</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1677, No. 28986.

<sup>190</sup> A/CONF.229/2017/8.

<sup>191</sup> See TPNW/MSP/2022/6.

**RESOLUTION 78/43**

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/409, para. 89)<sup>192</sup>

**78/43. Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 77/75 of 7 December 2022,

*Recognizing* the determination of the international community to combat terrorism, as evidenced in relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions,

*Deeply concerned* by the growing risk of linkages between terrorism and weapons of mass destruction, and in particular by the fact that terrorists may seek to acquire weapons of mass destruction,

*Cognizant* of the steps taken by States to implement Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) of 28 April 2004 on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction,

*Recalling* Security Council resolution 2325 (2016) of 15 December 2016 on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction,

*Recalling also* the entry into force on 7 July 2007 of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism,<sup>193</sup>

*Recalling further* the adoption, by consensus, of amendments to strengthen the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material<sup>194</sup> by the International Atomic Energy Agency on 8 July 2005, and their entry into force on 8 May 2016,

*Recalling* the support expressed in the Final Document of the Eighteenth Summit of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Baku on 25 and 26 October 2019,<sup>195</sup> for measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction,

*Recalling also* that the Group of Eight, the European Union, the Regional Forum of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and others have taken into account in their deliberations the dangers posed by the likely acquisition by terrorists of weapons of mass destruction and the need for international cooperation in combating it, and that the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism has been launched jointly by the Russian Federation and the United States of America,

*Recalling further* the holding of the Nuclear Security Summit on 12 and 13 April 2010 in Washington, D.C., on 26 and 27 March 2012 in Seoul, on 24 and 25 March 2014 in The Hague and on 31 March and 1 April 2016 in Washington, D.C.,

*Recalling* the holding of the high-level meeting on countering nuclear terrorism, with a focus on strengthening the legal framework, in New York on 28 September 2012,

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<sup>192</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Maldives, Malta, Mauritius, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia, Türkiye, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay and Zimbabwe.

<sup>193</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2445, No. 44004.

<sup>194</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1456, No. 24631.

<sup>195</sup> See A/74/548, annex.



## II. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the First Committee

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*Acknowledging* the consideration of issues relating to terrorism and weapons of mass destruction by the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters,<sup>196</sup>

*Taking note* of the holding by the International Atomic Energy Agency of the third International Conference on Nuclear Security: Sustaining and Strengthening Efforts, in Vienna in February 2020, the second International Conference on Nuclear Security: Commitments and Actions, in Vienna in December 2016, and the first International Conference on Nuclear Security: Enhancing Global Efforts, in Vienna in July 2013, and the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Conference of the Agency at its sixty-seventh regular session,

*Recalling* the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources, approved by the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency on 8 September 2003, and the supplementary Guidance on the Management of Disused Radioactive Sources, approved by the Board of Governors of the Agency on 11 September 2017,

*Recalling also* the 2005 World Summit Outcome adopted at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on 16 September 2005<sup>197</sup> and the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy on 8 September 2006,<sup>198</sup>

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to paragraph 5 of resolution [77/75](#),<sup>199</sup>

*Mindful* of the urgent need for addressing, within the United Nations framework and through international cooperation, this threat to humanity,

*Emphasizing* that progress is urgently needed in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation in order to maintain international peace and security and to contribute to global efforts against terrorism,

1. *Calls upon* all Member States to support international efforts to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery;

2. *Appeals* to all Member States to consider early accession to and ratification of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, and encourages States parties to the Convention to review its implementation;

3. *Urges* all Member States to take and strengthen national measures, as appropriate, to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and materials and technologies related to their manufacture;

4. *Encourages* cooperation among and between Member States and relevant regional and international organizations for strengthening national capacities in this regard;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to compile a report on measures already taken by international organizations on issues relating to the linkage between the fight against terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and to seek the views of Member States on additional relevant measures, including national measures, for tackling the global threat posed by the acquisition by terrorists of weapons of mass destruction and to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “General and complete disarmament”, the sub-item entitled “Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction”.

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<sup>196</sup> See [A/59/361](#).

<sup>197</sup> Resolution [60/1](#).

<sup>198</sup> Resolution [60/288](#).

<sup>199</sup> [A/78/151](#).



RESOLUTION 78/44

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 122 to 49, with 13 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/409, para. 89)<sup>200</sup>

\* *In favour:* Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia

*Against:* Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Abstaining:* Argentina, Armenia, Belarus, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Georgia, Japan, North Macedonia, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Serbia, South Sudan, Zimbabwe

**78/44. Reducing nuclear danger**

*The General Assembly,*

*Bearing in mind* that the use of nuclear weapons poses the most serious threat to humankind and to the survival of civilization,

*Reaffirming* that any use or threat of use of nuclear weapons would constitute a violation of the Charter of the United Nations,

*Convinced* that the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects would seriously enhance the danger of nuclear war,

*Convinced also* that nuclear disarmament and the complete elimination of nuclear weapons are essential to remove the danger of nuclear war,

*Considering* that, until nuclear weapons cease to exist, it is imperative on the part of the nuclear-weapon States to adopt measures that assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

*Considering also* that the hair-trigger alert of nuclear weapons carries unacceptable risks of unintentional or accidental use of nuclear weapons, which would have catastrophic consequences for all humankind,

*Emphasizing* the need to adopt measures to avoid accidental, unauthorized or unexplained incidents arising from computer anomalies or other technical malfunctions,

*Conscious* that limited steps relating to de-alerting and de-targeting have been taken by the nuclear-weapon States and that further practical, realistic and mutually reinforcing steps are necessary to contribute to the improvement in the international climate for negotiations leading to the elimination of nuclear weapons,

*Mindful* that a diminishing role for nuclear weapons in the security policies of nuclear-weapon States would have a positive impact on international peace and security and improve the conditions for the further reduction and the elimination of nuclear weapons,

<sup>200</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burundi, Cuba, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kiribati, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Sri Lanka, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

## II. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the First Committee

*Reiterating* the highest priority accorded to nuclear disarmament in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly<sup>201</sup> and by the international community,

*Recalling* the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons<sup>202</sup> that there exists an obligation for all States to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control,

*Recalling also* the call, in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,<sup>203</sup> to seek to eliminate the dangers posed by weapons of mass destruction and the resolve to strive for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, including the possibility of convening an international conference to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers,

1. *Calls for* a review of nuclear doctrines and, in this context, immediate and urgent steps to reduce the risks of unintentional and accidental use of nuclear weapons, including through de-alerting and de-targeting nuclear weapons;

2. *Requests* the five nuclear-weapon States to take measures towards the implementation of paragraph 1 above;

3. *Calls upon* Member States to take the measures necessary to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects and to promote nuclear disarmament, with the objective of eliminating nuclear weapons;

4. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to paragraph 5 of its resolution [77/74](#) of 7 December 2022;<sup>204</sup>

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to intensify efforts and support initiatives that would contribute to the full implementation of the seven recommendations identified in the report of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters that would significantly reduce the risk of nuclear war,<sup>205</sup> and also to continue to encourage Member States to consider the convening of an international conference, as proposed in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “General and complete disarmament”, the sub-item entitled “Reducing nuclear danger”.

### RESOLUTION 78/45

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 170 to 1, with 16 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee ([A/78/409](#), para. 89)<sup>206</sup>

\* *In favour:* Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco,

<sup>201</sup> Resolution [S-10/2](#).

<sup>202</sup> [A/51/218](#), annex.

<sup>203</sup> Resolution [55/2](#).

<sup>204</sup> [A/78/118](#).

<sup>205</sup> [A/56/400](#), para. 3.

<sup>206</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malta, Mauritania, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

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Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against:* Russian Federation

*Abstaining:* Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Nepal, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Syrian Arab Republic, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam

### **78/45. Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions [54/54 B](#) of 1 December 1999, [55/33 V](#) of 20 November 2000, [56/24 M](#) of 29 November 2001, [57/74](#) of 22 November 2002, [58/53](#) of 8 December 2003, [59/84](#) of 3 December 2004, [60/80](#) of 8 December 2005, [61/84](#) of 6 December 2006, [62/41](#) of 5 December 2007, [63/42](#) of 2 December 2008, [64/56](#) of 2 December 2009, [65/48](#) of 8 December 2010, [66/29](#) of 2 December 2011, [67/32](#) of 3 December 2012, [68/30](#) of 5 December 2013, [69/34](#) of 2 December 2014, [70/55](#) of 7 December 2015, [71/34](#) of 5 December 2016, [72/53](#) of 4 December 2017, [73/61](#) of 5 December 2018, [74/61](#) of 12 December 2019, [75/52](#) of 7 December 2020, [76/26](#) of 6 December 2021 and [77/63](#) of 7 December 2022,

*Reaffirming its determination* to put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines, which kill or injure thousands of people – women, girls, boys and men – every year, and which place people living in affected areas at risk and hinder the development of their communities,

*Believing it necessary* to do the utmost to contribute in an efficient and coordinated manner to facing the challenge of removing anti-personnel mines placed throughout the world and to assure their destruction,

*Wishing* to do the utmost to ensure assistance for the care and rehabilitation, including the social and economic reintegration, of mine victims,

*Noting with satisfaction* the work undertaken to implement the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction<sup>207</sup> and the substantial progress made towards addressing the global anti-personnel landmine problem,

*Recalling* the first to twentieth meetings of the States parties to the Convention, held in Maputo (1999), Geneva (2000), Managua (2001), Geneva (2002), Bangkok (2003), Zagreb (2005), Geneva (2006), the Dead Sea (2007), Geneva (2008 and 2010), Phnom Penh (2011), Geneva (2012, 2013 and 2015), Santiago (2016), Vienna (2017), Geneva (2018 and 2020), The Hague (2021) and Geneva (2022), and the First, Second, Third and Fourth Review Conferences of the States Parties to the Convention, held in Nairobi (2004), Cartagena, Colombia (2009), Maputo (2014) and Oslo (2019),

*Recalling also* that, at the Fourth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, the international community reviewed the implementation of the Convention and the States parties adopted a declaration and an action plan for the period 2020–2024 to support the enhanced implementation and promotion of the Convention,

*Underlining* the importance of cooperation and assistance in the implementation of the Convention, including through the so-called individualized approach, which offers mine-affected countries a platform for presenting their challenges,

*Stressing* the need to take into account gender aspects in mine action,

*Noting with satisfaction* that 164 States have ratified or acceded to the Convention and have formally accepted the obligations of the Convention,

<sup>207</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2056, No. 35597.

## II. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the First Committee

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*Emphasizing* the desirability of attracting the adherence of all States to the Convention, and determined to work strenuously towards the promotion of its universalization and norms,

*Noting with deep regret* that anti-personnel mines continue to be used in some conflicts around the world, causing human suffering and impeding post-conflict development,

1. *Invites* all States that have not signed the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction to accede to it without delay;

2. *Urges* the one remaining State that has signed but has not ratified the Convention to ratify it without delay;

3. *Stresses* the importance of the full and effective implementation of and compliance with the Convention, including through the continued implementation of the action plans under the Convention;

4. *Expresses strong concern* regarding the use of anti-personnel mines in various parts of the world, including use highlighted in recent allegations, reports and documented evidence;

5. *Urges* all States parties to provide the Secretary-General with complete and timely information as required under article 7 of the Convention in order to promote transparency and compliance with the Convention;

6. *Invites* all States that have not ratified the Convention or acceded to it to provide, on a voluntary basis, information to make global mine action efforts more effective;

7. *Renews its call upon* all States and other relevant parties to work together to promote, support and advance the care, rehabilitation and social and economic reintegration of mine victims, mine risk education and reduction programmes and the removal and destruction of anti-personnel mines placed or stockpiled throughout the world;

8. *Urges* all States to remain seized of the issue at the highest political level and, where in a position to do so, to promote adherence to the Convention through bilateral, subregional, regional and multilateral contacts, outreach, seminars and other means, in particular in the light of the upcoming Fifth Review Conference;

9. *Invites and encourages* all interested States, the United Nations, other relevant international organizations or institutions, regional organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and relevant non-governmental organizations to attend the Twenty-first Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention, to be held in Geneva from 20 to 24 November 2023, and to participate in the future programme of meetings of the States parties to the Convention;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in accordance with article 12, paragraph 1, of the Convention, to undertake the preparations necessary to convene the Fifth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention and, on behalf of the States parties and in accordance with article 12, paragraph 3, of the Convention, to invite States not parties to the Convention, as well as the United Nations, other relevant international organizations or institutions, regional organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and relevant non-governmental organizations, to attend the Fifth Review Conference as observers;

11. *Calls upon* States parties and States participating in meetings to address issues arising from outstanding dues and to proceed promptly with the payment of their share of the estimated costs;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “General and complete disarmament”, the sub-item entitled “Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction”.

RESOLUTION 78/46

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/409, para. 89)<sup>208</sup>

**78/46. The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 77/71 of 7 December 2022, as well as all previous resolutions on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, including resolution 56/24 V of 24 December 2001,

*Emphasizing* the importance of the continued and full implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects,<sup>209</sup> and recognizing its important contribution to international efforts on this matter,

*Emphasizing also* the importance of the continued and full implementation of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (the International Tracing Instrument),<sup>210</sup>

*Recalling* the commitment of States to the Programme of Action as the main framework for measures within the activities of the international community to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects,

*Underlining* the need for States to enhance their efforts to build national capacity for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument,

*Mindful* of the implementation of the outcomes adopted by the follow-up meetings on the Programme of Action,

*Welcoming* the successful conclusion of the Eighth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in New York from 27 June to 1 July 2022, to consider the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action, and the outcome document adopted at the Meeting,<sup>211</sup>

*Recognizing* the need for the strengthened participation of women in decision-making and implementation processes relating to the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, and reaffirming the need for States to mainstream gender dimensions into their implementation efforts,

*Noting* that web-based tools developed by the Secretariat, including its searchable database and the Modular Small-arms-control Implementation Compendium, and the tools developed by Member States could be used to assess progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action,

*Reaffirming* the decision taken by the General Assembly in its resolution 77/71 to establish a dedicated fellowship training programme on small arms and light weapons in order to strengthen technical knowledge and expertise in areas relating to the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, in particular in developing countries,

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<sup>208</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Eswatini, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malta, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Namibia, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania and Uruguay.

<sup>209</sup> *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, New York, 9–20 July 2001 (A/CONF.192/15)*, chap. IV, para. 24.

<sup>210</sup> See decision 60/519 and A/60/88 and A/60/88/Corr.2, annex.

<sup>211</sup> A/CONF.192/BMS/2022/1, annex.

## II. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the First Committee

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*Noting* that voluntary national reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action can serve, inter alia, to provide a baseline for measuring progress in its implementation, build confidence and promote transparency, provide a basis for information exchange and action and serve to identify needs and opportunities for international assistance and cooperation, including the matching of needs with available resources and expertise,

*Noting with satisfaction* regional and subregional efforts being undertaken in support of the implementation of the Programme of Action, and commending the progress that has already been made in this regard, including the tackling of both supply and demand factors that are relevant to addressing the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons,

*Recognizing* that sharing and applying best practices, on a voluntary basis, at the regional, subregional and national levels support the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument and should therefore be an ongoing effort, in order to address ongoing challenges associated with the diversion of and illicit trade in small arms and light weapons,

*Reaffirming* that international cooperation and assistance are an essential aspect of the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument,

*Recognizing* the efforts undertaken by civil society in the provision of assistance to States for the implementation of the Programme of Action,

*Recalling* that Governments bear the primary responsibility for preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, in accordance with the sovereignty of States and their relevant international obligations,

*Reiterating* that illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons is a serious problem that the international community should address urgently,

*Highlighting* new challenges and potential opportunities with regard to effective marking, record-keeping and tracing resulting from developments in the manufacturing, technology and design of small arms and light weapons, and bearing in mind the different situations, capacities and priorities of States and regions,

*Recognizing* that the opportunities and challenges associated with these developments in the manufacturing, technology and design of small arms and light weapons, including polymer and modular weapons, and firearms produced using 3D printing, must be addressed in a timely manner,

*Recalling* the recommendation of the Eighth Biennial Meeting of States that the fourth Review Conference discuss the establishment of an open-ended technical expert group, focusing on including, inter alia, realizing international cooperation in a concrete manner, scope, objectives, participation and modalities of the group, to develop agreed recommendations by consensus to ensure the full implementation of the International Tracing Instrument and the Programme of Action in the light of recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design, in particular polymer and modular weapons, and firearms produced using 3D printing,<sup>212</sup>

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>213</sup> which contains an overview of recent developments in the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and contains information on the main outcomes of the Eighth Biennial Meeting of States and the International Tracing Instrument,

*Welcoming* the inclusion of small arms and light weapons in the scope of the Arms Trade Treaty,<sup>214</sup>

*Acknowledging* that effective national control systems for the transfer of conventional arms contribute to the prevention and eradication of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects,

*Taking note* of the adoption, without a vote, of the final report<sup>215</sup> of the open-ended working group established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 76/233 of 24 December 2021, and the Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management, which is a cooperative framework that is voluntary and contains a set of

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<sup>212</sup> Ibid., para. 75.

<sup>213</sup> [A/78/126](#).

<sup>214</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 3013, No. 52373.

<sup>215</sup> [A/78/111](#).



## II. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the First Committee

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political commitments for strengthening and promoting existing initiatives on, and addressing existing gaps in, through-life conventional ammunition management, as contained in the annex to the report,

1. *Underlines* the fact that the issue of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects requires concerted efforts at the national, regional and international levels to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit manufacture, brokering, transfer and circulation of small arms and light weapons, and that their uncontrolled proliferation in many regions of the world has a wide range of humanitarian and socioeconomic consequences and poses a serious threat to peace, reconciliation, safety, security, stability and sustainable development at the individual, local, national, regional and international levels;

2. *Recognizes* the urgent need to maintain and enhance national controls, in accordance with the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, including their diversion to illicit trade, illegal armed groups, terrorists and other unauthorized recipients, taking into account, inter alia, their adverse humanitarian and socioeconomic consequences for the affected States;

3. *Emphasizes* the need for States to redouble national efforts to provide for the safe, secure, comprehensive and effective management of stockpiles of small arms and light weapons held by Governments to prevent, combat and eradicate the diversion of those weapons;

4. *Calls upon* all States to implement the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (the International Tracing Instrument) by, inter alia, including in their national reports the name and contact information of the national points of contact and information on national marking practices used to indicate country of manufacture and/or country of import, as applicable;

5. *Encourages* all relevant initiatives, including those of the United Nations, other international organizations, regional and subregional organizations and civil society, for the successful implementation of the Programme of Action, and calls upon all Member States to contribute towards the continued implementation of the Programme of Action at the national, regional and global levels;

6. *Encourages* States to implement the recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts established pursuant to resolution 60/81 of 8 December 2005 to consider further steps to enhance international cooperation in preventing, combating and eradicating illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons;<sup>216</sup>

7. *Reaffirms* the outcome of the third United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in New York from 18 to 29 June 2018 (the third Review Conference);

8. *Endorses* the outcome of the Eighth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in New York from 27 June to 1 July 2022;

9. *Decides* to convene the fourth United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects in New York from 17 to 28 June 2024, to be preceded by the meeting of the preparatory committee in New York from 12 to 16 February 2024;

10. *Underlines* the importance of the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument for attaining Goal 16 and target 16.4 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;<sup>217</sup>

11. *Emphasizes* the need for the equal, full and effective participation of women in all decision-making and implementation processes relating to the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument;

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<sup>216</sup> See A/62/163 and A/62/163/Corr.1.

<sup>217</sup> Resolution 70/1.



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12. *Encourages* States to take into account recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design, in particular polymer and modular weapons, in the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument and to strengthen normative frameworks, where needed, and cooperation between law enforcement agencies so as to prevent unauthorized recipients, including criminals and terrorists, from acquiring small arms and light weapons;

13. *Emphasizes* that international cooperation and assistance remain essential to the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, while being mindful of the need to ensure the adequacy, accessibility, effectiveness and sustainability of international cooperation and assistance measures, including, as appropriate, improved funding arrangements, technology transfer and adequate training and support programmes, as well as strong national ownership;

14. *Also emphasizes* the fact that initiatives by the international community with respect to international cooperation and assistance remain essential and complementary to national implementation efforts, as well as to those at the regional and global levels;

15. *Recognizes* the necessity for interested States to develop effective coordination mechanisms, where they do not exist, in order to match the needs of States with existing resources to enhance the implementation of the Programme of Action and to make international cooperation and assistance more effective, and in this regard encourages States to make use, as appropriate, of the Programme of Action Implementation Support System;

16. *Encourages* States to consider, among other mechanisms, the coherent identification of needs, priorities, national plans and programmes that may require international cooperation and assistance from States and regional and international organizations in a position to do so;

17. *Encourages* States, with the assistance of the Secretariat, where applicable, to develop options for enhancing the effectiveness of the existing international assistance frameworks in support of the effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, including by establishing, within existing resources, a structured procedure within the Secretariat to process requests for assistance submitted under the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, for consideration and appropriate follow-up by Member States at the fourth Review Conference;<sup>218</sup>

18. *Also encourages* States, on a voluntary basis, to make increasing use of their national reports as a tool for communicating assistance needs and information on the resources and mechanisms available to address such needs, and encourages States in a position to render such assistance to make use of those national reports;

19. *Encourages* States, relevant international and regional organizations and civil society with the capacity to do so to cooperate with and provide assistance to other States, upon request, in the preparation of comprehensive national reports on their implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument;

20. *Encourages* States to reinforce, as necessary, cross-border cooperation at the national, subregional and regional levels in addressing the common problem of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, with full respect for each State's sovereignty over its own borders;

21. *Also encourages* States to take full advantage of the benefits of cooperation with the United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament, the World Customs Organization, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in accordance with their mandates and consistent with national priorities;

22. *Encourages* all efforts to build national capacity for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action, including those highlighted in the outcome document of the third Review Conference;

23. *Recalls* its decision to establish, within the regular budget of the United Nations, a standing dedicated fellowship training programme on small arms and light weapons in order to strengthen the technical and practical knowledge and expertise of government officials directly responsible for the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, particularly in developing countries, to be implemented annually starting in 2024 for a duration of four weeks in-person in four regions, respectively, preceded by a preparatory self-

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<sup>218</sup> See [A/CONF.192/BMS/2022/1](#), annex, para. 87.

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paced online course, with the participation of 15 fellows per region, and requests the Secretary-General to operationalize this decision and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its eightieth session, and periodically thereafter for follow-up;<sup>219</sup>

24. *Encourages* States to submit, on a voluntary basis, national reports on their implementation of the Programme of Action, notes that States will submit national reports on their implementation of the International Tracing Instrument, encourages those States in a position to do so to use the reporting template made available by the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat, and reaffirms the utility of synchronizing such reports with biennial meetings of States and review conferences as a means of increasing the submission rate and improving the utility of reports, as well as contributing substantively to meeting discussions;

25. *Encourages* States in a position to do so to provide financial assistance, through a voluntary sponsorship fund, that could be distributed, upon request, to States otherwise unable to participate in meetings on the Programme of Action;

26. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Saving Lives Entity fund to ensure sustained financing for coordinated, integrated small arms control measures in countries most affected by the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, and encourages States in a position to do so to make voluntary financial contributions to the fund;

27. *Encourages* interested States and relevant international and regional organizations in a position to do so to convene regional meetings to consider and advance the implementation of the Programme of Action, as well as the International Tracing Instrument, including in preparation for the meetings on the Programme of Action;

28. *Encourages* civil society, industry and relevant organizations to strengthen their cooperation and work with States at the respective national and regional levels to achieve the implementation of the Programme of Action;

29. *Reaffirms* the importance of States undertaking to identify, where applicable, groups and individuals engaged in the illegal manufacture, trade, stockpiling, transfer, possession, as well as financing for acquisition, of illicit small arms and light weapons, and take action under appropriate national law against such groups and individuals;<sup>220</sup>

30. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare a comprehensive analysis, within existing resources, of progress in the trends, challenges and opportunities related to the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, including with regard to national frameworks, based on available credible information, including information submitted and/or provided by Member States, for presentation at the fourth Review Conference for consideration and appropriate follow-up, prior to which the findings and recommendations of the analysis will be shared with Member States in one or more informal meetings;<sup>221</sup>

31. *Also requests* the Secretariat to report on support provided by the United Nations system for the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, including experiences, best practices and lessons learned regarding the efficient use of available resources, for presentation at upcoming meetings on the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument;

32. *Encourages* Member States to discuss at the fourth Review Conference the establishment of an open-ended technical expert group, focusing on including, inter alia, realizing international cooperation in a concrete manner, scope, objectives, participation and modalities of the group, to develop agreed recommendations by consensus to ensure the full implementation of the International Tracing Instrument and the Programme of Action in the light of recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design, in particular polymer and modular weapons, and firearms produced using 3D printing, and requests the Secretariat, within existing resources, to prepare and circulate proposals for the above-mentioned focus issues and any other necessary administrative arrangements in a timely manner prior to the fourth Review Conference so as to facilitate its discussion

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<sup>219</sup> Ibid., para. 83.

<sup>220</sup> *Report of the United Nations Conference on Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects*, New York, 9–20 July 2001 (A/CONF.192/15), chap. IV, para. 24, sect. II, para. 6.

<sup>221</sup> See A/CONF.192/BMS/2022/1, annex, para. 60.

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and to initiate discussions on the mandate of such a group during the preparatory process leading up to the fourth Review Conference;<sup>222</sup>

33. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

34. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “General and complete disarmament”, the sub-item entitled “The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects”.

### RESOLUTION 78/47

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 176 to none, with 5 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/409, para. 89)<sup>223</sup>

\* *In favour:* Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against:* None

*Abstaining:* Belarus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic

#### 78/47. Through-life conventional ammunition management

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its decision 59/515 of 3 December 2004 and its resolutions 60/74 of 8 December 2005, 61/72 of 6 December 2006, 63/61 of 2 December 2008, 64/51 of 2 December 2009, 66/42 of 2 December 2011, 68/52 of 5 December 2013, 70/35 of 7 December 2015, 72/55 of 4 December 2017 and 74/65 of 12 December 2019, its decision 75/552 of 31 December 2020, its resolution 76/233 of 24 December 2021 and its decisions 76/568 of 21 June 2022 and 77/547 of 30 December 2022,

*Recalling also* the reports of the Group of Governmental Experts established pursuant to resolution 72/55,<sup>224</sup> of the Group of Governmental Experts established pursuant to resolution 61/72,<sup>225</sup> and of the Group of Experts established pursuant to resolution 52/38 J,<sup>226</sup>

<sup>222</sup> Ibid., para. 75.

<sup>223</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay.

<sup>224</sup> See A/76/324.

<sup>225</sup> See A/63/182.

<sup>226</sup> See A/54/155.

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*Expressing grave concern* over the risks posed by the diversion of conventional ammunition of all types and calibres to unauthorized recipients, including criminals, organized criminal groups and terrorists, their trafficking into illicit markets, including their subsequent use in the manufacture of improvised explosive devices, as well as their contribution to the intensity and duration of armed conflict, armed violence, including gender-based armed violence, around the world, and the threat that their diversion and illicit trafficking poses to peace, security, stability and sustainable development at the national, subregional, regional and global levels,

*Expressing grave concern also* over the destruction caused by unplanned explosions of conventional ammunition at ammunition sites, which claim thousands of lives, disrupt communities' livelihoods, and can generate severe humanitarian, human rights, socioeconomic, environmental and public health impacts,

*Recognizing* that gaps exist to achieving a discernible reduction in the risks and impacts arising from the ineffective through-life management of conventional ammunition around the world, extending from the point of manufacture, through pre-transfer, transfer, relocation and transport, stockpiling and recovery, to their eventual use or disposal, and to this end stressing the importance of addressing the safety and security risks and impacts emanating from the ineffective through-life management of conventional ammunition at the global level in a comprehensive manner to contribute to maintaining international peace and security,

*Recognizing also* the need for the full, equal, meaningful and effective participation of women in decision-making and implementation processes related to through-life conventional ammunition management, and encouraging mainstreaming a gender perspective into policy and practice to address the differential impacts of the safety and security aspects of conventional ammunition on women, men, girls and boys,

*Reaffirming* the right of each State to legally manufacture, acquire, stockpile, manage and transfer conventional ammunition, including for its self-defence and security needs, as well as for its capacity to participate in peace operations, in a manner consistent with the Charter of the United Nations,

*Recognizing* the importance of international cooperation and assistance in pursuing and supporting safe, secure and sustainable through-life conventional ammunition management nationally, subregionally, regionally and globally,

*Stressing* the need for international cooperation among all States and other relevant stakeholders on through-life conventional ammunition management, and acknowledging the support that they can provide, where appropriate and feasible, to States in addressing the risks posed by ineffective through-life conventional ammunition management,

*Recognizing* the urgent necessity for assistance, where requested, appropriate and feasible, including technology transfers, technical, material, financial, legal assistance, or expertise for capacity-building and knowledge management, to support and facilitate efforts at national, subregional, regional and global levels to assess and address the risks associated with ineffective through-life conventional ammunition management, and in this regard underscoring the importance of a comprehensive and sustainable approach,

*Recalling with appreciation* the work of the SaferGuard programme,<sup>227</sup> managed by the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat, to improve the safe, secure and sustainable through-life management of conventional ammunition, and encouraging the use, as appropriate, of the voluntary International Ammunition Technical Guidelines,

*Noting with appreciation* the ongoing work of the Ammunition Management Advisory Team to support interested States in the safe and secure management of ammunition through the provision of technical advice and services,

*Taking note* of discussions with regard to the issue of conventional ammunition in the framework of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects<sup>228</sup> and the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons,<sup>229</sup> Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War (Protocol V)<sup>230</sup> to the Convention

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<sup>227</sup> A/63/182, paras. 72 and 73.

<sup>228</sup> Report of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, New York, 9–20 July 2001 (A/CONF.192/15), chap. IV, para. 24.

<sup>229</sup> See decision 60/519 and A/60/88 and A/60/88/Corr.2, annex.

<sup>230</sup> United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 2399, No. 22495.

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on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects,<sup>231</sup> and of the requirement of the Arms Trade Treaty<sup>232</sup> that States parties thereto shall designate competent national authorities in order to have an effective and transparent national control system to regulate the transfer of relevant ammunition and munitions, as well as the work and measures pursued at the regional and subregional levels,

*Recognizing* the relevance of regional and subregional mechanisms that address through-life conventional ammunition management,

*Taking note* of the Secretary-General's New Agenda for Peace<sup>233</sup> and of the actions proposed therein to reduce the human cost of weapons,

*Welcoming* the conclusion of the work of the open-ended working group, established pursuant to resolution 76/233, to elaborate a set of political commitments as a new global framework that will address existing gaps in through-life ammunition management, and the submission of its final report,<sup>234</sup>

1. *Welcomes* the final report of the open-ended working group, established pursuant to resolution 76/233, contained in document A/78/111, and the recommendations contained therein;

2. *Decides* to adopt the Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management,<sup>235</sup> which is a cooperative framework that is voluntary and contains a set of political commitments for strengthening and promoting existing initiatives on, and addressing existing gaps in, through-life conventional ammunition management, as contained in the annex to the final report of the open-ended working group;

3. *Calls upon* all States to implement the Global Framework on the basis of the guiding principles expressed therein;

4. *Encourages* the United Nations, including under the SaferGuard programme with, inter alia, its quick-response mechanism, and international, regional and subregional organizations, as well as other relevant stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations and civil society, academia, research institutions and industry, to promote and support the implementation of the Global Framework, and calls upon all relevant stakeholders to consider using the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines when supporting national authorities;

5. *Encourages* all States to develop, strengthen and implement measures, mechanisms and initiatives, within national, regional and subregional frameworks, as appropriate, to address the safety and security risks associated with conventional ammunition, including diversion, illicit trafficking and unplanned explosions of conventional ammunition, in line with the Global Framework;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to implement the new mandates assigned to the Secretariat in the Global Framework as contained in section IV, paragraphs 22 and 26, and section V, paragraphs 29, 34 and 37, thereof,<sup>236</sup> and to strengthen the SaferGuard programme to implement the assigned mandates as contained in section IV, paragraph 23, and section V, paragraph 36, thereof, and to present the respective budgetary requirements in his next proposed programme budget;

7. *Decides* to convene a meeting of States in 2027 for two weeks (20 meetings), in New York, to review the implementation of the Global Framework, in line with section V, paragraph 31 thereof, with the participation, as observers, of relevant international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations and civil society, academia, research institutions and industry, and further decides that the Chair may hold informal consultations ahead of the Meeting of States;

8. *Also decides* to convene a preparatory meeting of States in 2025 for five days (10 meetings), in New York, to explore possible options for the development of the process and modalities for the effective implementation of the

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<sup>231</sup> Ibid., vol. 1342, No. 22495.

<sup>232</sup> Ibid., vol. 3013, No. 52373.

<sup>233</sup> A/77/CRP.1/Add.8.

<sup>234</sup> See A/78/111.

<sup>235</sup> Ibid., annex.

<sup>236</sup> Ibid.

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Global Framework and to prepare for the Meeting of States in 2027, with the participation, as observers, of relevant international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations and civil society, academia, research institutions and industry;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the support necessary to convene the preparatory meeting of States and the Meeting of States;

10. *Encourages* States to provide voluntary information, in line with section V, paragraphs 30 and 34 of the Global Framework, on steps taken to implement the Global Framework, and requests the Secretary-General to receive and circulate such information;

11. *Decides* to establish a new standing dedicated fellowship training programme on through-life conventional ammunition management in order to strengthen the technical and practical knowledge and expertise of government officials directly responsible for the implementation of the Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management, particularly in developing countries, to be substantively developed and designed in 2025 and implemented annually starting in 2026 for a duration of four weeks in-person in four regions, respectively, preceded by a preparatory self-paced online course, with the participation of 15 fellows from each of the four regions, Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean and other regions, ensuring the full, equal, meaningful and effective participation of women and equitable geographic representation, and requests the Secretary-General to present the budgetary requirements in his next proposed programme budget to operationalize this decision and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its eightieth session, and periodically thereafter for follow-up;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to strengthen the SaferGuard programme, which serves as the custodian of the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines, and to include the budgetary requirements in his next proposed programme budget and, in this regard, also requests the Secretary-General to review, update and translate into other official languages the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines, on an ongoing basis, and to develop voluntary operational guidelines related to security aspects of the through-life management of conventional ammunition in the framework of the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines under the SaferGuard programme, with the assistance of technical experts from interested States, while ensuring the full, equal, meaningful and effective participation of women and equitable geographic representation and taking into account and complementing relevant existing standards, guidelines and good practices, without duplicating them;

13. *Invites* relevant regional and subregional organizations to establish, where needed, and to maintain regional and subregional rosters of experts validated according to the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines, as appropriate;

14. *Encourages* States in a position to do so to assist interested States within a bilateral framework or through international or regional organizations, including through activities conducted under the umbrella of the SaferGuard programme, on a voluntary and transparent basis, in elaborating and implementing programmes to improve the safe, secure and sustainable through-life management of conventional ammunition;

15. *Encourages* States, as appropriate, to consider through-life conventional ammunition management as an intrinsic part of their actions for achieving relevant targets of the Sustainable Development Goals related to the reduction of illicit arms flows and the prevention of violence through strengthened national institutions,<sup>237</sup> and to consider, where relevant, developing national, regional and subregional indicators based on this understanding;

16. *Encourages* consideration of the integration of through-life conventional ammunition management measures, where relevant, in the mandates of peacekeeping operations, including through the training of personnel of national authorities and peacekeepers, utilizing the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines;

17. *Reiterates* its decision to address the issue of through-life conventional ammunition management in a comprehensive manner;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its eightieth session on the implementation of the present resolution, including on the implementation of the Global Framework;

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<sup>237</sup> See resolution 70/1.



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19. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “General and complete disarmament”, a sub-item entitled “Through-life conventional ammunition management”.

### RESOLUTION 78/48

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 159 to none, with 23 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/409, para. 89)<sup>238</sup>

\* *In favour:* Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against:* None

*Abstaining:* Armenia, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nicaragua, Oman, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Uganda, Yemen

#### 78/48. The Arms Trade Treaty

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 61/89 of 6 December 2006, 63/240 of 24 December 2008, 64/48 of 2 December 2009, 67/234 A of 24 December 2012, 67/234 B of 2 April 2013, 68/31 of 5 December 2013, 69/49 of 2 December 2014, 70/58 of 7 December 2015, 71/50 of 5 December 2016, 72/44 of 4 December 2017, 73/36 of 5 December 2018, 74/49 of 12 December 2019, 75/64 of 7 December 2020, 76/50 of 6 December 2021 and 77/62 of 7 December 2022 and its decision 66/518 of 2 December 2011,

*Recognizing* that disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation are essential for the maintenance of international peace and security,

*Recognizing also* the security, social, economic and humanitarian consequences of the illicit and unregulated trade in conventional arms,

*Bearing in mind* that civilians, particularly women and children, account for the vast majority of those adversely affected by armed conflict and armed violence,

*Recognizing* the legitimate political, security, economic and commercial interests of States in the international trade in conventional arms,

*Underlining* the urgent need to prevent and eradicate the illicit trade in conventional arms, including small arms and light weapons, and to prevent their diversion to the illicit market, or for unauthorized end use or end users,

<sup>238</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Eswatini, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay.



## II. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the First Committee

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including through improvements to stockpile management, thereby preventing the exacerbation of armed violence, the commission of terrorist acts and the violation of international humanitarian law and international human rights law,

*Emphasizing* the responsibility of all States, in accordance with their respective international and regional obligations and commitments, to effectively regulate the international trade in conventional arms,

*Recalling* the contribution made by the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects,<sup>239</sup> as well as the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,<sup>240</sup> and the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons,<sup>241</sup>

*Welcoming* the conclusion of the work of the open-ended working group, established pursuant to resolution 76/233 of 24 December 2021, to elaborate a set of political commitments as a new global framework to address existing gaps in through-life ammunition management, and the submission of its final report,<sup>242</sup> which is complementary to the Arms Trade Treaty,

*Highlighting* the relevance of the Arms Trade Treaty,<sup>243</sup> including its links and synergies with other relevant instruments on conventional arms, to efforts to meet Sustainable Development Goal 16 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>244</sup> and specifically target 16.4, which aims at significantly reducing illicit arms flows by 2030,

*Recalling* the Secretary-General's disarmament agenda, *Securing Our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament*, in particular the section of the agenda entitled "Disarmament that saves lives",

*Recognizing* the negative impact of the illicit and unregulated trade in conventional arms and related ammunition on the lives of women, men, girls and boys, and that the Arms Trade Treaty was the first international agreement to identify and call upon States to address the link between conventional arms transfers and the risk of serious acts of gender-based violence and serious acts of violence against women and children,

*Recognizing also* the important role that civil society organizations, including non-governmental organizations, industry and relevant international organizations play, by raising awareness, in efforts to prevent and eradicate the illicit and unregulated trade in conventional arms, including in preventing their diversion, and in supporting the implementation of the Treaty,

*Recalling* the adoption by the General Assembly and the entry into force of the Treaty on 2 April 2013 and 24 December 2014, respectively, and noting that the Treaty remains open for accession by any State that has not signed it,

*Welcoming* the latest ratification of the Treaty by Andorra, bearing in mind that the universalization of the Treaty is essential to achieving its object and purpose,

*Noting* the efforts by States parties to the Treaty to continue to explore ways and means to enhance national implementation of the Treaty through the working group on effective treaty implementation and the voluntary trust fund for the implementation of the Treaty,

1. *Welcomes* the decisions taken by the Ninth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty, held in person with a livestreaming option from 21 to 25 August 2023, which included a thematic discussion on the role of industry in responsible international transfers of conventional arms, the priority theme for the Conference, and notes that the Tenth Conference of States Parties will be held in Geneva from 19 to 23 August 2024;

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<sup>239</sup> Report of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, New York, 9–20 July 2001 (A/CONF.192/15), chap. IV, para. 24.

<sup>240</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2326, No. 39574.

<sup>241</sup> See decision 60/519 and A/60/88 and A/60/88/Corr.2, annex.

<sup>242</sup> A/78/111.

<sup>243</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 3013, No. 52373.

<sup>244</sup> Resolution 70/1.

## II. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the First Committee

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2. *Takes note* of the decision of the Ninth Conference of States Parties that welcomes the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights<sup>245</sup> and encourages States parties to the Arms Trade Treaty and other stakeholders to continue discussions on how the Guiding Principles, human rights and international humanitarian law instruments apply in the context of the Treaty, as appropriate;

3. *Welcomes* the continuing progress by the standing working groups on effective treaty implementation, including the important work undertaken in the context of its sub-working groups on articles 6 and 7, article 9 and article 11, on transparency and reporting, and on universalization in advancing the object and purpose of the Arms Trade Treaty, and further takes note with appreciation of the revision of the Treaty programme of work, on a trial basis for one year, decided by the Ninth Conference of States Parties;<sup>246</sup>

4. *Recognizes* that the consolidation of the institutional structure of the Treaty provides a framework for supporting further work under the Treaty, in particular its effective implementation, and in this regard expresses concern about the unpaid assessed contributions of States and the potential adverse implications that this situation entails for the Treaty processes, and calls upon States that have not yet done so to address their financial obligations under the Treaty in a prompt and timely manner;

5. *Calls upon* all States that have not yet done so to ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Treaty, in accordance with their respective constitutional processes, in order to achieve its universalization;

6. *Calls upon* all States parties to submit and encourages them to make available, in a timely manner, and to update, as appropriate, their initial reports, as well as their annual reports for the preceding calendar year, as required under article 13 of the Treaty, thereby enhancing confidence, transparency, trust and accountability, and welcomes the ongoing efforts of the working group on transparency and reporting to facilitate compliance by States parties with their reporting obligations;

7. *Calls upon* those States parties in a position to do so to provide assistance, including legal or legislative assistance, institutional capacity-building and technical, material or financial assistance, to requesting States in order to promote the implementation and universalization of the Treaty;

8. *Stresses* the vital importance of the full and effective implementation of and compliance with all provisions of the Treaty by States parties, and urges States parties to meet their obligations under the Treaty, thereby contributing to international and regional peace, security and stability, to the reduction of human suffering and to the promotion of cooperation, transparency and responsible action;

9. *Recognizes* the complementarity among all relevant international instruments on conventional arms and the Treaty, and to this end urges all States to implement effective national measures to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit and unregulated trade in conventional arms and ammunition in fulfilment of their respective international obligations and commitments and to prevent their diversion;

10. *Looks forward* to the fourth United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, in June 2024, and its potential synergies with the Treaty;

11. *Encourages* further steps to enable States to increasingly prevent and tackle the diversion of conventional arms and ammunition to unauthorized end uses or end users during the entire life cycle of the items, and recognizes that enhancing reporting rates, transparency and information-sharing, in line with Treaty obligations, is fundamental to achieving this goal;

12. *Appreciates* the continuing work of the Diversion Information Exchange Forum, and encourages States parties and signatory States to actively use the Forum and to share, on a voluntary basis, concrete and operational information about cases of suspected or detected diversion, and acknowledges that this is an important step towards tackling diversion by enhancing information-sharing and international cooperation, and a tool to improve practical implementation of the Treaty;

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<sup>245</sup> [A/HRC/17/31](#), annex.

<sup>246</sup> See ATT/CSP9/2023/SEC/773/Conf.FinRep.Rev2.

## II. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the First Committee

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13. *Recalls* the adoption of action-oriented decisions on gender and gender-based violence endorsed by the Fifth Conference of States parties, encourages and welcomes efforts of States parties to contribute to the progress on these two aspects, and in that respect encourages States parties and signatory States to ensure the full and equal participation of women and men in pursuing the object and purpose of the Treaty;

14. *Welcomes* the continued support through the voluntary trust fund for the implementation and universalization of the Treaty, and encourages all States parties in a position to do so to contribute to the fund;

15. *Encourages* eligible States to make best use of the voluntary trust fund, as well as other international, regional and national outreach and assistance programmes, and share information on their implementation efforts on a voluntary basis;

16. *Encourages* States parties and signatory States in a position to do so to provide funding to the Treaty sponsorship programme to support and maximize the scale and diversity of participation of experts from States in meetings under the Treaty for those States that would otherwise be unable to attend;

17. *Encourages* States parties to strengthen their cooperation with civil society, including non-governmental organizations, industry and relevant international organizations and to work with other States parties at the national and regional levels, and invites those stakeholders, in particular those that are underrepresented in Treaty processes, to engage further with States parties with the aim of ensuring the effective implementation and universalization of the Treaty;

18. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “General and complete disarmament”, the sub-item entitled “The Arms Trade Treaty”, and to review the implementation of the present resolution at that session.

### RESOLUTION 78/49

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/409, para. 89)<sup>247</sup>

#### **78/49. Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes**

*The General Assembly,*

*Bearing in mind* resolutions CM/Res.1153 (XLVIII) of 1988<sup>248</sup> and CM/Res.1225 (L) of 1989,<sup>249</sup> adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, concerning the dumping of nuclear and industrial wastes in Africa,

*Recalling* resolution GC(XXXIV)/RES/530 establishing the Code of Practice on the International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste, adopted on 21 September 1990 by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its thirty-fourth regular session,

*Taking note* of the commitment made by the participants in the Summit on Nuclear Safety and Security, held in Moscow on 19 and 20 April 1996, to ban the dumping at sea of radioactive wastes,<sup>250</sup>

*Considering* its resolution 2602 C (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, in which the General Assembly requested the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament,<sup>251</sup> *inter alia*, to consider effective methods of control against the use of radiological methods of warfare,

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<sup>247</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by Maldives, and Nigeria (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States).

<sup>248</sup> See A/43/398, annex I.

<sup>249</sup> See A/44/603, annex I.

<sup>250</sup> A/51/131, annex I, para. 20.

<sup>251</sup> The Conference of the Committee on Disarmament became the Committee on Disarmament as from the tenth special session of the General Assembly. The Committee on Disarmament was redesignated the Conference on Disarmament as from 7 February 1984.

## II. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the First Committee

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*Aware* of the potential hazards underlying any use of radioactive wastes that would constitute radiological warfare and its implications for regional and international security, in particular for the security of developing countries,

*Recalling* all its resolutions on the matter since its forty-third session in 1988, including its resolution [51/45 J](#) of 10 December 1996,

*Recalling also* resolution GC(45)/RES/10, adopted by consensus on 21 September 2001 by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its forty-fifth regular session, in which States shipping radioactive materials are invited to provide, as appropriate, assurances to concerned States, upon their request, that the national regulations of the shipping State take into account the Agency's transport regulations and to provide them with relevant information relating to the shipment of such materials, with the information provided being in no case contradictory to the measures of physical security and safety,

*Recalling further* the adoption, in Vienna on 5 September 1997, of the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management,<sup>252</sup> as recommended by the participants in the Summit on Nuclear Safety and Security,

*Recalling* the convening by the International Atomic Energy Agency of the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety, in Vienna from 20 to 24 June 2011, and its outcome, the Declaration of the International Atomic Energy Agency Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety, as well as the Action Plan on Nuclear Safety, endorsed by the General Conference of the Agency at its fifty-fifth regular session,

*Noting* the convening by the Secretary-General of the high-level meeting on nuclear safety and security, in New York on 22 September 2011,

*Noting with satisfaction* that the Joint Convention entered into force on 18 June 2001,

*Noting* that the first Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management was convened in Vienna from 3 to 14 November 2003,

*Desirous* of promoting the implementation of paragraph 76 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament,<sup>253</sup>

1. *Takes note* of the part of the report of the Conference on Disarmament relating to radiological weapons;<sup>254</sup>
2. *Also takes note* of the Declaration of the International Atomic Energy Agency Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety, the Action Plan on Nuclear Safety and the high-level meeting on nuclear safety and security convened by the Secretary-General;
3. *Expresses grave concern* regarding any use of nuclear wastes that would constitute radiological warfare and have grave implications for the national security of all States;
4. *Calls upon* all States to take appropriate measures with a view to preventing any dumping of nuclear or radioactive wastes that would infringe upon the sovereignty of States;
5. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament to take into account, in any negotiations for a convention on the prohibition of radiological weapons, radioactive wastes as part of the scope of such a convention;
6. *Also requests* the Conference on Disarmament to continue to consider such a convention and to include in its report to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session the progress recorded in the negotiations on this subject;

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<sup>252</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2153, No. 37605.

<sup>253</sup> Resolution [S-10/2](#).

<sup>254</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/78/27)*, sect. III.E.

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7. *Takes note* of resolution CM/Res.1356 (LIV) of 1991, adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity,<sup>255</sup> on the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa;<sup>256</sup>

8. *Expresses the hope* that the effective implementation of the International Atomic Energy Agency Code of Practice on the International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste will enhance the protection of all States from the dumping of radioactive wastes on their territories;

9. *Appeals* to all Member States that have not yet taken the steps necessary to become party to the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management to do so as soon as possible;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its eightieth session, under the item entitled “General and complete disarmament”, the sub-item entitled “Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes”.

### RESOLUTION 78/50

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 147 to 5, with 29 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/409, para. 89)<sup>257</sup>

\* *In favour:* Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against:* France, Israel, Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Abstaining:* Albania, Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, South Sudan, Spain, Sweden, Türkiye, Ukraine

### 78/50. Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 51/45 B of 10 December 1996, 52/38 N of 9 December 1997, 53/77 Q of 4 December 1998, 54/54 L of 1 December 1999, 55/33 I of 20 November 2000, 56/24 G of 29 November 2001, 57/73 of 22 November 2002, 58/49 of 8 December 2003, 59/85 of 3 December 2004, 60/58 of 8 December 2005, 61/69 of 6 December 2006, 62/35 of 5 December 2007, 63/65 of 2 December 2008, 64/44 of 2 December 2009, 65/58 of 8 December 2010, 67/55 of 3 December 2012, 69/35 of 2 December 2014, 70/45 of 7 December 2015, 71/51 of 5 December 2016, 72/45 of 4 December 2017, 74/48 of 12 December 2019 and 76/44 of 6 December 2021,

<sup>255</sup> See A/46/390, annex I.

<sup>256</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2101, No. 36508.

<sup>257</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Argentina, Austria, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Fiji, Honduras, Indonesia, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Lesotho, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Namibia, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Samoa, South Africa, Thailand, United Republic of Tanzania and Uruguay.

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*Recalling also* the provisions on nuclear-weapon-free zones of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament,<sup>258</sup>

*Recalling further* the adoption by the Disarmament Commission at its 1999 substantive session of a text entitled “Establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned”,<sup>259</sup>

*Determined* to pursue the total elimination of nuclear weapons,

*Determined also* to continue to contribute to the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects and to the process of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, in particular in the field of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, with a view to strengthening international peace and security, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

*Welcoming* the entry into force on 22 January 2021 of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons<sup>260</sup> and its reaffirmation of the conviction that the establishment of the internationally recognized nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned enhances global and regional peace and security, strengthens the nuclear non-proliferation regime and contributes towards realizing the objective of nuclear disarmament,

*Recalling* the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,<sup>261</sup> which reaffirmed the conviction that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones contributes towards realizing the objectives of nuclear disarmament,

*Stressing* the importance of the treaties of Tlatelolco,<sup>262</sup> Rarotonga,<sup>263</sup> Bangkok<sup>264</sup> and Pelindaba<sup>265</sup> establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones, as well as the Antarctic Treaty,<sup>266</sup> *inter alia*, for achieving a world entirely free of nuclear weapons,

*Recalling* resolution [75/312](#) of 29 July 2021, in which it stressed the role of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic as a forum for increased interaction, coordination and cooperation among its member States,

*Reaffirming* the importance of convening the fourth Conference of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia at the earliest possible date,

*Noting* that 115 States are currently parties or signatories to nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties,

*Underlining* the value of enhancing cooperation among the nuclear-weapon-free zone treaty members by means of mechanisms such as joint meetings of States parties, signatories and observers to those treaties,

*Reaffirming* the applicable principles and rules of international law relating to the freedom of the high seas and the rights of passage through maritime space, including those of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,<sup>267</sup>

1. *Reaffirms its conviction* of the important role of nuclear-weapon-free zones in strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime and in extending the areas of the world that are nuclear-weapon-free, and calls for greater progress towards the total elimination of all nuclear weapons;

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<sup>258</sup> Resolution [S-10/2](#).

<sup>259</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/54/42)*, annex I.

<sup>260</sup> [A/CONF.229/2017/8](#).

<sup>261</sup> *2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document*, vols. I–III (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I), NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. II) and NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. III)).

<sup>262</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 634, No. 9068.

<sup>263</sup> *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, vol. 10: 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.IX.7), appendix VII.

<sup>264</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1981, No. 33873.

<sup>265</sup> [A/50/426](#), annex.

<sup>266</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 402, No. 5778.

<sup>267</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.



## II. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the First Committee

2. *Welcomes* the continued contribution that the Antarctic Treaty and the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Pelindaba are making towards freeing the southern hemisphere and adjacent areas covered by those treaties from nuclear weapons;
3. *Notes with satisfaction* that all nuclear-weapon-free zones in the southern hemisphere and adjacent areas are now in force;
4. *Calls upon* all States concerned to continue to work together in order to facilitate adherence to the protocols to nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties by all relevant States that have not yet done so, in this regard recalls with appreciation the ratification by China, France, the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of the Protocol to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia<sup>268</sup> and the steps taken by the United States of America towards the ratification of the protocols to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia, to the Treaty of Pelindaba and to the Treaty of Rarotonga, and encourages progress with a view to concluding consultations between the nuclear-weapon States and the parties to the Bangkok Treaty on the Protocol to that Treaty;
5. *Calls upon* the nuclear-weapon States to withdraw any reservations or interpretive declarations contrary to the object and purpose of the treaties establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones;
6. *Welcomes* the steps taken to conclude further nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned, including the steps taken towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East;
7. *Congratulates* the States parties and signatories to the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Pelindaba, as well as of Central Asia and Mongolia, for their efforts to pursue the common goals envisaged in those treaties and to promote the nuclear-weapon-free status of the southern hemisphere and adjacent areas, and calls upon them to explore and implement further ways and means of cooperation among themselves and their treaty agencies;
8. *Encourages* efforts to reinforce coordination among nuclear-weapon-free zones;
9. *Encourages* the competent authorities of the nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties to provide assistance to the States parties and signatories to those treaties so as to facilitate the accomplishment of the goals of the treaties;
10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its eightieth session, under the item entitled “General and complete disarmament”, the sub-item entitled “Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas”.

### RESOLUTION 78/51

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 164 to 4, with 13 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/409, para. 89)<sup>269</sup>

\* *In favour*: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands,

<sup>268</sup> Ibid., vol. 2970, No. 51633.

<sup>269</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liberia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine and United States of America.



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Somalia, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe  
*Against:* Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic  
*Abstaining:* Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, China, Cuba, Egypt, Ghana, Nicaragua, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sudan, Uganda

### 78/51. Radiological weapons

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions related to a prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of radiological weapons, including resolutions 2602 C (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, 34/87 A of 11 December 1979, 35/156 G of 12 December 1980, 36/97 B of 9 December 1981, 37/99 C of 13 December 1982, 38/188 D of 20 December 1983, 39/151 J of 17 December 1984, 40/94 D of 12 December 1985, 41/59 I of 3 December 1986, 42/38 F of 30 November 1987, 43/75 J of 7 December 1988, 44/116 T of 15 November 1989, 45/58 F of 4 December 1990, 46/36 E of 6 December 1991 and 47/52 B of 9 December 1992,

*Reaffirming* that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community, has the primary role in substantive negotiations on priority questions of disarmament,

*Welcoming* the work, in 1980, of the ad hoc committees of the Conference on Disarmament established with a view to reaching an agreement on a convention prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of radiological weapons<sup>270</sup> and the work of the related ad hoc committees undertaken as recently as 1992 in this regard, and welcoming also the extensive work done in the years following on this topic at the Conference under the long-standing agenda item entitled “New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons”,

*Bearing in mind* the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament, which was adopted by consensus, and wherein it was noted that progress towards the goal of general and complete disarmament can be achieved through the implementation of a programme of action on disarmament, and included in that programme of action was a measure that a convention should be concluded prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling, and use of radiological weapons,<sup>271</sup> and expressing interest in taking steps towards this end,

*Seriously concerned* that the use of radiological weapons could have significant health and economic impacts on civilian populations,

*Noting* the extensive existing frameworks to address radiological threats with a focus on non-State actors,<sup>272</sup> including, among other instruments, the International Atomic Energy Agency Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources, its supplementary Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources and its supplementary Guidance on the Management of Disused Radioactive Sources, and wishing to complement, rather than duplicate, these existing measures,

*Seeking* to add to the landmark agreements that States have successfully concluded on nuclear, chemical and biological weapons through renewed efforts to address radiological weapons as a means to enhance international peace and security,

*Reaffirming* the need to ensure the equal, full and meaningful participation of underrepresented groups and reflect gender perspectives and diverse participant perspectives in the negotiation process,

1. *Calls upon* all States not to use radiological weapons;
2. *Also calls upon* all States not to develop, produce or stockpile devices or materials for use as radiological weapons, while desiring to avoid interfering with the legitimate uses of radioactive materials;

<sup>270</sup> CD/133.

<sup>271</sup> Resolution S-10/2.

<sup>272</sup> For the purposes of the present resolution, the General Assembly understands “non-State actor” to mean an individual or entity not acting under the lawful authority of any State in conducting activities that come within the scope of the present resolution.

3. *Emphasizes* that radiological weapons are a unique category of weapons distinct and separate from nuclear, chemical and biological weapons;

4. *Urges* the Conference on Disarmament to adopt, in 2024, a comprehensive and balanced programme of work that includes the commencement of negotiations to conclude, as an initial step on this issue, a legally binding multilateral prohibition of the use of radiological weapons by States.

### RESOLUTION 78/52

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/409, para. 89)<sup>273</sup>

#### 78/52. Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 60/66 of 8 December 2005, 61/75 of 6 December 2006, 62/43 of 5 December 2007, 63/68 of 2 December 2008, 64/49 of 2 December 2009, 65/68 of 8 December 2010, 68/50 of 5 December 2013, 69/38 of 2 December 2014, 70/53 of 7 December 2015, 71/42 of 5 December 2016, 71/90 of 6 December 2016, 72/56 of 4 December 2017, 73/72 of 5 December 2018, 74/67 of 12 December 2019, 75/69 of 7 December 2020, 76/55 of 6 December 2021 and 77/251 of 30 December 2022, as well as its decision 66/517 of 2 December 2011,

*Recalling also* the report of the Secretary-General of 15 October 1993 to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session, the annex to which contains the study by governmental experts on the application of confidence-building measures in outer space,<sup>274</sup>

*Reaffirming* the right of all countries to explore and use outer space in accordance with international law,

*Reaffirming also* that preventing an arms race in outer space is in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and is an essential condition for the promotion and strengthening of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

*Recalling*, in this context, its resolutions 45/55 B of 4 December 1990 and 48/74 B of 16 December 1993, in which, inter alia, it recognized the need for increased transparency and confirmed the importance of confidence-building measures as a means of reinforcing the objective of preventing an arms race in outer space,

*Noting* the constructive debates that the Conference on Disarmament has held on this subject and the views expressed by Member States,

*Noting also* the ongoing discussions of the open-ended working group established by resolution 76/231 of 24 December 2021,

*Recalling* the introduction by China and the Russian Federation at the Conference on Disarmament of the draft treaty on prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space and of the threat or use of force against outer space objects,<sup>275</sup> and the submission of its updated version<sup>276</sup> in 2014,

*Noting* that, since 2004, several States<sup>277</sup> have introduced a policy of not being the first State to place weapons in outer space,

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<sup>273</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Armenia, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cambodia, China, Cuba, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zimbabwe.

<sup>274</sup> A/48/305 and A/48/305/Corr.1.

<sup>275</sup> See CD/1839.

<sup>276</sup> See CD/1985.

<sup>277</sup> Argentina, Armenia, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Burundi, Cambodia, Comoros, Congo, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Togo, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

## II. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the First Committee

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*Noting also* that, since 2022, several States have made national commitments not to conduct destructive direct-ascent anti-satellite missile tests,

*Welcoming* the adoption by consensus by the Disarmament Commission of the “Recommendations to promote the practical implementation of transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities with the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space, in accordance with the recommendations set out in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities”,<sup>278</sup>

*Recognizing* that the work within the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and its Legal Subcommittee, including the promotion of the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, has a fundamental role to play in enhancing transparency and confidence-building among States and in ensuring that outer space is maintained for peaceful purposes,

*Noting* the contribution of Member States that have submitted to the Secretary-General concrete proposals on international outer space transparency and confidence-building measures pursuant to paragraph 1 of resolution 61/75, paragraph 2 of resolution 62/43, paragraph 2 of resolution 63/68 and paragraph 2 of resolution 64/49,

*Recalling* the work done in 2012 and 2013 by the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities, which was convened by the Secretary-General, on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, to conduct a study on outer space transparency and confidence-building measures,

*Convinced* of the necessity of further examining the transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities and their practical implementation,

*Recalling* the consideration of the report of the Group of Governmental Experts,<sup>279</sup> as well as views on the modalities of making practical use of the recommendations contained therein, as set out in the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on its fifty-eighth session, held in 2015,<sup>280</sup> at which it found that the Committee had a fundamental role to play in enhancing transparency and confidence-building among States, as well as in ensuring that outer space is maintained for peaceful purposes,

*Noting* that, in its report, the Group of Governmental Experts had recognized the value of the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in developing a set of voluntary, non-legally binding guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, some of which could be considered as potential transparency and confidence-building measures, while others could enhance the safety of outer space activities and thereby provide the technical basis for the further implementation of additional transparency and confidence-building measures,

*Welcoming* the adoption in 2019 by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its sixty-second session of the preamble and 21 Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, as contained in annex II to the report of the Committee,<sup>281</sup> the implementation of which may have a positive effect on international peace and security, as well as the continuation of efforts both to identify and study challenges and to consider possible new guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities,

*Recalling* the special report by the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities (UN-Space) on the implementation of the report of the Group of Governmental Experts, and the recommendations contained therein, as submitted to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its fifty-ninth session, in 2016,<sup>282</sup>

*Welcoming* the revised International Telecommunication Union resolution 186 on strengthening the role of the Union with regard to transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities, adopted by the 2018 Plenipotentiary Conference of the Union, held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 29 October to 16 November 2018,

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<sup>278</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/78/42)*, annex.

<sup>279</sup> *A/68/189*.

<sup>280</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/70/20)*.

<sup>281</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/74/20)*.

<sup>282</sup> *A/AC.105/1116*.

## II. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the First Committee

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1. *Stresses* the importance of the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities, considered by the General Assembly on 5 December 2013;
2. *Encourages* Member States to continue to review and implement, to the greatest extent practicable, the proposed transparency and confidence-building measures contained in the report, through the relevant national mechanisms, on a voluntary basis and in a manner consistent with the national interests of Member States;
3. *Also encourages* Member States, in accordance with the recommendations contained in the report, with a view to promoting the practical implementation of transparency and confidence-building measures, to hold regular discussions in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament on the prospects for their implementation;
4. *Requests* the relevant entities and organizations of the United Nations system, to which, in accordance with its resolution [68/50](#), the report was circulated, to assist in effectively implementing the conclusions and recommendations contained therein, as appropriate;
5. *Encourages* the relevant entities and organizations of the United Nations system to coordinate, as appropriate, on matters related to the recommendations contained in the report;
6. *Endorses* the “Recommendations to promote the practical implementation of transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities with the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space, in accordance with the recommendations set out in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities” adopted by consensus by the Disarmament Commission;
7. *Welcomes* the joint ad hoc meetings of the First and Fourth Committees, held on 22 October 2015, 12 October 2017, 31 October 2019 and 27 October 2022, on possible challenges to space security and sustainability, convened in accordance with the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities and its resolutions [69/38](#), [71/90](#), [73/72](#), [73/91](#) of 7 December 2018 and [76/55](#), and the substantive exchanges of opinions on various aspects of security in outer space that took place during the meetings;
8. *Decides* to convene a joint half-day panel discussion of the Disarmament and International Security Committee (First Committee) and the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) to address possible challenges to space security and sustainability, and to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “General and complete disarmament”, the sub-item entitled “Joint panel discussion of the First and Fourth Committees on possible challenges to space security and sustainability”;
9. *Calls upon* Member States and the relevant entities and organizations of the United Nations system to support the implementation of the full range of conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities and in the “Recommendations to promote the practical implementation of transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities with the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space, in accordance with the recommendations set out in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities”;
10. *Recalls* the report of the Secretary-General on transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities in the United Nations system, which contains summaries of the submissions received from Member States giving their views on transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities;<sup>283</sup>
11. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General containing the views and proposals of Member States about the practical implementation of transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities of 2013;<sup>284</sup>

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<sup>283</sup> [A/72/65](#) and [A/72/65/Add.1](#).

<sup>284</sup> [A/78/75](#).

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “General and complete disarmament”, the sub-item entitled “Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities”.

### RESOLUTION 78/53

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 121 to 44, with 17 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/409, para. 89)<sup>285</sup>

\* *In favour:* Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, 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, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against:* Albania, Andorra, Australia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Abstaining:* Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Ireland, Japan, Liechtenstein, Malta, New Zealand, Pakistan, Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Serbia, South Africa, South Sudan

#### 78/53. Nuclear disarmament

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 49/75 E of 15 December 1994 on a step-by-step reduction of the nuclear threat, and its resolutions 50/70 P of 12 December 1995, 51/45 O of 10 December 1996, 52/38 L of 9 December 1997, 53/77 X of 4 December 1998, 54/54 P of 1 December 1999, 55/33 T of 20 November 2000, 56/24 R of 29 November 2001, 57/79 of 22 November 2002, 58/56 of 8 December 2003, 59/77 of 3 December 2004, 60/70 of 8 December 2005, 61/78 of 6 December 2006, 62/42 of 5 December 2007, 63/46 of 2 December 2008, 64/53 of 2 December 2009, 65/56 of 8 December 2010, 66/51 of 2 December 2011, 67/60 of 3 December 2012, 68/47 of 5 December 2013, 69/48 of 2 December 2014, 70/52 of 7 December 2015, 71/63 of 5 December 2016, 72/38 of 4 December 2017, 73/50 of 5 December 2018, 74/45 of 19 December 2019, 75/63 of 7 December 2020, 76/46 of 6 December 2021 and 77/65 of 7 December 2022 on nuclear disarmament,

*Reaffirming* the commitment of the international community to the goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free world,

*Bearing in mind* that the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction of 1972<sup>286</sup> and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction of 1993<sup>287</sup> have already established legal regimes on the complete prohibition of biological and chemical weapons, respectively, and determined to achieve a comprehensive nuclear weapons convention on the prohibition of the development, testing, production, stockpiling, loan, transfer, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons and on their destruction, and to conclude such an international convention at an early date,

<sup>285</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Angola, Cuba, Eritrea, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam.

<sup>286</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1015, No. 14860.

<sup>287</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1974, No. 33757.

## II. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the First Committee

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*Recognizing* the urgent need to take concrete practical steps towards achieving the establishment of a world free of nuclear weapons,

*Bearing in mind* paragraph 50 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament,<sup>288</sup> calling for the urgent negotiation of agreements for the cessation of the qualitative improvement and development of nuclear-weapon systems and for a comprehensive and phased programme with agreed time frames, wherever feasible, for the progressive and balanced reduction of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery, leading to their ultimate and complete elimination at the earliest possible time,

*Reaffirming* the conviction of the States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons<sup>289</sup> that the Treaty is a cornerstone of nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament, and the importance of the decision on strengthening the review process for the Treaty, the decision on principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, the decision on the extension of the Treaty and the resolution on the Middle East, adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,<sup>290</sup>

*Stressing* the importance of the 13 steps for the systematic and progressive efforts to achieve the objective of nuclear disarmament leading to the total elimination of nuclear weapons, as agreed to by the States parties in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,<sup>291</sup>

*Recognizing* the important work done at the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,<sup>292</sup> and affirming its 22-point action plan on nuclear disarmament as an impetus to intensify work aimed at beginning negotiations for a nuclear weapons convention,

*Regretting* that the tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held from 1 to 26 August 2022, and the ninth Review Conference, held from 27 April to 22 May 2015, did not reach agreement on the substantive final document,

*Reaffirming* the continued validity of agreements reached at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference and the 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences until all their objectives are achieved, and calling for their full and immediate fulfilment, including the action plan on nuclear disarmament adopted at the 2010 Review Conference,

*Reiterating* the highest priority accorded to nuclear disarmament in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly and by the international community,

*Reiterating its call for* an early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty,<sup>293</sup>

*Noting* the new strategic arms reduction treaty between the Russian Federation and the United States of America, in order to achieve further cuts in their deployed and non-deployed strategic nuclear weapons, and stressing that such cuts should be irreversible, verifiable and transparent,

*Noting also* the statements by nuclear-weapon States of their intention to pursue actions in achieving a world free of nuclear weapons, as well as the steps taken to reduce the role and number of nuclear weapons, and urging nuclear-weapon States to take further measures for progress on nuclear disarmament within a specified framework of time,

*Recognizing* the complementarity of bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament, and that bilateral negotiations can never replace multilateral negotiations in this respect,

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<sup>288</sup> Resolution [S-10/2](#).

<sup>289</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

<sup>290</sup> See 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, *Final Document, Part I* (NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I) and NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I)/Corr.2), annex.

<sup>291</sup> 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, *Final Document*, vol. I (NPT/CONF.2000/28 (Parts I and II)), part I, section entitled “Article VI and eighth to twelfth preambular paragraphs”, para. 15.

<sup>292</sup> 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, *Final Document*, vols. I–III (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I), NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. II) and NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. III)).

<sup>293</sup> See resolution [50/245](#) and [A/50/1027](#).



## II. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the First Committee

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*Noting* the support expressed in the Conference on Disarmament and in the General Assembly for the elaboration of an international convention to assure non-nuclear-weapon States, without exception or discrimination, against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances, and the multilateral efforts in the Conference to reach agreement on such an international convention at an early date,

*Recalling* the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons, issued on 8 July 1996,<sup>294</sup> and welcoming the unanimous reaffirmation by all judges of the Court that there exists an obligation for all States to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control,

*Recalling also* paragraph 176 of the Final Document of the Seventeenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held on Margarita Island, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, from 13 to 18 September 2016, in which the Conference on Disarmament was called upon to agree on a balanced and comprehensive programme of work by, inter alia, establishing an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament as soon as possible and as the highest priority, while the necessity was emphasized of starting negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament, without further delay, on a comprehensive nuclear weapons convention that sets, inter alia, a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified framework of time,

*Noting* the adoption of the programme of work for the 2009 session by the Conference on Disarmament on 29 May 2009,<sup>295</sup> after years of stalemate, and regretting that the Conference did not succeed in reaching consensus on a programme of work for its 2023 session,

*Reaffirming* the proposals submitted by the States members of the Conference on Disarmament that are members of the Group of 21 on the follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament, pursuant to Assembly resolution 68/32 of 5 December 2013, as contained in documents of the Conference,<sup>296</sup>

*Reaffirming also* the importance and validity of the Conference on Disarmament as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, and expressing the need to adopt and implement a balanced and comprehensive programme of work on the basis of its agenda and dealing with, inter alia, four core issues, in accordance with the rules of procedure,<sup>297</sup> and by taking into consideration the security concerns of all States,

*Reaffirming further* the specific mandate conferred upon the Disarmament Commission by the General Assembly, in its decision 52/492 of 8 September 1998, to discuss the subject of nuclear disarmament as one of its main substantive agenda items,

*Recalling* the United Nations Millennium Declaration,<sup>298</sup> in which Heads of State and Government resolved to strive for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons, and to keep all options open for achieving that aim, including the possibility of convening an international conference to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers,

*Underlining* the importance of convening, as a priority, a United Nations high-level international conference on nuclear disarmament to review the progress made in this regard,

*Recalling* the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament held on 26 September 2013, and the strong support for nuclear disarmament expressed therein,

*Welcoming* the commemoration of 26 September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, devoted to furthering this objective, as declared by the General Assembly in its resolution 68/32 and subsequently welcomed in its resolutions 69/58 of 2 December 2014, 70/34 of 7 December 2015, 71/71 of 5 December 2016, 72/251 of 24 December 2017, 73/40 of 5 December 2018, 74/54 of 19 December 2019, 75/45 of 17 December 2020, 76/36 of 6 December 2021 and 77/47 of 7 December 2022,

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<sup>294</sup> A/51/218, annex.

<sup>295</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/64/27)*, para. 18.

<sup>296</sup> See CD/1999 and CD/2067.

<sup>297</sup> CD/8/Rev.9.

<sup>298</sup> Resolution 55/2.



## II. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the First Committee

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*Recalling* the declaration of the States members of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean on the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, in Mexico City on 26 September 2023,

*Expressing deep concern* about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons,

*Recalling* the successful convening of the first, second, third and fourth Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, in Oslo on 4 and 5 March 2013, in Nayarit, Mexico, on 13 and 14 February 2014, and in Vienna on 8 and 9 December 2014 and on 20 June 2022, and recalling also that 127 nations have formally endorsed the Humanitarian Pledge issued following the third Conference,<sup>299</sup>

*Recalling also* the signing by the nuclear-weapon States, namely, China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, of the Protocol to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia,<sup>300</sup> in New York on 6 May 2014,

*Recalling further* the proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace on 29 January 2014 during the Second Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, held in Havana on 28 and 29 January 2014,

*Welcoming* the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons<sup>301</sup> on 22 January 2021 and the successful convening of the first Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty in Vienna from 21 to 23 June 2022,

*Reaffirming* that, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, States should refrain from the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons in settling their disputes in international relations,

*Seized* of the danger of the use of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, in terrorist acts and the urgent need for concerted international efforts to control and overcome it,

1. *Urges* all nuclear-weapon States to take effective disarmament measures to achieve the total elimination of all nuclear weapons at the earliest possible time;

2. *Reaffirms* that nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation are substantively interrelated and mutually reinforcing, that the two processes must go hand in hand and that there is a genuine need for a systematic and progressive process of nuclear disarmament;

3. *Welcomes and encourages* the efforts to establish new nuclear-weapon-free zones in different parts of the world, including the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons, on the basis of agreements or arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the regions concerned, which is an effective measure for limiting the further spread of nuclear weapons geographically and contributes to the cause of nuclear disarmament;

4. *Encourages* States parties to the Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone<sup>302</sup> and the nuclear-weapon States to intensify ongoing efforts to resolve all outstanding issues, in accordance with the objectives and principles of the Treaty;

5. *Recognizes* that there is a genuine need to diminish the role of nuclear weapons in strategic doctrines and security policies to minimize the risk that these weapons will ever be used and to facilitate the process of their total elimination;

6. *Urges* the nuclear-weapon States to stop immediately the qualitative improvement, development, production and stockpiling of nuclear warheads and their delivery systems;

7. *Also urges* the nuclear-weapon States, as an interim measure, to de-alert and deactivate immediately their nuclear weapons and to take other concrete measures to reduce further the operational status of their nuclear-weapon systems, while stressing that reductions in deployments and in operational status cannot substitute for irreversible cuts in and the total elimination of nuclear weapons;

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<sup>299</sup> See [CD/2039](#).

<sup>300</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2970, No. 51633.

<sup>301</sup> [A/CONF.229/2017/8](#).

<sup>302</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1981, No. 33873.

## II. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the First Committee

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8. *Reiterates its call upon* the nuclear-weapon States to carry out effective nuclear disarmament measures with a view to achieving the total elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified framework of time;
9. *Calls upon* the nuclear-weapon States, pending the achievement of the total elimination of nuclear weapons, to agree on an internationally and legally binding instrument on a joint undertaking not to be the first to use nuclear weapons;
10. *Urges* the nuclear-weapon States to commence plurilateral negotiations among themselves at an appropriate stage on further deep reductions of their nuclear weapons, in an irreversible, verifiable and transparent manner, as an effective measure of nuclear disarmament;
11. *Underlines* the importance of applying the principles of transparency, irreversibility and verifiability to the process of nuclear disarmament;
12. *Also underlines* the importance of the unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon States, in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament, to which all States parties are committed under article VI of the Treaty, and the reaffirmation by the States parties that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;<sup>303</sup>
13. *Calls for* the full and effective implementation of the 13 practical steps for nuclear disarmament contained in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference;
14. *Also calls for* the full implementation of the action plan as set out in the conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions of the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, particularly the 22-point action plan on nuclear disarmament;
15. *Urges* the nuclear-weapon States to carry out further reductions of non-strategic nuclear weapons, including on unilateral initiatives and as an integral part of the nuclear arms reduction and disarmament process;
16. *Calls for* the immediate commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament, in the context of an agreed, comprehensive and balanced programme of work, on a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices on the basis of the report of the Special Coordinator<sup>304</sup> and the mandate contained therein;
17. *Urges* the Conference on Disarmament to commence as early as possible its substantive work during its 2024 session, on the basis of a comprehensive and balanced programme of work that takes into consideration all the real and existing priorities in the field of disarmament and arms control, including the immediate commencement of negotiations on a comprehensive nuclear weapons convention;
18. *Calls for* the conclusion of an international legal instrument on unconditional security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States against the threat or use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances;
19. *Also calls for* the early entry into force, universalization and strict observance of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty as a contribution to nuclear disarmament, while welcoming the ratifications by Solomon Islands on 20 January 2023 and Sri Lanka on 25 July 2023;
20. *Reiterates its call upon* the Conference on Disarmament to establish, as soon as possible and as the highest priority, an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament in 2024 and to commence negotiations on a phased programme of nuclear disarmament leading to the total elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified framework of time;
21. *Calls for* the convening, as soon as possible, of a United Nations high-level international conference on nuclear disarmament to review the progress made in this regard;
22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

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<sup>303</sup> 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, vol. I (NPT/CONF.2000/28 (Parts I and II)), part I, section entitled “Article VII and the security of non-nuclear-weapon States”, para. 2.

<sup>304</sup> CD/1299.

23. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “General and complete disarmament”, the sub-item entitled “Nuclear disarmament”.

### RESOLUTION 78/54

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/409, para. 89)<sup>305</sup>

#### **78/54. Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 77/80 of 7 December 2022,

*Deeply concerned* by the magnitude of human casualty and suffering, especially among children, caused by the illicit proliferation and use of small arms and light weapons,

*Concerned* by the negative impact that the illicit proliferation and use of those weapons continue to have on the efforts of States in the Sahelo-Saharan subregion in the areas of poverty eradication, sustainable development and the maintenance of peace, security and stability,

*Bearing in mind* the Bamako Declaration on an African Common Position on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons, adopted in Bamako on 1 December 2000,<sup>306</sup>

*Recalling* the report of the Secretary-General entitled “In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all”,<sup>307</sup> in which he emphasized that States must strive just as hard to eliminate the threat of small arms and light weapons as they do to eliminate the threat of weapons of mass destruction,

*Recalling also* the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, adopted on 8 December 2005,<sup>308</sup>

*Recalling further* the expression of support in the 2005 World Summit Outcome for the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects,<sup>309</sup>

*Recalling* the adoption, on 14 June 2006 in Abuja at the thirtieth ordinary summit of the Economic Community of West African States, of the Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials, in replacement of the moratorium on the importation, exportation and manufacture of small arms and light weapons in West Africa,

*Recalling also* the entry into force of the Convention on 29 September 2009,

*Recalling further* the decision taken by the Economic Community to establish the Small Arms Unit, responsible for advocating appropriate policies and developing and implementing programmes, as well as the establishment of the Economic Community’s Small Arms Control Programme, launched on 6 June 2006 in Bamako, in replacement of the Programme for Coordination and Assistance for Security and Development,

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<sup>305</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Colombia, Congo, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Eswatini, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Kiribati, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nigeria (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Economic Community of West African States), Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania and Uruguay.

<sup>306</sup> A/CONF.192/PC/23, annex.

<sup>307</sup> A/59/2005.

<sup>308</sup> See decision 60/519 and A/60/88 and A/60/88/Corr.2, annex.

<sup>309</sup> Resolution 60/1, para. 94.

## II. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the First Committee

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*Taking note* of the latest report of the Secretary-General on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects and assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them,<sup>310</sup>

*Recalling*, in that regard, the decision of the European Union to significantly support the Economic Community in its efforts to combat the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons,

*Recognizing* the important role that civil society organizations play, by raising public awareness, in efforts to curb the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons,

*Recalling* the report of the Seventh Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in New York from 26 to 30 July 2021,<sup>311</sup>

*Recalling also* the report of the third United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in New York from 18 to 29 June 2018,<sup>312</sup>

*Welcoming* the inclusion of small arms and light weapons in the scope of the Arms Trade Treaty,<sup>313</sup> as well as the inclusion of international assistance in its provisions,

1. *Commends* the United Nations and international, regional and other organizations for their assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them;

2. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to pursue his efforts in the context of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 49/75 G of 15 December 1994 and the recommendations of the United Nations advisory missions aimed at curbing the illicit circulation of small arms and light weapons and collecting them in the affected States that so request, with the support of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and in close cooperation with the African Union;

3. *Encourages* the international community to support the implementation of the Economic Community of West African States Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials;

4. *Encourages* the countries of the Sahelo-Saharan subregion to facilitate the effective functioning of national commissions to combat the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons, and in that regard invites the international community to lend its support wherever possible;

5. *Encourages* the collaboration of civil society organizations and associations in the efforts of the national commissions to combat the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and in the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects;<sup>314</sup>

6. *Encourages* cooperation among State organs, international organizations and civil society in support of programmes and projects aimed at combating the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them;

7. *Calls upon* the international community to provide technical and financial support to strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations to take action to help to combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons;

8. *Invites* the Secretary-General and those States and organizations that are in a position to do so to continue to provide assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to consider the matter and to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

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<sup>310</sup> A/78/126.

<sup>311</sup> A/CONF.192/BMS/2021/1.

<sup>312</sup> A/CONF.192/2018/RC/3.

<sup>313</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 3013, No. 52373.

<sup>314</sup> *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, New York, 9–20 July 2001 (A/CONF.192/15)*, chap. IV, para. 24.

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “General and complete disarmament”, the sub-item entitled “Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them”.

### RESOLUTION 78/55

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 120 to 50, with 14 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/410, para. 17)<sup>315</sup>

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

*Against:* Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Abstaining:* Armenia, Belarus, Brazil, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Guyana, Japan, Mali, Marshall Islands, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, South Sudan

#### 78/55. Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons

*The General Assembly,*

*Convinced* that the use of nuclear weapons poses the most serious threat to the survival of humankind,

*Bearing in mind* the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 8 July 1996 on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons,<sup>316</sup>

*Convinced* that a multilateral, universal and binding agreement prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons would contribute to the elimination of the nuclear threat and to the climate for negotiations leading to the ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons, thereby strengthening international peace and security,

*Conscious* that some steps have been taken by the Russian Federation and the United States of America towards a reduction of their nuclear weapons and that further steps – in all relevant formats – on nuclear arms control and disarmament can contribute to the improvement of the international climate and the goal of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons,

*Recalling* that, in paragraph 58 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,<sup>317</sup> it is stated that all States should actively participate in efforts to bring about conditions in international relations among States in which a code of peaceful conduct of nations in international affairs could be agreed upon and which would preclude the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

<sup>315</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Equatorial Guinea, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Maldives, Mauritius, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Sri Lanka, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

<sup>316</sup> A/51/218, annex.

<sup>317</sup> Resolution S-10/2.

## II. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the First Committee

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*Reaffirming* that any use of nuclear weapons would be a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and a crime against humanity, as declared in its resolutions 1653 (XVI) of 24 November 1961, 33/71 B of 14 December 1978, 34/83 G of 11 December 1979, 35/152 D of 12 December 1980 and 36/92 I of 9 December 1981,

*Recognizing* that a legally binding prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons is not contrary to but in fact contributes to international efforts for the achievement and maintenance of a world free of nuclear weapons,

*Stressing* that an international convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons would be an important step in a phased programme towards the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, with a specified framework of time,

*Noting with regret* that the Conference on Disarmament, during its 2023 session, was unable to undertake negotiations on this subject as called for in General Assembly resolution 77/82 of 7 December 2022,

1. *Reiterates its request* to the Conference on Disarmament to commence negotiations in order to reach agreement on an international convention prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances;

2. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament to report to the General Assembly on the results of those negotiations.

### RESOLUTION 78/56

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/410, para. 17)<sup>318</sup>

#### 78/56. United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa

*The General Assembly,*

*Mindful* of the provisions of Article 11, paragraph 1, of the Charter of the United Nations, in which it is stipulated that a function of the General Assembly is to consider the general principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security, including the principles governing disarmament and arms limitation,

*Recalling* its resolutions 40/151 G of 16 December 1985, 41/60 D of 3 December 1986, 42/39 J of 30 November 1987 and 43/76 D of 7 December 1988 on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and its resolutions 46/36 F of 6 December 1991 and 47/52 G of 9 December 1992 on regional disarmament, including confidence-building measures,

*Recalling also* its subsequent resolutions on the Regional Centre, the most recent of which is resolution 77/83 of 7 December 2022,

*Recalling further* its resolution 77/55 of 7 December 2022, in which it recognized the role of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control,

*Reaffirming* the role of the Regional Centre in promoting disarmament, peace and security at the regional level,

*Welcoming* the continuing and deepening cooperation between the Regional Centre, the African Union and African subregional organizations in the context of the adoption of Agenda 2063 by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, and in particular the objective of silencing the guns in Africa,

*Welcoming also* the work of the Regional Centre in support of the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,<sup>319</sup> in particular Goal 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions, and target 16.4, which addresses the reduction of illicit arms flows,

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<sup>318</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Australia, Austria, Nigeria (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States) and Portugal.

<sup>319</sup> See resolution 70/1.



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*Recalling* the decision taken by the Executive Council of the African Union at its eighth ordinary session, held in Khartoum from 16 to 21 January 2006,<sup>320</sup> in which the Council called upon member States to make voluntary contributions to the Regional Centre to maintain its operations,

*Recalling also* the call by the Secretary-General for continued financial and in-kind support from Member States, which would enable the Regional Centre to discharge its mandate in full and to respond more effectively to requests for assistance from African States,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>321</sup>
2. *Commends* the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa for its sustained support to Member States in implementing disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation activities through seminars and conferences, capacity-building and training, policy and technical expertise, and information and advocacy at the regional and national levels;
3. *Welcomes* the continental dimension of the activities of the Regional Centre in response to the evolving needs of African Member States and the region's new and emerging challenges in the areas of disarmament, peace and security, including maritime security;
4. *Recalls* the undertaking by the Regional Centre to deepen its partnership with the African Union Commission in the context of the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, signed on 19 April 2017, as well as with African subregional organizations, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to facilitate close cooperation between the Regional Centre and the African Union, in particular in the areas of disarmament, peace and security;
5. *Welcomes* the contribution of the Regional Centre to continental disarmament, peace and security, in particular its contribution to the implementation of Agenda 2063 adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, the objective of silencing the guns in Africa and its master road map of practical steps to silence the guns in Africa, as well as its assistance to the African Commission on Nuclear Energy in its implementation of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba);<sup>322</sup>
6. *Also welcomes* efforts by the Regional Centre to promote the role and representation of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control activities;
7. *Calls upon* Member States and other bilateral and multilateral stakeholders to further enable the Regional Centre to provide adequate assistance to African Member States on arms control and disarmament from a human security perspective, notably in the following areas of arms control: prevention of violent extremism, youth and peace and security, and women and peace and security;
8. *Notes with appreciation* the tangible achievements of the Regional Centre and the impact of the assistance that it provides to African States to control small arms and light weapons through capacity-building for national commissions on small arms and light weapons, defence and security forces, and United Nations peacekeeping mission personnel, as well as the support that the Centre provided to States in preventing the diversion of such weapons, in particular to non-State armed groups and terrorist groups,<sup>323</sup> and also notes with appreciation the assistance provided by the Centre in the implementation of the Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and All Parts and Components That Can Be Used for Their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly (Kinshasa Convention),<sup>324</sup> which entered into force on 8 March 2017, and its substantive support to the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, in the implementation of the Economic Community of West African States Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials and on security sector reform initiatives, and to East Africa on programmes to control brokering of small arms and light weapons, including the additional assistance provided by the Centre to African Member States in the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) of 28 April 2004;

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<sup>320</sup> A/60/693, annex II, decision EX.CL/Dec.263 (VIII).

<sup>321</sup> A/78/152.

<sup>322</sup> A/50/426, annex.

<sup>323</sup> Security Council resolution 2370 (2017).

<sup>324</sup> See A/65/517-S/2010/534, annex.



## II. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the First Committee

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9. *Commends* the Regional Centre for the support and assistance that it provided to African States, upon request, on the Arms Trade Treaty,<sup>325</sup> including through the organization of subregional and regional seminars and workshops;

10. *Urges* all States, as well as international governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations, to make voluntary contributions to enable the Regional Centre to carry out its programmes and activities and meet the needs of African States;

11. *Urges*, in particular, States members of the African Union to make voluntary contributions to the trust fund for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, in conformity with the decision taken by the Executive Council of the African Union in Khartoum in January 2006;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Regional Centre with the support necessary for greater achievements and results;

13. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly”, the sub-item entitled “United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa”.

### RESOLUTION 78/57

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/410, para. 17)<sup>326</sup>

#### **78/57. United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 41/60 J of 3 December 1986, 42/39 K of 30 November 1987 and 43/76 H of 7 December 1988 on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, with headquarters in Lima,

*Recalling also* its resolution 77/84 of 7 December 2022 and all previous resolutions on the Regional Centre,

*Recognizing* that the Regional Centre has continued to provide substantive support for the implementation of regional, subregional and national initiatives and has intensified its contribution to the coordination of United Nations efforts towards peace and disarmament and for the promotion of economic and social development, and emphasizing the role of the Centre in providing support for the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>327</sup>

*Reaffirming* the mandate of the Regional Centre to provide, on request, substantive support for the initiatives and other activities of the Member States of the region for the implementation of measures for peace and disarmament and for the promotion of economic and social development,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>328</sup> and expressing its appreciation for the important assistance provided, upon request, by the Regional Centre to countries in the region, including through capacity-building and technical assistance activities for the implementation of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control instruments,

*Welcoming* the support provided by the Regional Centre to Member States in the implementation of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control instruments,

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<sup>325</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 3013, No. 52373.

<sup>326</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by Peru (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States).

<sup>327</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>328</sup> A/78/153.

## II. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the First Committee

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*Emphasizing* the need for the Regional Centre to further develop and strengthen its activities and programmes in a comprehensive and balanced manner, in accordance with its mandate and in line with the requests for assistance by Member States,

*Welcoming* the ongoing support provided by the Regional Centre to Member States in the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects,<sup>329</sup>

*Welcoming also* the assistance provided by the Regional Centre to States, upon request, in the management and securing of national weapons stockpiles and in the identification and destruction of surplus, obsolete or seized weapons and ammunition, as declared by competent national authorities, in particular the implementation of the Roadmap for Implementing the Caribbean Priority Actions on the Illicit Proliferation of Firearms and Ammunition across the Caribbean in a Sustainable Manner by 2030 (Caribbean Firearms Roadmap),

*Welcoming further* the initiative of the Regional Centre to continue to conduct activities in line with efforts to promote the equitable representation of women and the engagement of youth in all decision-making and implementation processes with regard to matters related to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, as encouraged in its resolutions 65/69 of 8 December 2010 and 74/64 of 12 December 2019,

*Recalling* the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the relationship between disarmament and development,<sup>330</sup> referred to in General Assembly resolution 59/78 of 3 December 2004, which is of utmost interest with regard to the role that the Regional Centre plays in promoting the issue in the region in pursuit of its mandate to promote economic and social development related to peace and disarmament,

*Noting* that security, disarmament and development issues have always been recognized as significant topics in Latin America and the Caribbean, the first inhabited region in the world to be declared a nuclear-weapon-free zone,

*Recognizing* the cooperation between the Regional Centre and the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean on strengthening the nuclear-weapon-free zone established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco),<sup>331</sup> as well as its efforts in promoting peace and disarmament education, especially among youth,

*Bearing in mind* the important role of the Regional Centre in promoting confidence-building measures, arms control and limitation, disarmament and development at the regional level,

*Recognizing* the importance of information, research, education and training for peace, disarmament and development in order to achieve understanding and cooperation among States,

1. *Reiterates its strong support* for the role of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in the promotion of activities of the United Nations at the regional and subregional levels to strengthen peace, disarmament, stability, security and development among its Member States;

2. *Welcomes* the activities carried out in the past year by the Regional Centre, and requests the Centre to continue to take into account the proposals to be submitted by the countries of the region for the implementation of the mandate of the Centre in the areas of peace, disarmament and development and for the promotion of, inter alia, the prevention, combating and eradication of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, ammunition and explosives, the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the reduction and prevention of armed violence at the regional and subregional levels;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* for the political support provided by Member States, as well as for the financial contributions made by Member States and international governmental and non-governmental organizations, to strengthen the Regional Centre, its programme of activities and the implementation thereof, and encourages them to continue to make and to increase voluntary contributions;

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<sup>329</sup> Report of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, New York, 9–20 July 2001 (A/CONF.192/15), chap. IV, para. 24.

<sup>330</sup> See A/59/119.

<sup>331</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 634, No. 9068.

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4. *Invites* all States of the region to continue to take part in the activities of the Regional Centre, proposing items for inclusion in its programme of activities and maximizing the potential of the Centre to meet the current challenges facing the international community with a view to fulfilling the aims of the Charter of the United Nations in the areas of peace, disarmament and development;

5. *Recognizes* that the Regional Centre has an important role in the promotion and development of regional and subregional initiatives agreed upon by the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in the field of weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons, and conventional arms, including small arms and light weapons, in the relationship between disarmament and development, including the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals,<sup>332</sup> in the promotion of the participation of women and youth in this field and in strengthening voluntary confidence-building measures among the countries of the region;

6. *Encourages* the Regional Centre to further develop activities in all countries of the region in the important areas of peace, disarmament and development and to provide, upon request and in accordance with its mandate, support to Member States of the region in the national implementation of relevant instruments, inter alia, the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and the Arms Trade Treaty,<sup>333</sup> as well as in the implementation of the 1540 programme on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly”, the sub-item entitled “United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean”.

### RESOLUTION 78/58

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/410, para. 17)<sup>334</sup>

#### 78/58. United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 42/39 D of 30 November 1987 and 44/117 F of 15 December 1989, by which it established the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and renamed it the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, with headquarters in Kathmandu,

*Recalling also* the mandate of the Regional Centre to provide, on request, substantive support for the initiatives and other activities mutually agreed upon by the Member States of the Asia-Pacific region for the implementation of measures for peace and disarmament, through appropriate utilization of available resources,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>335</sup> and expressing its appreciation to the Regional Centre for its important work in promoting dialogue and confidence-building measures through the organization of meetings, conferences and workshops in the region, including the twenty-first United Nations-Republic of Korea Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Issues; the webinar in support of the establishment and maintenance of gun-free zones in Asia and the Pacific; national and subregional workshops on awareness-raising and promoting the full and universal implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production

<sup>332</sup> See resolution 70/1.

<sup>333</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 3013, No. 52373.

<sup>334</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Malaysia, Maldives, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

<sup>335</sup> A/78/123.

and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction,<sup>336</sup> the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism,<sup>337</sup> the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects<sup>338</sup> and Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) of 28 April 2004; capacity-building training for States of Asia and the Pacific on strengthening the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects;<sup>339</sup> capacity-building activities for States of Asia and the Pacific on gun violence and illicit small arms trafficking from a gender perspective; activities to promote transparency and confidence-building measures among States in Asia and the Pacific; and activities to strengthen partnership with civil society organizations, universities and schools to foster dialogue and raise awareness on disarmament issues, the linkages between gender and peace and disarmament, and the nexus between disarmament and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>340</sup>

*Expressing appreciation* for the timely execution by Nepal of its host country commitments for the physical operation of the Regional Centre,

*Welcoming* the work by the Regional Centre in support of the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 5 and 16, in particular target 5.2 to eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls, target 5.5 to ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership and target 16.4 to significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows,

*Welcoming also* the efforts by the Regional Centre to promote the role and representation of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control activities,

*Welcoming further* the youth-focused outreach activities undertaken by the Regional Centre,

1. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the activities carried out over the past year by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, and invites all States of the region to continue to support the activities of the Regional Centre, including by continuing to take part in them, where possible, and by proposing items for inclusion in the programme of activities of the Centre, in order to contribute to the implementation of measures for peace and disarmament;
2. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Government of Nepal for its cooperation and financial support, which has enabled the Regional Centre to operate from Kathmandu;
3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General and the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat for providing the necessary support with a view to ensuring the smooth operation of the Regional Centre and to enabling the Centre to function effectively;
4. *Appeals* to Member States, in particular those within the Asia-Pacific region, as well as to international governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations, to make voluntary contributions, the only resources of the Regional Centre, to strengthen its programme of activities and the implementation thereof;
5. *Reaffirms its strong support* for the role of the Regional Centre in the promotion of activities of the United Nations at the regional level to strengthen peace, stability and security among its Member States;
6. *Underlines* the importance of the Kathmandu process for the development of the practice of region-wide security and disarmament dialogues;
7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

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<sup>336</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1015, No. 14860.

<sup>337</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2445, No. 44004.

<sup>338</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1342, No. 22495.

<sup>339</sup> *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects*, New York, 9–20 July 2001 (A/CONF.192/15), chap. IV, para. 24.

<sup>340</sup> Resolution 70/1.

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly”, the sub-item entitled “United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific”.

### RESOLUTION 78/59

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/410, para. 17)<sup>341</sup>

#### **78/59. Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its previous relevant resolutions, in particular its resolution 77/86 of 7 December 2022,

*Recalling also* the guidelines for general and complete disarmament adopted at its tenth special session, the first special session devoted to disarmament,

*Bearing in mind* the establishment by the Secretary-General on 28 May 1992 of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, the purpose of which is to encourage arms limitation, disarmament, non-proliferation and development in the Central Africa subregion,

*Recalling* that the purpose of the Standing Advisory Committee is to conduct reconstruction and confidence-building activities in Central Africa among its member States, including through confidence-building and arms limitation measures,

*Considering* the importance and effectiveness of confidence-building measures taken on the initiative and with the participation of all States concerned and taking into account the specific characteristics of each region, since such measures can contribute to regional stability and to international peace and security,

*Convinced* that development can be achieved only in a climate of peace, security and mutual confidence both within and among States,

*Reaffirming* the importance and relevance of the Standing Advisory Committee as an instrument of preventive diplomacy in the subregional architecture for the promotion of peace and security in Central Africa,

*Bearing in mind* the revitalization of the activities of the Standing Advisory Committee decided upon at the forty-fourth ministerial meeting of the Committee, held in Yaoundé from 29 May to 2 June 2017, with a view to enhancing its contribution to the achievement of the objectives of peace, security and development in Central Africa,

*Taking note* of the conclusions of the scientific symposium, held to mark the thirtieth anniversary of the Standing Advisory Committee, on its substantial contribution in the service of preventive diplomacy, as well as the recommendations and the road map for their implementation,

*Recalling* the entry into force of the Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and All Parts and Components That Can Be Used for Their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly (Kinshasa Convention) on 8 March 2017<sup>342</sup> and the ninth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty, held in Geneva from 21 to 23 August 2023,

*Convinced* that the resources released by disarmament, including regional disarmament, can be devoted to economic and social development and to the protection of the environment for the benefit of all peoples, in particular those of developing countries,

*Reaffirming* the Libreville Declaration on the Adoption and Implementation of the Regional Strategy and Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism and the Trafficking in Small Arms and Light Weapons in Central Africa, adopted

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<sup>341</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by Sao Tome and Principe (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Economic Community of Central African States).

<sup>342</sup> See A/65/517-S/2010/534, annex.

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by the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee on 26 November 2015 at their forty-first ministerial meeting, held in Libreville from 23 to 27 November 2015,<sup>343</sup>

*Recalling* the communiqués of the forty-eighth<sup>344</sup> and forty-ninth ministerial meetings of the Standing Advisory Committee, held from 27 to 31 May and from 25 to 29 November 2019 in Kinshasa and Luanda, respectively, the Brazzaville Declaration on Cooperation for Peace and Security in Central Africa,<sup>345</sup> the Bata Declaration for the Promotion of Lasting Democracy, Peace and Development in Central Africa<sup>346</sup> and the Yaoundé Declaration on Peace, Security and Stability in Central Africa,<sup>347</sup>

*Bearing in mind* resolutions 1196 (1998) and 1197 (1998), adopted by the Security Council on 16 and 18 September 1998, respectively, following its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa,<sup>348</sup>

*Recalling* Security Council resolution 2634 (2022) of 31 May 2022 on maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea,

*Recalling also* the successful conclusion of the Summit of Heads of State and Government on Maritime Safety and Security in the Gulf of Guinea, held in Yaoundé on 24 and 25 June 2013, and the decision taken at the Summit to establish the Code of Conduct concerning the Repression of Piracy, Armed Robbery against Ships and Illicit Maritime Activity in West and Central Africa (Yaoundé Code of Conduct), the tenth anniversary of which is being celebrated in 2023, and recalling also the inauguration in Yaoundé, on 11 September 2014, of the Interregional Coordination Centre for Maritime Security in the Gulf of Guinea, the effective commencement of its activities with the installation of its statutory officials in Yaoundé on 22 February 2017, the inauguration of new offices of the Regional Centre for Maritime Security in Central Africa in Pointe Noire, Congo, on 20 October 2014, and the launch of the Multinational Maritime Coordination Centre in Cotonou, Benin, in March 2015, and also the conclusion of the African Union Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa, held in Lomé on 15 October 2016,

*Recalling further* its resolution 69/314 of 30 July 2015, the first such resolution on tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife, and also its resolutions 70/301 of 9 September 2016, 71/326 of 11 September 2017, 73/343 of 16 September 2019, 75/311 of 23 July 2021 and 77/325 of 25 August 2023, and reaffirming the outcome of the high-level meetings on poaching and illicit wildlife trafficking, hosted by Gabon and Germany and held on the margins of the high-level segments of the sixty-eighth and sixty-ninth sessions of the General Assembly,

*Emphasizing* the need to strengthen the capacity for early warning, conflict prevention and peacekeeping in Africa, and recalling in this regard the concrete conflict prevention initiatives facilitated by the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs of the Secretariat,

*Welcoming* the establishment of the Commission of the Economic Community of Central African States and the close cooperation between the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa and the Economic Community, as well as the signing of the framework cooperation agreement between the two entities on 14 June 2016,

*Taking note* of the decisions adopted by the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of Central African States at its eighteenth ordinary session, held in Libreville on 27 November 2020; at its nineteenth ordinary session, held virtually on 30 July 2021; at its twentieth session, held on 19 January 2022 in Brazzaville; at its twenty-first session, held on 25 July 2022 in Kinshasa; at its twenty-second session, held on 25 February 2023 in Kinshasa; and at its twenty-third session, held on 1 July 2023 in Libreville,

*Welcoming* the continued implementation of the institutional reform of the Economic Community of Central African States and the installation of the Committee of the Wise,

*Bearing in mind* the increased focus of the Standing Advisory Committee on human security questions, such as trafficking in persons, especially women and children, as an important consideration for subregional peace, stability

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<sup>343</sup> See A/70/682-S/2016/39, annex 3.

<sup>344</sup> A/73/967-S/2019/613, annex, enclosure I.

<sup>345</sup> A/50/474, annex I.

<sup>346</sup> A/53/258-S/1998/763, annex II, appendix I.

<sup>347</sup> A/53/868-S/1999/303, annex II.

<sup>348</sup> A/52/871-S/1998/318.



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and conflict prevention, and recalling the adoption by the General Assembly at its seventy-second session of the political declaration on the implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons<sup>349</sup> following the high-level meeting of the Assembly on the appraisal of the Global Plan of Action,

*Expressing continued concern* about the fragile situation in the Central African Republic and the country's vulnerability to regional instability, and noting the importance of promoting the political process through the joint road map for peace in the Central African Republic of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, harmonized with the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic, and of addressing the root causes of conflict in the country to ensure lasting peace,

*Welcoming* the efforts of the Government of the Central African Republic to strengthen the authority of the State, coupled with the extension of political and peace processes to the local level, creating a window of opportunity to foster inclusive dialogue, revitalize the architecture of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation, and disassociate armed groups from violent struggle through mediation and political participation,

*Welcoming* the appointment of the President of the Central African Republic, Faustin-Archange Touadéra, as facilitator of the Economic Community of Central African States for the situation in Gabon, on 31 August, and the commitments that he subsequently made to various Gabonese political actors on a road map for dialogue and a return to constitutional order,

*Highlighting* the regional security implications of the situation in the Central African Republic, and reiterating the commitment of the region and the international community to supporting the parties in the effective implementation of the Political Agreement, including through the provision of political, security, technical and financial support,

*Welcoming* the signature of a memorandum on cross-border security between the Central African Republic and South Sudan, on 1 September 2023, and the adoption of the national policy for the management of border areas in the Central African Republic on 11 September 2023, as well as the conclusion, on 28 September 2023, of the voluntary repatriation of elements of the Lord's Resistance Army to Uganda, thanks in particular to the support of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic,

*Welcoming* the signature by the Central African Republic and its neighbouring countries, in Yaoundé on 27 April 2022, of a joint declaration on the dignified return of refugees of the Central African Republic to their country,

*Recalling* the Brazzaville Declaration on Confidence-Building Measures,<sup>350</sup> and expressing concern that the issue of mercenaries has become a major security concern, undermining trust and creating tensions among States members of the Standing Advisory Committee,

*Welcoming* the adoption of the declaration on democratic and peaceful elections as a means of strengthening stability and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Central Africa at the fiftieth ministerial meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee,<sup>351</sup>

*Welcoming* the call by States members of the Economic Community of Central African States during the forty-ninth ministerial meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee, in Luanda, on the need to strengthen partnership with the United Nations to address the impact of climate change on peace and security in Central Africa, and strengthened by the fifty-fifth ministerial meeting, held in Sao Tome,

*Expressing concern* about the impact of cross-border criminality, in particular the activities of the Lord's Resistance Army, the terrorist attacks by groups affiliated with Boko Haram in the Lake Chad basin region and incidents of piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, the illegal exploitation of natural resources, and the issue of transhumance and its cross-border security implications for peace, security and development in Central Africa,

*Welcoming* the progress made by the States members of the Lake Chad Basin Commission and Benin in making the Multinational Joint Task Force operational in order to combat effectively the threat posed by the Boko Haram terrorist group to the Lake Chad basin region,

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<sup>349</sup> Resolution 72/1.

<sup>350</sup> A/73/224, annex IV.

<sup>351</sup> A/76/274, annex I.



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*Recalling* the adoption by the Lake Chad Basin Commission, with the support of the African Union, of the Regional Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience Strategy for Areas Affected by Boko Haram in the Lake Chad Basin Region, in Abuja on 30 August 2018,

*Bearing in mind* Security Council resolution 2349 (2017) of 31 March 2017, in which the Council called for, inter alia, increased assistance to the countries of the region,

*Considering* the urgent need to prevent the possible movement of illicit weapons, mercenaries and combatants involved in conflicts in the Sahel and in neighbouring countries in the Central African subregion,

*Concerned* by the persistence of the humanitarian crisis due to the displacement of populations in several Member States, the resurgence of inter-community conflicts due in particular to the scarcity of resources, the use of transhumance for criminal purposes, now identified as a phenomenon of emerging insecurity in Central Africa, as well as the rise of hate speech, especially during electoral processes,

*Recalling* the conclusions of the fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth ministerial meetings of the Standing Advisory Committee, held in Kintélé, Congo, from 12 to 16 January 2023 and in Sao Tome from 15 to 19 May 2023, respectively,

1. *Reaffirms its support* for efforts aimed at promoting confidence-building measures at the regional and subregional levels in order to ease tensions and conflicts in Central Africa and to further sustainable peace, stability and development in the subregion;

2. *Welcomes and encourages* the initiative of the States members of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa to further develop collaboration and synergies with the Economic Community of Central African States;

3. *Welcomes* the role played by the Standing Advisory Committee throughout the 30 years of its existence, which has enabled the creation of institutions, such as the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa and the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa and its organs, including the early warning mechanism for Central Africa and the Central Africa Multinational Force, which have contributed towards the establishment of lasting peace in the subregion;

4. *Invites* the Standing Advisory Committee and the Economic Community of Central African States to continue discussions on the relationship between the two entities in the light of the institutional reform of the Economic Community, and urges them to consider how to harmonize their views and actions so as to avoid overlap and duplication in the implementation of their respective mandates;

5. *Encourages* the Standing Advisory Committee, in view of the repositioning of the Economic Community of Central African States and the strengthening of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, to continue to serve within the United Nations as a high-level body for continuous monitoring, reflection and the fostering of solutions, with regard to the concerns and needs of the Central African subregion in the area of peace and security;

6. *Welcomes* efforts under way by the Standing Advisory Committee and its secretariat to implement the communication strategy adopted at the forty-fifth ministerial meeting of the Committee, held in Kigali from 4 to 8 December 2017, and encourages member States and other partners to support initiatives aimed at increasing the visibility of the Committee, including among the populations of the subregion, in cooperation with civil society;

7. *Reaffirms* the importance of disarmament and arms control programmes in Central Africa carried out by the States of the subregion with the support of the United Nations, the African Union and other international partners;

8. *Encourages* Member States to provide assistance to those States members of the Standing Advisory Committee that have ratified the Arms Trade Treaty, and encourages those that have not yet done so to ratify the Treaty;<sup>352</sup>

9. *Encourages* States members of the Standing Advisory Committee and other interested States to provide financial support for the implementation of the Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light

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<sup>352</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 3013, No. 52373.

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Weapons, Their Ammunition and All Parts and Components That Can Be Used for Their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly (Kinshasa Convention), and encourages signatories that have not yet done so to ratify the Convention;

10. *Welcomes* the holding of the first Conference of States Parties to the Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and All Parts and Components That Can Be Used for Their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly, in Yaoundé from 11 to 13 June 2018, in accordance with article 34, paragraph 3, of the Kinshasa Convention, and requests the Secretary-General to convene the review conference of the Kinshasa Convention, in accordance with article 34, paragraph 5, of the Convention, at the earliest opportunity, working closely with the Economic Community of Central African States;

11. *Encourages* Member States to assist States parties to the Kinshasa Convention with coordination activities for the control of small arms and light weapons at the regional and national levels, including funding thereof, as expeditiously as possible;

12. *Urges* Member States to increase financing for the Saving Lives Entity fund and to support the projects and activities of Member States, in particular by supporting the establishment and strengthening of national commissions for the control of small arms and light weapons, the establishment of a platform for the exchange of experiences among the national commissions, and the establishment and operationalization of the Convention secretariat;

13. *Reaffirms its support* for the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy<sup>353</sup> and its four pillars, which constitute an ongoing effort, and calls upon Member States, the United Nations and other appropriate international, regional and subregional organizations to step up their efforts to implement the Strategy in an integrated and balanced manner and in all aspects;

14. *Welcomes* the adoption, by the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of Central African States at its seventeenth ordinary session, on 30 July 2020, of the strategy on preventing and combating terrorism in Central Africa, and requests a review thereof to strengthen the strategy in the light of the conclusions of the African Union Extraordinary Summit, held in Malabo on 28 May 2022;

15. *Welcomes* the joint summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States and the Economic Community of Central African States, in coordination with the African Union Commission, on peace, security, stability and the fight against terrorism and violent extremism, held in Lomé on 30 July 2018, and recalls the Lomé Declaration on Peace, Security, Stability and the Fight against Terrorism and Violent Extremism adopted at that summit;

16. *Encourages* the Economic Community of Central African States and the Economic Community of West African States to work together towards the implementation of the Lomé Declaration;

17. *Encourages* the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee to carry out the programmes of activities adopted at their ministerial meetings, and requests the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa to continue to provide support;

18. *Appeals* to the international community to support the efforts undertaken by the States concerned to implement disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes, as well as security sector reforms, and urges the States concerned to ensure that such programmes take into consideration the needs of women and children associated with former combatants;

19. *Welcomes* the efforts of Cameroon and the Congo in providing assistance to the Interregional Coordination Centre for Maritime Security in the Gulf of Guinea and the Regional Centre for Maritime Security in Central Africa, respectively, and urges other member States to honour their financial commitments in order to ensure the predictable and sustainable operation of the two Centres, and encourages the Economic Community of Central African States, in the context of the tenth anniversary of the Yaoundé Code of Conduct, to strengthen maritime security measures, particularly in the Gulf of Guinea, and also in the context of climate change and the increased vulnerability of island States, to strengthen maritime security measures in relation to border countries;

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<sup>353</sup> Resolution [60/288](#).

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20. *Encourages* Member States to continue to implement the outcomes of the Summit of Heads of State and Government on Maritime Safety and Security in the Gulf of Guinea by operationalizing the Interregional Coordination Centre for Maritime Security in the Gulf of Guinea and activities of the Regional Centre for Maritime Security in Central Africa, and also encourages the implementation of the Charter on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa adopted at the African Union Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa;

21. *Calls upon* Member States and subregional bodies to take immediate concerted action to counter the phenomenon of poaching and trafficking in wildlife and natural resources, including through the implementation of the provisions of its resolutions [69/314](#), [70/301](#), [71/326](#), [73/343](#), [75/311](#) and [77/325](#);

22. *Welcomes* the progress made by the Economic Community of Central African States and the Economic Community of West African States in initiating common policies and joint programmes on the management of pastoralism and cross-border transhumance, and encourages the Economic Community of Central African States to adopt the protocol on pastoralism and cross-border transhumance in Central Africa;

23. *Encourages* the development of mechanisms for regulation by the Economic Community of Central African States, and calls for the holding of a high-level conference to discuss issues relating to pastoralism and cross-border transhumance with a view to ensuring joint and integrated management thereof;

24. *Welcomes* the adoption by the Standing Advisory Committee, at its fifty-fifth ministerial meeting, of the Kintélé Declaration on hate speech in Central Africa,<sup>354</sup> on 16 January 2023 in Kintélé, Congo, welcomes also the adoption in Kinshasa, on 24 June 2022, of the draft regional strategy and plan of action for preventing and combating hate speech in written, audiovisual and digital communication media in Central Africa, and encourages its political endorsement without delay by the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee, with a view to the development of a common approach for deconstructing such discourse and promoting coexistence in the countries of the Economic Community of Central African States;

25. *Requests* the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, in collaboration with the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, to facilitate the efforts undertaken by the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee, in particular for their execution of the Implementation Plan for the Kinshasa Convention;<sup>355</sup>

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, with the support of the international community, to continue to assist the countries of Central Africa in tackling the issues of refugees and displaced persons in their territories, recalling the Sao Tome Declaration on refugees and internally displaced persons,<sup>356</sup> adopted at the fifty-fifth ministerial meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee;

27. *Also requests* the Secretary-General and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to help the countries of Central Africa to tackle the issue of youth emigration, especially the emigration of qualified young people due to a lack of opportunities, which threatens to undermine the development process of these countries in the long term;

28. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to provide their full assistance to the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa;

29. *Welcomes* the increased contributions made by several Member States to the trust fund of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, reminds the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee of the commitments that they undertook on the adoption of the Declaration on the Trust Fund of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa on 8 May

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<sup>354</sup> [A/78/266](#), annex II.

<sup>355</sup> See [A/65/717-S/2011/53](#), annex.

<sup>356</sup> [A/78/266](#), annex III.

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2009<sup>357</sup> and the Bangui Declaration on 10 June 2016,<sup>358</sup> and invites those States members of the Committee that have not already done so to contribute to the trust fund;

30. *Urges* other Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to support the activities of the Standing Advisory Committee effectively through voluntary contributions to the trust fund;

31. *Urges* the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee, in accordance with Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000, to strengthen the gender component of the various meetings of the Committee relating to disarmament and international security, in line with the Sao Tome Declaration on the Participation of Women in the Statutory Meetings of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, adopted on 1 December 2016,<sup>359</sup> in which member States were invited to increase the representation of women in delegations participating in the statutory meetings of the Committee, and strongly encourages the States members of the Committee to ensure that gender-related considerations are taken into account in the activities of the Committee;

32. *Expresses its satisfaction* to the Secretary-General for his support to the Standing Advisory Committee, expresses appreciation for the role played by the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa and strongly encourages the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee and international partners to support the work of the Office;

33. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Standing Advisory Committee towards addressing cross-border security threats in Central Africa, including activities of groups affiliated with Boko Haram and the Lord's Resistance Army, and acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea in the Gulf of Guinea, the issue of transhumance and its cross-border security implications, as well as the fallout from the situation in the Central African Republic, and also welcomes the role of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa in coordinating those efforts, working closely with the Economic Community of Central African States, the African Union and all relevant regional and international partners;

34. *Expresses its satisfaction* to the Secretary-General for his support for the revitalization of the activities of the Standing Advisory Committee, and requests him to continue to provide the assistance needed to ensure the success of its regular meetings;

35. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

36. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled "Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly", the sub-item entitled "Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa".

### RESOLUTION 78/60

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/410, para. 17)<sup>360</sup>

#### 78/60. United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 60/83 of 8 December 2005, 61/90 of 6 December 2006, 62/50 of 5 December 2007, 63/76 of 2 December 2008, 64/58 of 2 December 2009, 65/78 of 8 December 2010, 66/53 of 2 December 2011, 67/63 of 3 December 2012, 68/57 of 5 December 2013, 69/70 of 2 December 2014, 70/61 of 7 December 2015, 71/80 of

<sup>357</sup> A/64/85-S/2009/288, annex I.

<sup>358</sup> A/71/293, annex I.

<sup>359</sup> A/72/363, annex II.

<sup>360</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by Indonesia (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries).

## II. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the First Committee

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5 December 2016, [72/64](#) of 4 December 2017, [73/80](#) of 5 December 2018, [74/70](#) of 12 December 2019, [75/81](#) of 7 December 2020, [76/61](#) of 6 December 2021 and [77/88](#) of 7 December 2022 regarding the maintenance and revitalization of the three United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament,

*Recalling also* the reports of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa,<sup>361</sup> the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific<sup>362</sup> and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean,<sup>363</sup>

*Reaffirming* its decision, taken in 1982 at its twelfth special session, to establish the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme, the purpose of which is to inform, educate and generate public understanding and support for the objectives of the United Nations in the field of arms control and disarmament,

*Bearing in mind* its resolutions [40/151](#) G of 16 December 1985, [41/60](#) J of 3 December 1986, [42/39](#) D of 30 November 1987 and [44/117](#) F of 15 December 1989 on the regional centres for peace and disarmament in Nepal, Peru and Togo,

*Recalling* that the thirtieth anniversary of the establishment by the General Assembly of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean was celebrated in 2016 and in 2017,

*Recognizing* that the changes that have taken place in the world have created new opportunities and posed new challenges for the pursuit of disarmament, and bearing in mind in this regard that the regional centres for peace and disarmament can contribute substantially to understanding and cooperation among States in each particular region in the areas of peace, disarmament and development,

*Noting* that, in paragraph 279 of the Final Document of the Eighteenth Summit of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Baku on 25 and 26 October 2019,<sup>364</sup> the Heads of State or Government emphasized the importance of United Nations activities at the regional level to increase the stability and security of its Member States, which could be promoted in a substantive manner by the maintenance and revitalization of the three regional centres for peace and disarmament,

1. *Reiterates* the importance of United Nations activities at the regional level to advance disarmament and to increase the stability and security of its Member States, which could be promoted in a substantive manner by the maintenance and further strengthening of the three regional centres for peace and disarmament;

2. *Commends* the three regional centres for peace and disarmament for their sustained support provided to Member States for over 30 years in implementing disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation activities through seminars and conferences, capacity-building and training, policy and technical expertise, and information and advocacy at the global, regional and national levels;

3. *Reaffirms* that, in order to achieve positive results, it is useful for the three regional centres to carry out dissemination and educational programmes that promote regional peace and security and that are aimed at changing basic attitudes with respect to peace and security and disarmament so as to support the achievement of the purposes and principles of the United Nations;

4. *Appeals* to Member States in each region that are able to do so, as well as to international governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations, to make voluntary contributions to the regional centres in their respective regions in order to strengthen their activities and initiatives;

5. *Emphasizes* the importance of the activities of the Regional Disarmament, Information and Outreach Branch of the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat;

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<sup>361</sup> [A/78/152](#).

<sup>362</sup> [A/78/123](#).

<sup>363</sup> [A/78/153](#).

<sup>364</sup> [A/74/548](#), annex.

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6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all support necessary, within existing resources, to the regional centres in carrying out their programmes of activities;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly”, the sub-item entitled “United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament”.

### RESOLUTION 78/61

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/576, para. 9)<sup>365</sup>

#### 78/61. Report of the Conference on Disarmament

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the report of the Conference on Disarmament,<sup>366</sup>

*Recalling* its resolution 77/89 of 7 December 2022,

*Convinced* that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community, has the primary role in substantive negotiations on priority questions of disarmament,

*Recognizing* the addresses of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and other high-level officials in the Conference on Disarmament, and referring to their various expressions of support for and concern about the endeavours of the Conference and calls for the Conference to commence negotiations without delay to advance disarmament goals through the adoption of a balanced and comprehensive programme of work,

*Recognizing also* the need to conduct multilateral negotiations with the aim of reaching agreement on concrete issues, and emphasizing the importance of effective multilateralism in the context of the changing international climate,

*Noting with renewed concern* that, despite the intensive efforts by States members and Presidents of the Conference on Disarmament at its 2023 session to reach consensus on a programme of work on the basis of relevant proposals and suggestions, the Conference did not succeed in commencing its substantive work by means of negotiations or agree to a programme of work, although the Conference did hold substantive thematic discussions on its agenda items,

*Recalling*, in this respect, that the Conference on Disarmament has a number of priority issues for negotiation to achieve disarmament goals,

*Welcoming* the overwhelming call for greater flexibility with respect to implementing the mandate of the Conference on Disarmament on the basis of a balanced and comprehensive programme of work,

*Underlining* the need for continued cooperation among the States members of the Conference on Disarmament as well as among the successive Presidents of the Conference,

*Noting with appreciation* the efforts and contributions made at the 2023 session to promote substantive discussions on issues on the agenda,

*Reaffirming* the importance of multilateralism and the principle of inclusivity in the work of the Conference on Disarmament, and noting with regret that the latter has not always been sufficiently ensured,<sup>367</sup> while recalling in this regard the rules of procedure of the Conference,

*Acknowledging* the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, as a stand-alone, autonomous institution, and the contribution that its research makes,

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<sup>365</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by Hungary.

<sup>366</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/78/27).*

<sup>367</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 9.



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*Recognizing* the importance of engagement between civil society and the Conference on Disarmament according to decisions taken by the Conference,

1. *Reaffirms* the role of the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community;

2. *Appreciates* the strong support expressed for the Conference on Disarmament at its 2023 session by Ministers for Foreign Affairs and other high-level officials, while also acknowledging their concern about its ongoing impasse of more than two decades, and takes into account their calls for greater flexibility with respect to commencing the substantive work of the Conference without further delay;

3. *Calls upon* the Conference on Disarmament to further intensify consultations and to explore possibilities for overcoming its ongoing deadlock by adopting and implementing a balanced and comprehensive programme of work at the earliest possible date during its 2024 session, bearing in mind the decision on the programme of work adopted by the Conference on 29 May 2009,<sup>368</sup> as well as other relevant present, past and future proposals;

4. *Encourages* the current President and the incoming President of the Conference on Disarmament to conduct consultations on the activities of the Conference in fulfilling its mandate during the intersessional period and, if possible, to make recommendations, taking into account all relevant proposals, past, present and future, including those submitted as documents of the Conference, views presented and discussions held, and to endeavour to keep the membership of the Conference informed, as appropriate, of their consultations;

5. *Requests* the current President and successive Presidents of the Conference on Disarmament to cooperate with the States members of the Conference in the effort to guide the Conference to the early commencement of its substantive work, including negotiations, at its 2024 session;

6. *Recognizes* the importance of continuing consultations in 2024 on the question of the expansion of the membership of the Conference on Disarmament;

7. *Calls upon* the Conference on Disarmament to undertake efforts to ensure inclusivity and multilateralism in its work, including through participation at its sessions, in accordance with its rules of procedure;<sup>369</sup>

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure and to strengthen, if needed, the provision to the Conference on Disarmament of all necessary administrative, substantive and conference support services;

9. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session a report on its work;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session”, the sub-item entitled “Report of the Conference on Disarmament”.

### RESOLUTION 78/62

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/576, para. 9)<sup>370</sup>

#### 78/62. Report of the Disarmament Commission

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the report of the Disarmament Commission,<sup>371</sup>

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<sup>368</sup> Ibid., *Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/64/27)*, para. 18.

<sup>369</sup> CD/8/Rev.10, paras. 32–36.

<sup>370</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by Kazakhstan (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Bureau of the Disarmament Commission).

<sup>371</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/78/42)*.



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Recalling its resolutions 47/54 A of 9 December 1992, 47/54 G of 8 April 1993, 48/77 A of 16 December 1993, 49/77 A of 15 December 1994, 50/72 D of 12 December 1995, 51/47 B of 10 December 1996, 52/40 B of 9 December 1997, 53/79 A of 4 December 1998, 54/56 A of 1 December 1999, 55/35 C of 20 November 2000, 56/26 A of 29 November 2001, 57/95 of 22 November 2002, 58/67 of 8 December 2003, 59/105 of 3 December 2004, 60/91 of 8 December 2005, 61/98 of 6 December 2006, 62/54 of 5 December 2007, 63/83 of 2 December 2008, 64/65 of 2 December 2009, 65/86 of 8 December 2010, 66/60 of 2 December 2011, 67/71 of 3 December 2012, 68/63 of 5 December 2013, 69/77 of 2 December 2014, 70/68 of 7 December 2015, 71/82 of 5 December 2016, 72/66 of 4 December 2017, 73/82 of 5 December 2018 and 77/90 of 7 December 2022, and its decisions 74/511 of 12 December 2019, 74/546 of 2 April 2020, 75/519 A of 7 December 2020, 75/519 B of 25 March 2021 and 76/518 of 6 December 2021,

Considering the role that the Disarmament Commission has been called upon to play and the contribution that it should make in examining and submitting recommendations on various problems in the field of disarmament and in promoting the implementation of the relevant decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session,

Recalling in particular General Assembly resolution 45/62 B of 4 December 1990, in which it noted with satisfaction the adoption by consensus of a set of “Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission”,<sup>372</sup> Assembly decision 52/492 of 8 September 1998 concerning the efficient functioning of the Commission and Assembly resolution 61/98, which contains additional measures for improving the effectiveness of the methods of work of the Commission,

Reaffirming the mandate of the Disarmament Commission as the specialized, deliberative subsidiary body of the General Assembly that allows for in-depth deliberations on specific disarmament issues, leading to the submission of concrete recommendations on those issues, and recalling that the Commission shall make every effort to ensure that, insofar as possible, decisions on substantive issues be adopted by consensus, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,<sup>373</sup>

Emphasizing once again the important place of the Disarmament Commission within the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery,

1. Takes note of the report of the Disarmament Commission;
2. Commends the Disarmament Commission for the successful conclusion of its consideration of the item entitled “Preparation of recommendations to promote the practical implementation of transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities with the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space, in accordance with the recommendations set out in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities”, and endorses the text adopted thereon;<sup>374</sup>
3. Notes with regret that the Disarmament Commission was not able to reach a consensus on the item entitled “Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons”;
4. Reaffirms the importance of further enhancing the dialogue and cooperation among the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament;
5. Requests the Disarmament Commission to continue its work in accordance with its mandate, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, and with paragraph 3 of Assembly resolution 37/78 H of 9 December 1982, and to that end to make every effort to achieve specific recommendations on the items on its agenda, taking into account the adopted “Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission”;
6. Recommends that the Disarmament Commission consider the following items at its substantive session of 2024:
  - (a) [To be determined];

<sup>372</sup> Resolution 44/119 C, annex.

<sup>373</sup> Resolution S-10/2.

<sup>374</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/78/42), annex.

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(b) [To be determined];

7. *Encourages* the Disarmament Commission to invite, as appropriate, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research to prepare background papers on the items on its agenda and, if need be, other disarmament experts to present their views, as provided for in paragraph 3 (e) of resolution 61/98, upon the invitation of the Chair and with the prior approval of the Commission;

8. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to hold a substantive session for a period not exceeding three weeks during 2024, namely from 1 to 19 April, and an organizational session at the beginning of 2024 before the substantive session, to elect its Bureau and address other outstanding organizational matters, and to submit a substantive report to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session, and stresses that the report of the Commission should contain a summary by the Chair of the proceedings to reflect different views or positions if no agreement can be reached on the specific agenda item deliberated on, as provided for in paragraph 3.4 of the adopted “Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission”;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure full provision to the Disarmament Commission and its subsidiary bodies of interpretation and translation facilities in the official languages and to assign, as a matter of priority, all the resources and services necessary, including verbatim records, to that end, and also requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Commission the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament on its 2023 session,<sup>375</sup> together with all the official records of the seventy-eighth session of the General Assembly relating to disarmament matters, and to render all assistance that the Commission may require for implementing the present resolution;

10. *Invites* Member States to submit their views and proposals on the matter early enough to enable practical consultations among them prior to the beginning of the substantive session of 2024 of the Disarmament Commission, with a view to facilitating its constructive outcome, and in this regard encourages the Chair-designate to commence consultations and preparations for the substantive session of 2024 in a timely manner upon his or her nomination;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session”, the sub-item entitled “Report of the Disarmament Commission”.

### RESOLUTION 78/63

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 151 to 6, with 27 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/411, para. 7)<sup>376</sup>

\* *In favour:* Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against:* Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Palau, United States of America

*Abstaining:* Albania, Australia, Belgium, Cameroon, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, India, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Panama, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Romania, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

<sup>375</sup> Ibid., Supplement No.27 (A/78/27).

<sup>376</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by Egypt (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the League of Arab States).

### 78/63. The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East

*The General Assembly,*

*Bearing in mind* its relevant resolutions, the latest of which is resolution [77/91](#) of 7 December 2022,

*Taking note* of the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the latest of which is resolution GC(67)/RES/13, adopted on 28 September 2023,

*Cognizant* that the proliferation of nuclear weapons in the region of the Middle East would pose a serious threat to international peace and security,

*Mindful* of the immediate need for placing all nuclear facilities in the region of the Middle East under full-scope safeguards of the Agency,

*Recalling* the decision on principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on 11 May 1995,<sup>377</sup> in which the Conference urged universal adherence to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons<sup>378</sup> as an urgent priority and called upon all States not yet parties to the Treaty to accede to it at the earliest date, particularly those States that operate unsafeguarded nuclear facilities,

*Recognizing with satisfaction* that, in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,<sup>379</sup> the Conference undertook to make determined efforts towards the achievement of the goal of universality of the Treaty, called upon those remaining States not parties to the Treaty to accede to it, thereby accepting an international legally binding commitment not to acquire nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices and to accept Agency safeguards on all their nuclear activities, and underlined the necessity of universal adherence to the Treaty and of strict compliance by all parties with their obligations under the Treaty,

*Recalling* the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on 11 May 1995, in which the Conference noted with concern the continued existence in the Middle East of unsafeguarded nuclear facilities, reaffirmed the importance of the early realization of universal adherence to the Treaty, and called upon all States in the Middle East that had not yet done so, without exception, to accede to the Treaty as soon as possible and to place all their nuclear facilities under full-scope Agency safeguards,

*Acknowledging* that, in the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,<sup>380</sup> the Conference emphasized the importance of a process leading to full implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East and decided, inter alia, that the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the co-sponsors of the 1995 resolution, in consultation with the States of the region, would convene a conference in 2012, to be attended by all States of the Middle East, on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by the States of the region, and with the full support and engagement of the nuclear-weapon States,

*Expressing regret and concern* that the conference was not convened in 2012 as mandated and that little progress has been achieved towards the implementation of the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty,

*Noting*, in this context, the relevant resolutions of the League of Arab States aiming at the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction,

*Taking note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>381</sup>

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<sup>377</sup> See 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, Part I (NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I) and NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I)/Corr.2), annex.

<sup>378</sup> United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 729, No. 10485.

<sup>379</sup> 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, vols. I–III (NPT/CONF.2000/28 (Parts I and II), NPT/CONF.2000/28 (Part III) and NPT/CONF.2000/28 (Part IV)).

<sup>380</sup> 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, vols. I–III (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I), NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. II) and NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. III)).

<sup>381</sup> A/78/205 (Part II).

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*Recalling* that Israel remains the only State in the Middle East that has not yet become a party to the Treaty,

*Concerned* about the threats posed by the proliferation of nuclear weapons to the security and stability of the Middle East region,

*Stressing* the importance of taking confidence-building measures, in particular the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, in order to enhance peace and security in the region and to consolidate the global non-proliferation regime,

*Emphasizing* the need for all parties directly concerned to seriously consider taking the practical and urgent steps required for the implementation of the proposal to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and, as a means of promoting this objective, inviting the countries concerned to adhere to the Treaty and, pending the establishment of the zone, to agree to place all their nuclear activities under Agency safeguards,

*Noting* that 187 States have signed the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty,<sup>382</sup> including a number of States in the region,

1. *Recalls* the conclusions on the Middle East of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,<sup>383</sup> and calls for the speedy and full implementation of the commitments contained therein;

2. *Stresses* that the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty<sup>384</sup> is an essential element of the outcome of the 1995 Conference and of the basis on which the Treaty was indefinitely extended without a vote in 1995;

3. *Reiterates* that the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty remains valid until its goals and objectives are achieved;

4. *Calls for* immediate steps towards the full implementation of that resolution;

5. *Reaffirms* the importance of Israel's accession to the Treaty on the Non Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and placement of all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards, in realizing the goal of universal adherence to the Treaty in the Middle East;

6. *Calls upon* that State to accede to the Treaty without further delay, not to develop, produce, test or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons, to renounce possession of nuclear weapons and to place all its unsafeguarded nuclear facilities under full-scope Agency safeguards as an important confidence-building measure among all States of the region and as a step towards enhancing peace and security;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session the item entitled "The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East".

### RESOLUTION 78/64

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/412, para. 7)<sup>385</sup>

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<sup>382</sup> See resolution 50/245 and A/50/1027.

<sup>383</sup> 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, vol. I (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I)), part I, Conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions, sect. IV.

<sup>384</sup> See 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, Part I (NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I) and NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I)/Corr.2), annex.

<sup>385</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by Poland.

**78/64. Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution [77/92](#) of 7 December 2022,

*Recalling with satisfaction* the adoption and entry into force of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects<sup>386</sup> and its amended article 1,<sup>387</sup> the Protocol on Non-Detectable Fragments (Protocol I),<sup>388</sup> the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II)<sup>389</sup> and its amended version,<sup>390</sup> the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons (Protocol III),<sup>391</sup> the Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Protocol IV)<sup>392</sup> and the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (Protocol V),<sup>393</sup>

*Welcoming* the results of the Sixth Review Conference<sup>394</sup> and the Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention, held in Geneva from 16 to 18 November 2022, and the adoption of its final document,<sup>395</sup>

*Welcoming also* the results of the Twenty-fourth Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II, held in Geneva on 15 November 2022,

*Welcoming further* the work of the Sixteenth Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V, held in Geneva on 14 November 2022,

*Noting with satisfaction* that the Meeting of the Group of Experts of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II and the Meeting of Experts of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V were held in Geneva on 20 and 21 July and 22 July 2022, respectively,

*Noting with satisfaction also* that the Group of Governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention met in Geneva from 6 to 10 March 2023 and from 15 to 19 May 2023, and noting with satisfaction further the adoption of the report of the 2023 session of the Group of Governmental Experts<sup>396</sup> on 19 May 2023,

*Recalling* the role played by the International Committee of the Red Cross in the elaboration of the Convention and the Protocols thereto, and welcoming the particular efforts of various international, non-governmental and other organizations in raising awareness of the humanitarian consequences of various categories of conventional weapons which may be deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects,

*Emphasizing* the importance of the perspectives of women, men, boys and girls in considering the issues addressed by the Convention and its Protocols,

1. *Calls upon* all States that have not yet done so to take all measures to become parties, as soon as possible, to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects and the Protocols thereto, as amended, with a view to achieving the widest possible adherence to these instruments at an early date and so as to ultimately achieve their universality;

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<sup>386</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1342, No. 22495.

<sup>387</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2260, No. 22495.

<sup>388</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1342, No. 22495.

<sup>389</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1342, No. 22495.

<sup>390</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2048, No. 22495.

<sup>391</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1342, No. 22495.

<sup>392</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2024, No. 22495.

<sup>393</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2399, No. 22495.

<sup>394</sup> [CCW/CONF.VI/11](#).

<sup>395</sup> [CCW/MSP/2022/7](#).

<sup>396</sup> [CCW/GGE.1/2023/2](#).

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2. *Calls upon* all High Contracting Parties to the Convention that have not yet done so to express their consent to be bound by the Protocols to the Convention and the amendment extending the scope of the Convention and the Protocols thereto to include armed conflicts of a non-international character;
3. *Emphasizes* the importance of the universalization of the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (Protocol V);
4. *Welcomes* additional ratifications and acceptances of or accessions to the Convention, as well as consents to be bound by the Protocols thereto;
5. *Acknowledges* the continued efforts of the Secretary-General, as depositary of the Convention and the Protocols thereto, and of the respective office holders of the conferences of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention, Protocol V and Amended Protocol II, on behalf of the High Contracting Parties, to achieve the goal of universality;
6. *Welcomes* the work of the Implementation Support Unit;
7. *Calls upon* the High Contracting Parties and States not parties to the Convention participating in the meetings of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention and its annexed Protocols to ensure full compliance with all financial obligations under the Convention and its annexed Protocols, and calls upon the High Contracting Parties to explore measures that could reduce costs and improve the efficiency and financial stability of such meetings without prejudice to the rules of procedure and to their quality, and their commitment to address issues arising from outstanding contributions in a timely manner;
8. *Recalls* the following decisions by the Sixth Review Conference and the conclusions and recommendations of the Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention, held in Geneva from 16 to 18 November 2022:
  - (a) To continue the work of the open-ended Group of Governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems, established in decision 1 of the Fifth Review Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention,<sup>397</sup> adhering to the agreed recommendations contained in document [CCW/CONF.V/2](#) in line with decision 1 of the Sixth Review Conference,<sup>398</sup> to strengthen the Convention;
  - (b) To adopt the consolidated financial measures contained in annex III to document [CCW/CONF.VI/11](#), which may be reviewed by the meetings of the High Contracting Parties during the review cycle of 2022–2026;
  - (c) To continue the Sponsorship Programme;
  - (d) To organize in 2023, in an in-person format, in accordance with the regular practice under the Convention, and subject to available resources, the following Convention-related activities:
    - (i) The Group of Experts of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II, from 9 to 10 November 2023, in accordance with the relevant decisions taken by the Twenty-fourth Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Amended Protocol II. If required, the possible decision on substitution of the dates for the Group of Experts of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II, which will take place for a duration of two days, will be taken, on an exceptional basis and without setting a precedent for the future, by the High Contracting Parties to the Convention by consensus, through a written silence procedure;
    - (ii) The open-ended Group of Governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems, for a duration of 10 days, from 6 to 10 March 2023, and from 15 to 19 May 2023, and to adopt its estimated costs;<sup>399</sup>
    - (iii) The Seventeenth Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V on 13 November 2023, and to adopt its estimated costs;<sup>400</sup>

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<sup>397</sup> See [CCW/CONF.V/10](#).

<sup>398</sup> See [CCW/CONF.VI/11](#).

<sup>399</sup> [CCW/MSP/2022/5](#).

<sup>400</sup> [CCW/P.V/CONF/2022/4](#).



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(iv) The Twenty-fifth Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II on 14 November 2023, in accordance with the relevant decisions taken by the Twenty-fourth Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II;

(v) Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention from 15 to 17 November 2023, and to adopt its estimated costs;<sup>401</sup>

(e) To request the President of the Seventeenth Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V, on an exceptional basis and without setting a precedent for the future, to hold informal open consultations on Protocol V on 8 November 2023 with interpretation in the six official languages of the United Nations and conference services and to report thereon to the Seventeenth Annual Conference of High Contracting Parties to Protocol V. If required, the possible decision on substitution of the date of the open consultations on Protocol V will be taken, on an exceptional basis and without setting a precedent for the future, by the High Contracting Parties by consensus, through a written silence procedure;

9. *Welcomes* the commitment by the High Contracting Parties to continue to contribute to the further development of international humanitarian law, and, in this context, to keep under review both the development of new weapons and uses of weapons, which may have indiscriminate effects or cause unnecessary suffering;

10. *Also welcomes* the commitment of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V to the effective and efficient implementation of the Protocol and the implementation of the decisions of the First and Second Conferences of the High Contracting Parties to the Protocol establishing a comprehensive framework for the exchange of information and cooperation;

11. *Notes* that, in conformity with article 8 of the Convention, conferences may be convened to examine amendments to the Convention or to any of the Protocols thereto, to examine additional protocols concerning other categories of conventional weapons not covered by existing Protocols or to review the scope and application of the Convention and the Protocols thereto and to examine any proposed amendments or additional protocols;

12. *Underlines* the vital role of the full and equal participation of women in decision-making and implementation of the Convention;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to render the assistance necessary and to provide such services as may be required for the annual conferences and expert meetings of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention and of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II and Protocol V, as well as for any continuation of the work after the meetings;

14. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in his capacity as depositary of the Convention and the Protocols thereto, to continue to inform the General Assembly periodically, by electronic means, of ratifications and acceptances of and accessions to the Convention, its amended article 1 and the Protocols;

15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session the item entitled “Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects”.

### RESOLUTION 78/65

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 178 to none, with 4 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/413, para. 7)<sup>402</sup>

\* *In favour:* Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark,

<sup>401</sup> CCW/MSP/2022/6.

<sup>402</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Algeria, Bahrain, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Mauritania, Myanmar, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Nigeria, North Macedonia, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, Sudan, Tunisia and Türkiye.



## II. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the First Committee

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

*Against:* None

*Abstaining:* Israel, Palau, South Sudan, United States of America

### 78/65. Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its previous resolutions on the subject, including resolution [77/93](#) of 7 December 2022,

*Reaffirming* the primary role of the Mediterranean countries in strengthening and promoting peace, security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region,

*Welcoming* the efforts deployed by the Euro-Mediterranean countries to strengthen their cooperation in combating terrorism, in particular through the adoption of the Euro-Mediterranean Code of Conduct on Countering Terrorism by the Euro-Mediterranean Summit, held in Barcelona, Spain, on 27 and 28 November 2005,

*Bearing in mind* all the previous declarations and commitments, as well as all the initiatives taken by the riparian countries at the recent summits, ministerial meetings and various forums concerning the question of the Mediterranean region,

*Recalling*, in this regard, the adoption on 13 July 2008 of the Joint Declaration of the Paris Summit for the Mediterranean, which launched a reinforced partnership, named the “Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean”, and the common political will to revive efforts to transform the Mediterranean into an area of peace, democracy, cooperation and prosperity,

*Welcoming* the entry into force of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba)<sup>403</sup> as a contribution to the strengthening of peace and security both regionally and internationally,

*Recognizing* the indivisible character of security in the Mediterranean and that the enhancement of cooperation among Mediterranean countries with a view to promoting the economic and social development of all peoples of the region will contribute significantly to stability, peace and security in the region,

*Recognizing also* the efforts made so far and the determination of the Mediterranean countries to intensify the process of dialogue and consultations with a view to resolving the problems existing in the Mediterranean region and to eliminating the causes of tension and the consequent threat to peace and security, as well as their growing awareness of the need for further joint efforts to strengthen economic, social, cultural and environmental cooperation in the region,

*Recognizing further* that prospects for closer Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in all spheres can be enhanced by positive developments worldwide, in particular in Europe, in the Maghreb and in the Middle East,

*Reaffirming* the responsibility of all States to contribute to the stability and prosperity of the Mediterranean region and their commitment to respecting the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations as well as the provisions of the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,<sup>404</sup>

<sup>403</sup> [A/50/426](#), annex.

<sup>404</sup> Resolution [2625 \(XXV\)](#), annex.

## II. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the First Committee

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*Noting* the peace negotiations in the Middle East, which should be of a comprehensive nature and represent an appropriate framework for the peaceful settlement of contentious issues in the region,

*Expressing concern* at the persistent tension and continuing military activities in parts of the Mediterranean that hinder efforts to strengthen security and cooperation in the region,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>405</sup>

1. *Reaffirms* that security in the Mediterranean is closely linked to European security as well as to international peace and security;

2. *Invites* Mediterranean countries to consolidate their efforts in order to contribute actively to the elimination of all causes of tension in the region and to the promotion of just and lasting solutions to the persistent problems of the region through peaceful means, thus ensuring the withdrawal of foreign forces of occupation and respecting the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of all countries of the Mediterranean and the right of peoples to self-determination, and therefore calls for full adherence to the principles of non-interference, non-intervention, non-use of force or threat of use of force and the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, in accordance with the Charter and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

3. *Commends* the Mediterranean countries for their efforts in meeting common challenges through coordinated overall responses, based on a spirit of multilateral partnership, towards the general objective of turning the Mediterranean basin into an area of dialogue, exchanges and cooperation, guaranteeing peace, stability and prosperity, encourages them to strengthen such efforts through, inter alia, a lasting multilateral and action-oriented cooperative dialogue among States of the region, and recognizes the role of the United Nations in promoting regional and international peace and security;

4. *Recognizes* that the elimination of the economic and social disparities in levels of development and other obstacles, as well as respect and greater understanding among cultures in the Mediterranean area, will contribute to enhancing peace, security and cooperation among Mediterranean countries through the existing forums;

5. *Calls upon* all countries of the Mediterranean region to adhere to the relevant multilaterally negotiated legal instruments related to the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, thus creating the conditions necessary for strengthening peace and cooperation in the region;

6. *Encourages* all States of the region to favour the conditions necessary for strengthening the confidence-building measures among them by promoting genuine openness and transparency on all military matters, by participating, inter alia, in the United Nations Report on Military Expenditures and by providing accurate data and information to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms;

7. *Encourages* the Mediterranean countries to strengthen further their cooperation in combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including the possible resort by terrorists to weapons of mass destruction, taking into account the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and in combating international crime and illicit arms transfers and illicit drug production, consumption and trafficking, which pose a serious threat to peace, security and stability in the region and therefore to the improvement of the current political, economic and social situation and which jeopardize friendly relations among States, hinder the development of international cooperation and result in the destruction of human rights, fundamental freedoms and the democratic basis of pluralistic society;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session a report on means to strengthen security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session the item entitled "Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region".

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<sup>405</sup> [A/78/115](#).

RESOLUTION 78/66

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 181 to 1, with 4 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee ([A/78/414](#), para. 7)<sup>406</sup>

\* *In favour:* Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against:* Democratic People's Republic of Korea

*Abstaining:* India, Mauritius, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic

**78/66. Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty**

*The General Assembly,*

*Reiterating* that the cessation of nuclear-weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions constitutes an effective nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation measure, and convinced that this is a meaningful step in the realization of a systematic process for achieving nuclear disarmament,

*Recalling* that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, adopted by the General Assembly by its resolution [50/245](#) of 10 September 1996, was opened for signature on 24 September 1996,

*Stressing* that a universal and effectively verifiable Treaty constitutes a fundamental instrument in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and will be a major contribution to international peace and security,

*Stressing also* the vital importance and urgency of achieving the entry into force of the Treaty, and affirming its resolute determination, 27 years after the Treaty was opened for signature, to achieve its entry into force,

*Encouraged* by the signing of the Treaty by 187 States, including 41 of the 44 whose ratification is needed for its entry into force, and welcoming the ratification of the Treaty by 178 States, including 36 of the 44 whose ratification is needed for its entry into force, among which there are 3 nuclear-weapon States,

*Recognizing* the sustained efforts by the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization to promote the universalization of the Treaty, and encouraging their continuation,

*Recalling* its resolution [77/94](#) of 7 December 2022,

<sup>406</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Türkiye, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay.

## II. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the First Committee

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*Recalling also* the adoption by consensus of the conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,<sup>407</sup> in which the Conference, inter alia, reaffirmed the vital importance of the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty as a core element of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime and included specific actions to be taken in support of the entry into force of the Treaty,

*Recalling further* the Final Declaration adopted by the thirteenth Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, held in New York on 22 September 2023, convened pursuant to article XIV of the Treaty, and recalling the joint statement issued by the Friends of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty on 21 September 2022,

*Noting* the contribution of diverse and inclusive participation in building and sustaining momentum for the universalization and entry into force of the Treaty, including through the Youth Group of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization,

*Welcoming* the sustained efforts within the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization for the equal participation of both men and women in its staff and its capacity-building programmes, and encouraging the continuation of such efforts,

*Welcoming also* the continuing progress in the development of the Treaty's verification regime, which advances the Treaty's primary non-proliferation and disarmament objective, and the establishment of 305 certified facilities of the International Monitoring System network,

*Welcoming further* the renewed focus on ensuring the continued operation and long-term sustainability of the verification regime,

*Recognizing* the civil and scientific benefits provided by the Treaty's global monitoring system,

1. *Stresses* the vital importance and urgency of signature and ratification, without delay and without conditions, in order to achieve the earliest entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty;<sup>408</sup>

2. *Welcomes* the contributions by the signatory States to the work of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, in particular its efforts to ensure that the verification regime of the Treaty will be capable of meeting the verification requirements of the Treaty upon its entry into force, in accordance with article IV of the Treaty, and encourages their continuation;

3. *Underlines* the need to maintain momentum towards the completion of all elements of the verification regime;

4. *Urges* all States not to carry out nuclear-weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions, to maintain their moratoriums in this regard and to refrain from acts that would defeat the object and purpose of the Treaty, while stressing that these measures do not have the same permanent and legally binding effect as the entry into force of the Treaty;

5. *Reiterates its condemnation* of the six nuclear tests conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in violation of relevant Security Council resolutions,<sup>409</sup> urges full compliance with the obligations under those resolutions, including that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea abandon its nuclear weapons programme and not conduct any further nuclear tests, reaffirms its support for the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner, welcomes all efforts and dialogue to this end, and encourages all parties to continue diplomatic efforts;

6. *Urges* all States that have not yet signed or ratified, or that have signed but not yet ratified, the Treaty, in particular those whose ratification is needed for its entry into force, to sign and ratify it as soon as possible and to accelerate their ratification processes with a view to ensuring their earliest successful conclusion;

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<sup>407</sup> 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, vol. I (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I)), part I, Conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions.

<sup>408</sup> See resolution 50/245 and A/50/1027.

<sup>409</sup> Including Security Council resolutions 1718 (2006), 1874 (2009), 2094 (2013), 2270 (2016), 2321 (2016) and 2375 (2017).

## II. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the First Committee

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7. *Welcomes*, since the adoption of its previous resolution on the subject, the signature of the Treaty by Somalia and the ratification of the Treaty by Solomon Islands and Sri Lanka, since each signature or ratification is a significant step towards the entry into force and universalization of the Treaty;

8. *Encourages* further expressions from among the remaining States whose ratification is needed for the Treaty to enter into force of their intention to pursue and complete the ratification process;

9. *Urges* all States to remain seized of the issue at the highest political level and, where in a position to do so, to promote adherence to the Treaty through bilateral and joint outreach, seminars and other means;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session the item entitled “Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty”.

### RESOLUTION 78/67

Adopted at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 4 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/415, para. 7)<sup>410</sup>

#### **78/67. Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its previous resolutions relating to the complete and effective prohibition of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons and on their destruction,

*Noting with satisfaction* the increase in the number of accessions to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction,<sup>411</sup> and stressing at the same time that there is a continuing need to achieve its universalization,

*Reaffirming its call upon* all signatory States that have not yet ratified the Convention to do so without delay, and calling upon those States that have not signed the Convention to become parties thereto at the earliest possible date, thus contributing to the achievement of universal adherence to the Convention, which will facilitate its success,

*Bearing in mind* its call upon all States parties to the Convention to participate in the implementation of the recommendations of the review conferences of the parties to the Convention, including the exchange of information and data agreed to in the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, later amended by the Final Declaration of the Seventh Review Conference, and to provide such information and data in conformity with the standardized procedure to the Implementation Support Unit within the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat on an annual basis and no later than 15 April,

*Welcoming* the reaffirmation made in the Final Declarations of the Fourth, Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Review Conferences that under all circumstances the use of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons and their development, production and stockpiling are effectively prohibited under article I of the Convention,

*Recognizing* the importance of ongoing efforts by States parties to enhance international cooperation, assistance and the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the use of bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins for peaceful purposes, recognizing also that there still remain challenges to be overcome in order to enhance international cooperation, and recognizing further the value of building capacity through international cooperation as well as strengthening coordination and coherence of efforts of all relevant international organizations, in line with the Final Document of the Ninth Review Conference,<sup>412</sup>

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<sup>410</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by Hungary.

<sup>411</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1015, No. 14860.

<sup>412</sup> [BWC/CONF.IX/9](#).

## II. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the First Committee

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*Reaffirming* the importance of national measures, in accordance with constitutional processes, in strengthening the implementation of the Convention by States parties, in line with the Final Document of the Ninth Review Conference,

*Reaffirming also* the importance of the review of developments in the field of science and technology related to the Convention,

*Encouraging* the equitable participation of women and men in the framework of the Convention,

*Recalling* previous intersessional processes carried out under the Convention,

*Noting with satisfaction*, in the decisions and recommendations of the Final Document, that the Ninth Review Conference reaffirmed the utility of having an intersessional programme and decided that States parties would hold annual meetings between 2023 and 2026 in Geneva, in an in-person format in accordance with the regular practice under the Convention, for a duration of three days each year, and that the first such meeting would be held from 11 to 13 December 2023,

*Welcoming*, in the decisions and recommendations of the Final Document, that the Ninth Review Conference reaffirmed that Review Conferences constitute an effective method of reviewing the operation of the Convention with a view to assuring that the purposes of the preamble and the provisions of the Convention are being realized, and also reaffirmed the previous decision that Review Conferences be held at least every five years,

*Noting*, in the decisions and recommendations of the Final Document, that the Ninth Review Conference decided that the meetings of States parties would be responsible for managing the intersessional programme in support of the Convention, including taking necessary actions with respect to budgetary, financial and organizational matters, with a view to ensuring the proper implementation of the intersessional programme, that the meetings of the States parties would also consider, on an annual basis, progress on universalization of the Convention, the annual report of the Implementation Support Unit and, as appropriate, the implementation of decisions taken by the Conference, and that the Tenth Review Conference would consider the work and outcomes of these meetings and decide on any further action,

*Noting also* the Formal Consultative Meeting of the States Parties to the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention requested by the Russian Federation and convened at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on 26 August 2022 and reconvened from 5 to 9 September 2022, the presentation by the Russian Federation of its article V consultation request regarding outstanding questions by the Russian Federation to the United States of America and Ukraine concerning the fulfilment of their respective obligations under the Convention in the context of the operation of biological laboratories in Ukraine, the responses by Ukraine and the United States of America, that no consensus was reached regarding the outcome of the Formal Consultative Meeting, and the final report of the Formal Consultative Meeting,<sup>413</sup>

*Noting further* that, on 24 October 2022, the Russian Federation submitted a letter to the President of the Security Council lodging a complaint,<sup>414</sup> pursuant to article VI of the Convention, regarding outstanding questions by the Russian Federation to the United States of America and Ukraine concerning the fulfilment of their respective obligations under the Convention in the context of the operation of biological laboratories in Ukraine and requesting the consideration of a proposed draft resolution to set up a commission to investigate its claims against the United States of America and Ukraine, that on 27 October 2022<sup>415</sup> the Council considered this complaint, and that on 2 November 2022<sup>416</sup> the Council took action on the draft resolution submitted by the Russian Federation<sup>417</sup> and that it was not adopted,

*Recalling with appreciation* the decision of the Ninth Review Conference that the Tenth Review Conference would be held in Geneva in an in-person format in accordance with the regular practice under the Convention, not later than 2027, and that the Review Conference should review the operation of the Convention, taking into account,

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<sup>413</sup> [BWC/CONS/2022/3](#).

<sup>414</sup> [S/2022/796](#).

<sup>415</sup> See [S/PV.9171](#).

<sup>416</sup> See [S/PV.9180](#).

<sup>417</sup> [S/2022/821](#).



## II. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the First Committee

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inter alia, new scientific and technological developments relevant to the Convention, the progress made by States parties on the implementation of the Convention and progress of the implementation of decisions and recommendations agreed upon at the Ninth Review Conference, taking into account, as appropriate, decisions and recommendations reached at previous Review Conferences,

1. *Notes* the consensus reached at the Ninth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, and calls upon States parties to the Convention to participate and actively engage in the continued implementation;

2. *Notes with regret* that the Ninth Review Conference was not able to reach consensus on a draft Final Declaration;

3. *Notes with appreciation* that, determined to strengthen the effectiveness and to improve the implementation of the Convention in all its aspects, the Conference decided to establish a working group open to all States parties;

4. *Also notes with appreciation* that the aim of the working group is to identify, examine and develop specific and effective measures, including possible legally binding measures, and to make recommendations to strengthen and institutionalize the Convention in all its aspects, to be submitted to States parties for consideration and any further action, that these measures should be formulated and designed in such a manner that their implementation supports international cooperation, scientific research and economic and technological development, avoiding any negative impacts, and that in this context the working group will address the following:

- (a) Measures on international cooperation and assistance under article X;
- (b) Measures on scientific and technological developments relevant to the Convention;
- (c) Measures on confidence-building and transparency;
- (d) Measures on compliance and verification;
- (e) Measures on national implementation of the Convention;
- (f) Measures on assistance, response and preparedness under article VII;
- (g) Measures on organizational, institutional and financial arrangements;

5. *Notes with satisfaction* that the Ninth Review Conference decided to develop with a view to establishing a mechanism open to all States parties to facilitate and support the full implementation of international cooperation and assistance under article X of the Convention, and that in order for this mechanism to be established, the working group on the strengthening of the Convention would make appropriate recommendations, and encourages States parties to provide, at least biannually, appropriate information on their implementation of article X and to collaborate to offer assistance or training, upon request, as contained in specific proposals, in support of the legislative and other implementation measures of States parties needed to ensure their compliance with the Convention;

6. *Also notes with satisfaction* that the Ninth Review Conference decided to develop with a view to establishing a mechanism to review and assess scientific and technological developments relevant to the Convention and to provide States parties with relevant advice, and that in order for this mechanism to be established, the working group on the strengthening of the Convention would make appropriate recommendations;

7. *Notes* that the decision by the Ninth Review Conference to establish the working group on the strengthening of the Convention is without prejudice to the mandate of the Ad Hoc Group established by the Special Conference of 1994,<sup>418</sup> nor does it supersede, supplant or change it;

8. *Also notes* that in fulfilling its mandate, the working group will take into account, inter alia, as appropriate, all documents agreed by the States parties under the Convention as well as work already done by States parties to strengthen the Convention without prejudice to any decision or position;

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<sup>418</sup> See [BWC/SPCONF/1](#).



## II. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the First Committee

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9. *Notes with appreciation* that, recognizing the need to balance an ambition to improve the intersessional programme within the constraints – both financial and human resources – faced by States parties, the Conference allocated 15 days to the working group for its substantive meetings and that every year for the period from 2023 to 2026 the working group will meet in Geneva in an in-person format in accordance with the regular practice under the Convention;

10. *Notes* that the Conference urged the working group to complete its work as soon as possible, preferably before the end of 2025, that at the completion of its work the working group will adopt a report, by consensus, that includes conclusions and recommendations according to its mandate, and that the adopted report will be submitted to States parties for their consideration at the Tenth Review Conference, or earlier at a special conference if it is requested, in accordance with the procedure established by the Third Review Conference,<sup>419</sup> to decide on any further action;

11. *Appreciates* the information and data on confidence-building measures provided by States parties to the Convention to date, and calls upon all States parties to participate in the exchange of information and data on confidence-building measures called for in the relevant decisions of the review conferences, and reiterates its call to make use of the platform for electronic submission, on a voluntary basis, without prejudice to their choice of methods for submission;

12. *Notes* the decision of the Eighth Review Conference to continue and improve the database established by the Seventh Review Conference to facilitate requests for and offers of exchange of assistance and cooperation, and urges States parties to submit to the Implementation Support Unit, on a voluntary basis, requests for and offers of cooperation and assistance, including in terms of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information regarding the use of biological and toxin agents for peaceful purposes;

13. *Welcomes* that the Ninth Review Conference noted with appreciation the functioning of the sponsorship programme and welcomed the continued willingness of donors to provide voluntary contributions that have allowed to support and increase the participation of representatives of developing States;

14. *Also welcomes* the decision of the Ninth Review Conference to renew the mandate of the Implementation Support Unit agreed to at the Seventh Review Conference, mutatis mutandis, for the period from 2023 to 2027, that it noted with appreciation the work of the Unit, and that, without prejudice to the decision of the Sixth Review Conference on the establishment of the Implementation Support Unit<sup>420</sup> and taking into account its decisions and the need for the Unit to render the necessary assistance and provide the services required for the intersessional period, the Ninth Review Conference decided to establish one new full-time staff position within the Unit, only for the period from 2023 to 2027, that the Unit will submit an annual written report to all States parties on its activities to implement its mandate and that the Unit's performance will be evaluated and its mandate reviewed by the States parties at the Tenth Review Conference;

15. *Notes with appreciation* the events organized by some States parties, regional organizations and the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat for exchanges of views on the implementation of the Convention, and encourages States parties to continue to participate in such informal exchanges and discussions;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to render the necessary assistance to the depositary Governments of the Convention and to continue to provide such services as may be required for the conduct and the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the review conferences;

17. *Notes* that the Ninth Review Conference welcomed the improvement of the financial situation following the measures endorsed by the 2018 meeting of States parties, as reflected in section V of the report of the meeting,<sup>421</sup> confirmed their effectiveness and decided to review them at the Tenth Review Conference;

18. *Notes with satisfaction* that the Ninth Review Conference stressed the need to continue monitoring the overall financial situation of the Convention and to keep it under active review, and requested the Chairperson of the annual meetings of States parties, in close consultation with the States parties, the Implementation Support Unit, the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the United Nations Office at Geneva, to report on the overall financial situation

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<sup>419</sup> See BWC/CONF.III/23.

<sup>420</sup> See BWC/CONF.VI/6.

<sup>421</sup> See BWC/MSP/2018/6.

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of the Convention, implementation of the measures endorsed in 2018, and possible further measures for consideration by the meetings of States parties;

19. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session the item entitled “Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction”.

### RESOLUTION 78/237

Adopted at the 50th (resumed) plenary meeting, on 22 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 104 to 53, with 7 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/404, para. 14)<sup>422</sup>

\* *In favour:* Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, China, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against:* Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Abstaining:* Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Mauritius, Serbia, Singapore

#### **78/237. Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 36/103 of 9 December 1981, 43/78 H of 7 December 1988, 53/70 of 4 December 1998, 54/49 of 1 December 1999, 55/28 of 20 November 2000, 56/19 of 29 November 2001, 57/53 of 22 November 2002, 58/32 of 8 December 2003, 59/61 of 3 December 2004, 60/45 of 8 December 2005, 61/54 of 6 December 2006, 62/17 of 5 December 2007, 63/37 of 2 December 2008, 64/25 of 2 December 2009, 65/41 of 8 December 2010, 66/24 of 2 December 2011, 67/27 of 3 December 2012, 68/243 of 27 December 2013, 69/28 of 2 December 2014, 70/237 of 23 December 2015, 71/28 of 5 December 2016, 73/27 of 5 December 2018, 74/29 of 12 December 2019, 75/240 of 31 December 2020, 76/19 of 6 December 2021 and 77/36 of 7 December 2022,

*Commemorating* the twenty-fifth anniversary of discussions, under the auspices of the United Nations, on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security,

*Stressing* that it is in the interest of all States to promote the use of information and communications technologies for peaceful purposes, with the objective of shaping a community of shared future for humankind for peace, security and stability in the information space, and that States also have an interest in the prevention and peaceful settlement of conflicts arising from the use of such technologies,

*Confirming* that information and communications technologies are dual-use technologies and can be used for both legitimate and malicious purposes,

<sup>422</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burundi, Cambodia, China, Congo, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Mali, Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zimbabwe.

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*Expressing concern* that these technologies and means can potentially be used for purposes that are inconsistent with the objectives of maintaining international peace and security and may adversely affect the integrity of the infrastructure of States, to the detriment of their security in both civil and military fields,

*Recalling* that a number of States are developing information and communications technology capabilities for military purposes and that the use of information and communications technologies in future conflicts between States is becoming more likely,

*Reaffirming* that, in accordance with Article 2 (4) of the Charter of the United Nations, all States Members of the United Nations shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations,

*Recognizing* that the indication that an information and communications technology activity was launched or otherwise originates from the territory or objects of the information and communications technology infrastructure of a State may be insufficient in itself to attribute the activity to that State, and noting that accusations of organizing and implementing wrongful acts brought against States should be substantiated,

*Considering* the growth and aggregation of data associated with new and emerging technologies, and noting the increasing relevance of data protection and data security and the need to continue to study, with a view to promoting common understandings, existing and potential threats in the sphere of information security, inter alia, data security, and possible cooperative measures to prevent and counter such threats,

*Expressing concern* about the possibility of embedding harmful hidden functions in information and communications technologies that can be used to undermine the secure and reliable use of such technologies and the information and communications technology supply chain for products and services, erode trust in commerce and damage national security, and reaffirming that reasonable steps to promote openness and ensure the integrity, stability and security of the supply chain can include putting in place at the national level comprehensive, transparent, objective and impartial frameworks and mechanisms for supply chain risk management consistent with a State's international obligations, increased attention in national policy and in dialogue with States and relevant actors at the United Nations and other forums on how to ensure that all States can compete and innovate on an equal footing, and developing and implementing global common rules and standards for supply chain security, and stressing in this regard the necessity of compliance by producers and suppliers of information and communications technology goods and services with the legislation of States on whose territories they operate,

*Reaffirming* that, in accordance with the principle of non-intervention, States must not intervene directly or indirectly in the internal affairs of another State, including by means of information and communications technologies,

*Recognizing* the duty of a State to abstain from any defamatory campaign, vilification or hostile propaganda for the purpose of intervening or interfering in the internal affairs of other States,

*Recognizing also* that the dissemination and use of information and communications technologies affect the interests of the entire global community and that broad international cooperation leads to the most effective universal responses to address information and communications technology threats and promotes an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful information and communications technology environment,

*Reaffirming* that the United Nations should continue to play a leading role in promoting dialogue on the use of information and communications technologies by States,

*Underlining* the importance for the global community of shaping a system of international information security and continuing a democratic, inclusive, transparent and results-oriented negotiation process within the Open-ended Working Group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021–2025, while recognizing its centrality as the mechanism within the United Nations for dialogue on security in the use of information and communications technologies,

*Reaffirming* that, given the unique attributes of information and communications technologies, additional norms could be developed over time, and noting the need to further consider the development of additional legally binding obligations, taking into account in this regard specific proposals of States on establishing an international legal regime to regulate the information and communications technology field,

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*Noting* that capacity-building is essential for international security, cooperation of States and confidence-building in the field of information and communications technology security and that capacity-building measures should seek to promote the use of information and communications technologies for peaceful purposes, and that further focused discussions and decisions within the Open-ended Working Group are needed on funding specifically for capacity-building efforts on security in the use of information and communications technologies, in particular for information and communications technology development of requesting States,

*Welcoming* the efforts of the Chair of the Open-ended Working Group to forge consensus among States on the common goal of ensuring an open, stable, secure, accessible and peaceful information and communications technology environment,

1. *Supports* the work of the Open-ended Working Group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021–2025 in accordance with its mandate, as enshrined in General Assembly resolution [75/240](#);

2. *Calls upon* States to further engage constructively in the negotiations during formal and intersessional meetings of the Open-ended Working Group, which, pursuant to its mandate, will present recommendations, adopted by consensus, to the General Assembly;

3. *Welcomes* the adoption by consensus of the second annual progress report of the Open-ended Working Group,<sup>423</sup> and takes note of the compendium of statements in explanation of position on its adoption;<sup>424</sup>

4. *Also welcomes* the establishment of the global intergovernmental points of contact directory as the first universal confidence-building measure, and calls upon States to use this instrument in good faith to develop practical cooperation, including through the computer emergency response teams channels, as well as to continue discussing at the Open-ended Working Group possible ways to continuously improve the directory in an incremental and step-by-step manner, as set out in annex A to the second annual progress report of the Open-ended Working Group, *inter alia*, through communication protocols and required capacity-building measures;

5. *Recommends* that Member States continue discussions at the Open-ended Working Group, in accordance with its mandate, on rules, norms and principles of responsible behaviour of States, including the need to discuss the elaboration of additional legally binding obligations;

6. *Encourages* Member States to continue exchanging views at the Open-ended Working Group on intergovernmental regular institutional dialogue on security in the use of information and communications technologies, with the objective of elaborating a common understanding on the most effective format for future regular institutional dialogue with the broad participation of States under United Nations auspices to be established upon conclusion of the work of the Open-ended Working Group, and confirms that, in considering different proposals on regular institutional dialogue, the views, concerns and interests of all States should be taken into account, and recommends that these proposals be further elaborated within the Open-ended Working Group;

7. *Invites* Member States to share within the Open-ended Working Group their views on capacity-building needs, including for the implementation of practical measures recommended by the Open-ended Working Group, as well as possible inclusive mechanisms to meet them, including funding, taking into account the agreed principles of capacity-building, as set out in annex C to the second annual progress report of the Open-ended Working Group, in particular that capacity-building activities should correspond to nationally identified needs and priorities and should be undertaken with full respect for the principle of State sovereignty;

8. *Invites* all Member States to continue to inform the Secretary-General of their views and assessments on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies, in particular on the future regular institutional dialogue on these matters under the auspices of the United Nations, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report based on those views to the General Assembly during its seventy-eighth session for further discussion between Member States in the meetings of the Open-ended Working Group at its eighth session in 2024;

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<sup>423</sup> See [A/78/265](#).

<sup>424</sup> [A/AC.292/2023/INF/5](#).

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9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session the item entitled “Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security”.

### RESOLUTION 78/238

Adopted at the 50th (resumed) plenary meeting, on 22 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 110 to 49, with 8 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/407, para. 15)<sup>425</sup>

\* *In favour:* Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against:* Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Abstaining:* Chile, Georgia, Guatemala, Honduras, Palau, Papua New Guinea, South Sudan, Switzerland

#### 78/238. Further practical measures for the prevention of an arms race in outer space

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 71/31 and 71/32 of 5 December 2016, 71/90 of 6 December 2016, 72/250 of 24 December 2017, 73/6 of 26 October 2018, 73/91 of 7 December 2018, 74/34 of 12 December 2019, 76/230 of 24 December 2021 and 77/250 of 30 December 2022, and its decisions 73/512 of 5 December 2018 and 75/514 of 7 December 2020, as well as its other resolutions and decisions on this subject,

*Expressing grave alarm* over the threat of an arms race in outer space, which would impair the prospects for limiting and reducing armaments in general and erect insurmountable barriers to international cooperation in the peaceful exploration of outer space,

*Recognizing* the catastrophic consequences of an arms race in outer space, which should be used exclusively for peaceful and creative purposes, or any military conflicts in outer space and that the prevention of an arms race in outer space would avert a grave danger for international peace and security,

*Emphasizing* the importance of article IV of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies,<sup>426</sup>

*Bearing in mind* that all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, should contribute actively to the prevention of an arms race in outer space with a view to promoting and strengthening international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, with the objective of shaping a community of shared future for humankind,

*Recognizing* that, while the existing international treaties related to outer space and the legal regime provided for therein play a positive role in regulating outer space activities, they are unable to fully prevent an arms race in outer space, the placement of weapons in outer space and the threat or use of force in outer space, from space against

<sup>425</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Armenia, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Mali, Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zimbabwe.

<sup>426</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 610, No. 8843.

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Earth and from Earth against objects in outer space, and preserve outer space for peaceful purposes, and that there is a need to consolidate and reinforce this regime,

*Expressing serious concern* over the plans declared by certain States that include placement of weapons, in particular strike combat systems, in outer space, the threat or use of force in outer space, from space against Earth and from Earth against objects in outer space and the use of outer space for combat operations,

*Convinced* that further measures should be examined in the search for effective and verifiable bilateral and multilateral agreements in order to prevent an arms race in outer space and preserve outer space for peaceful purposes,

*Welcoming*, in this regard, the draft treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space and of the threat or use of force against outer space objects, introduced by China and the Russian Federation at the Conference on Disarmament in 2008,<sup>427</sup> and the submission of its updated version in 2014,<sup>428</sup>

*Stressing* the importance of the political statements made by a number of States<sup>429</sup> that they would not be the first to place weapons in outer space,

*Recognizing* the primary role and responsibility of the Conference on Disarmament in the negotiation of a multilateral agreement or agreements on the prevention of an arms race in outer space,

*Taking into account* the work done by the Group of Governmental Experts on Further Practical Measures for the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space in 2018 and 2019 in the search for further practical measures for the prevention of an arms race in outer space, in particular in the course of future negotiations at the Conference on Disarmament on the international legally binding instrument in this regard,

*Welcoming* the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>430</sup>

1. *Proclaims* it a historic responsibility of all States to ensure that the exploration of outer space is carried out exclusively for peaceful purposes for the benefit of mankind;

2. *Declares* that the exclusion of outer space from the sphere of the arms race and the preservation of outer space for peaceful purposes should become a mandatory norm of State policy and a generally recognized international obligation;

3. *Calls upon* all States, and above all those with major space capabilities, to this end:

(a) To take urgent measures to prevent for all time the placement of weapons in outer space and the threat or use of force in outer space, from space against Earth and from Earth against objects in outer space;

(b) To seek through negotiations the early elaboration of appropriate reliably verifiable legally binding multilateral agreements;

4. *Expresses its deep regret* over the years of stalemate in the work of the Conference on Disarmament, and looks forward to the Conference again fulfilling its mandate as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum;

5. *Urges* the Conference on Disarmament to agree on and implement at its earliest opportunity a balanced and comprehensive programme of work that includes the immediate commencement of negotiations on an international legally binding instrument on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, including on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space and of the threat or use of force in outer space, from space against Earth and from Earth against objects in outer space;

6. *Acknowledges* that the guaranteed prevention of an arms race in outer space will provide an opportunity for the peaceful exploration of outer space and its use in solving acute major problems relating to economic, social

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<sup>427</sup> See [CD/1839](#).

<sup>428</sup> See [CD/1985](#).

<sup>429</sup> Argentina, Armenia, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Burundi, Cambodia, Comoros, Congo, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Togo, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

<sup>430</sup> [A/77/80](#).



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and cultural development facing mankind today, as well as in consolidating the efforts of States of the world in this domain;

7. *Welcomes* the establishment in 2023 of the Group of Governmental Experts to consider and make recommendations on substantial elements of an international legally binding instrument on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, including, inter alia, on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space;

8. *Decides*, with a view to ensuring continuity and consistency in the consideration of issues pertaining to the prevention of an arms race in outer space, upon the termination of the activities of the above-mentioned Group of Governmental Experts, to establish for the period 2024–2028 an open-ended working group to continue building on the work of the Group of Governmental Experts to consider and to make recommendations on substantial elements of an international legally binding instrument on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, including, inter alia, on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space, as well as to consider various aspects of the prevention of an arms race in outer space in the context of an international legally binding instrument on the prevention of an arms race in outer space;

9. *Decides also* that the newly established open-ended working group will operate by consensus, without prejudice to national positions in future negotiations, and will hold in Geneva its organizational two-day session in 2024, as well as eight sessions, comprising two sessions annually of 10 and 5 days each in 2025, 2026, 2027 and 2028;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all necessary assistance to the open-ended working group and its Chair and to transmit its report to the General Assembly at its eighty-third session, the Conference on Disarmament and the Disarmament Commission;

11. *Decides* that, if the Conference on Disarmament agrees upon and implements a balanced and comprehensive programme of work that includes the negotiation of an international legally binding instrument on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, including, inter alia, on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space, the newly established open-ended working group will conclude its work and submit the results thereof to the Secretary-General for onward transmission to the Conference on Disarmament;

12. *Also decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “Prevention of an arms race in outer space”, the sub-item entitled “Further practical measures for the prevention of an arms race in outer space”.

### RESOLUTION 78/239

Adopted at the 50th (resumed) plenary meeting, on 22 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 167 to none, with 4 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/409, para. 89)<sup>431</sup>

\* *In favour*: Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon

<sup>431</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Eswatini, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Latvia, Lesotho, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.



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Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe

*Against:* None

*Abstaining:* Iran (Islamic Republic of), Mali, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic

### 78/239. Nuclear disarmament verification

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament,<sup>432</sup> in particular the paragraphs relevant to verification, and the roles and respective mandates of the disarmament machinery bodies established therein, and the general principles of verification set forth in the United Nations Disarmament Commission principles of verification of 1988,<sup>433</sup>

*Recalling also* its resolutions [71/67](#) of 5 December 2016 and [74/50](#) of 12 December 2019 and its decisions 72/514 of 4 December 2017, 73/514 of 5 December 2018, 75/516 of 7 December 2020, 76/515 of 6 December 2021 and 77/514 of 7 December 2022,

*Recalling further* that, in its resolution [74/50](#), the Secretary-General was requested to seek the substantive views of Member States and to establish a group of governmental experts to further consider nuclear disarmament verification issues, including, inter alia, the concept of a Group of Scientific and Technical Experts,

*Welcoming* the report of the Secretary-General<sup>434</sup> containing the substantive views of Member States on the report of the Group of Governmental Experts to consider the role of verification in advancing nuclear disarmament,<sup>435</sup> and noting the range of views expressed on the issue of nuclear disarmament verification,

*Reaffirming* the shared commitment to further progress in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, and that all States Members of the United Nations have a stake in achieving and maintaining a world free of nuclear weapons,

*Underlining* that nuclear disarmament verification is an essential element of a nuclear disarmament process and that a credible multilateral verification regime in which all States have confidence will also be essential for achieving and maintaining a world without nuclear weapons,

*Underlining also* that work on nuclear disarmament verification is not an end in itself and is not a prerequisite for progress on nuclear disarmament, and that such work should also aim to promote progress on nuclear disarmament,

*Noting* that there are political, legal, scientific and technical, and institutional aspects to nuclear disarmament verification,

*Recalling* that all States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons<sup>436</sup> have committed to apply the principles of irreversibility, verifiability and transparency in relation to the implementation of their disarmament obligations under the Treaty,

*Underlining* that equal opportunities for women and men should be provided for in nuclear disarmament verification education, training and capacity-building,

*Underlining also* that, for sustainability of nuclear disarmament verification efforts, it is important to develop expertise in all aspects of nuclear disarmament, including a new generation of experts,

*Noting* the contribution of representatives of civil society from the non-governmental, academic and research communities,

<sup>432</sup> Resolution [S-10/2](#).

<sup>433</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifteenth Special Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/S-15/3)*, para. 60 (para. 6, sect. I, of the quoted text).

<sup>434</sup> [A/75/126](#).

<sup>435</sup> [A/74/90](#).

<sup>436</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

## II. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the First Committee

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Group of Governmental Experts to further consider nuclear disarmament verification issues,<sup>437</sup> mandated in resolution 74/50, and its adoption by consensus;
2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek the substantive views of Member States on the report and to report back to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session;
3. *Invites* Member States, as well as relevant bodies of the United Nations disarmament machinery, in accordance with their respective mandates, to consider the report of the Group of Governmental Experts to further consider nuclear disarmament verification issues;
4. *Encourages* Member States to continue the discussion and work on nuclear disarmament verification issues, and to take appropriate measures to ensure equal opportunities for women and men to enable their full and meaningful engagement in nuclear disarmament efforts, including nuclear disarmament verification;
5. *Welcomes* continued efforts on capacity-building on nuclear disarmament verification, including through regional approaches, as appropriate;
6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “General and complete disarmament”, the sub-item entitled “Nuclear disarmament verification”.

### RESOLUTION 78/240

Adopted at the 50th (resumed) plenary meeting, on 22 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 161 to 4, with 6 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/409, para. 89)<sup>438</sup>

\* *In favour:* Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against:* Democratic People's Republic of Korea, France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

*Abstaining:* China, India, Israel, Pakistan, South Sudan, United States of America

#### **78/240. Addressing the legacy of nuclear weapons: providing victim assistance and environmental remediation to Member States affected by the use or testing of nuclear weapons**

*The General Assembly,*

*Expressing deep concern* that more than 2,000 nuclear explosive tests have been conducted worldwide, including in non-self-governing territories,

<sup>437</sup> A/78/120.

<sup>438</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Algeria, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burundi, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, Guatemala, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Philippines, Samoa, San Marino, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tunisia, Tuvalu, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

## II. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the First Committee

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*Recognizing* that the consequences of the use and testing of nuclear weapons transcend national borders, contaminate environments, hamper socioeconomic development, threaten food security, harm the health of current and future generations, and recalling resolution 77/53 of 7 December 2022 in this regard,

*Acknowledging* that the consequences of the use and testing of nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices include not only physical harms but also harms to mental health, such as through post-traumatic stress disorders and other forms of trauma, as well as the disruption of cultural practices and displacement on a long-term or permanent basis of communities of affected Member States,

*Deploring* the unacceptable suffering of and harm caused to the people affected by the use of nuclear weapons (hibakusha), as well as the victims of the testing of nuclear weapons and any other nuclear explosive devices,

*Stressing* that the catastrophic effects of a nuclear weapon detonation, whether by accident, miscalculation or design, cannot be adequately addressed,

*Convinced* that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, and alarmed by threats to use nuclear weapons,

*Recognizing* the importance of maintaining the moratorium on nuclear testing, and recalling the object and purpose of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty,

*Recalling* that the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons expressed deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, and underscoring the increased attention to engaging with affected communities during the tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

*Acknowledging* the disproportionate impact of the testing of nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices on Indigenous Peoples, non-self-governing peoples, as well as women and girls,

*Recognizing* that the implementation of victim assistance and environmental remediation constitutes meaningful steps towards the achievement of nuclear disarmament and the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Noting* the efforts of Member States and international organizations in addressing environmental remediation and victim assistance,

*Affirming* the role of the International Atomic Energy Agency in addressing contaminated environments,

*Recognizing* the technical expertise of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation,

*Recognizing also* that visiting test sites and participating in the annual International Day against Nuclear Tests, unanimously proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/35 of 2 December 2009, raises awareness of the humanitarian and environmental impact,

*Recalling* the testimonies of survivors and victims of the nuclear tests at the conferences on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, convened by Norway, on 4 and 5 March 2013, Mexico, on 13 and 14 February 2014, and Austria, on 8 and 9 December 2014 and on 20 June 2022, where survivors and victims of the tests' experiences and testimonies contributed to our understanding of the harmful effects of the testing and use of nuclear weapons, especially the gendered and disproportionate impact of ionizing radiation on women and girls,

*Noting* the humanitarian provisions on victim assistance, environmental remediation, international cooperation and assistance of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which entered into force on 21 January 2021, and the references to these humanitarian provisions contained in the Vienna Action Plan, adopted at the First Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on 22 June 2022,

*Affirming* the significance of Human Rights Council resolution 51/35 of 7 October 2022 on technical assistance and capacity-building to address the human rights implications of the nuclear legacy in the Marshall Islands<sup>439</sup> and General Assembly resolution 75/210 of 21 December 2020 entitled "International cooperation and coordination for

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<sup>439</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/77/53/Add.1)*, chap. III, sect. A.

## II. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the First Committee

the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region of Kazakhstan”, and noting the efforts by some Member States as described in these resolutions,

*Bearing in mind* that certain Member States affected by the use and testing of nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices require the technical capacities and resources to effectively assist victims or remediate contaminated environments within their jurisdiction,

1. *Encourages* further international cooperation and discussions to assist victims, and assess and remediate environments contaminated by the use and testing of nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices, including through bilateral, regional and multilateral frameworks, such as relevant treaties;

2. *Urges* that Member States, which have used or tested nuclear weapons or any other nuclear explosive devices, to share, as appropriate, technical and scientific information regarding the humanitarian and environmental consequences of such use and testing with Member States affected by the use or testing of nuclear weapons or any other nuclear explosive devices, and calls upon Member States, in a position to do so, to contribute technical and financial assistance, as appropriate;

3. *Recognizes* that the responsibility to address the harms resulting from a detonation of using or testing a nuclear weapon or any other nuclear explosive device lies, respectively, with the Member States that have done so;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek the views and proposals of Member States regarding efforts and ongoing needs related to victim assistance and environmental assessment and remediation, and to submit a substantive report, with an annex containing those views, to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session, for further discussion by Member States;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “General and complete disarmament”, the sub-item entitled “Addressing the legacy of nuclear weapons: providing victim assistance and environmental remediation to Member States affected by the use or testing of nuclear weapons”.

### RESOLUTION 78/241

Adopted at the 50th (resumed) plenary meeting, on 22 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 152 to 4, with 11 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/409, para. 89)<sup>440</sup>

\* *In favour*: Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against*: Belarus, India, Mali, Russian Federation

*Abstaining*: China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Madagascar, Niger, Saudi Arabia, South Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Türkiye, United Arab Emirates

<sup>440</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Antigua and Barbuda, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Fiji, Germany, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Philippines, Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, Switzerland and Trinidad and Tobago.

### 78/241. Lethal autonomous weapons systems

*The General Assembly,*

*Affirming* that international law, in particular the Charter of the United Nations, international humanitarian law and international human rights law, applies to autonomous weapons systems,

*Recognizing* the rapid development of new and emerging technologies, and recognizing further that they hold great promise for the advancement of human welfare and could, inter alia, help to better protect civilians in conflict in certain circumstances,

*Mindful* of the serious challenges and concerns that new technological applications in the military domain, including those related to artificial intelligence and autonomy in weapons systems, also raise from humanitarian, legal, security, technological and ethical perspectives,

*Concerned* about the possible negative consequences and impact of autonomous weapon systems on global security and regional and international stability, including the risk of an emerging arms race, lowering the threshold for conflict and proliferation, including to non-State actors,

*Welcoming* the interest and sustained efforts on these issues, in particular through the ongoing and valuable work of the Group of Governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems, established under the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects,<sup>441</sup> and in this regard underlining the significant progress made in these discussions as well as the various proposals presented,

*Noting* the adoption by consensus of Human Rights Council resolution 51/22 of 7 October 2022 on human rights implications of new and emerging technologies in the military domain,<sup>442</sup>

*Acknowledging* the important contribution of international and regional conferences and initiatives such as the summit hosted by the Kingdom of the Netherlands and co-organized by the Republic of Korea on 15 and 16 February 2023, the regional conference hosted by Costa Rica on 23 and 24 February 2023, the conference hosted by Luxembourg on 25 and 26 April 2023, as well as the regional conference hosted by Trinidad and Tobago on 5 and 6 September 2023,

*Recognizing* the valuable contributions made by United Nations entities and international and regional organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, civil society organizations, academia, industry and other stakeholders in enriching international discussions on autonomous weapons systems, encompassing legal, ethical, human rights, societal and technological dimensions,

*Recognizing* the efforts of the Secretary-General within the new agenda for peace initiative to address the issue of autonomous weapons systems,

1. *Stresses* the urgent need for the international community to address the challenges and concerns raised by autonomous weapons systems, in particular through the Group of Governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems, and to continue to further its understanding of the issues involved;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States and observer States on lethal autonomous weapons systems, inter alia, on ways to address the related challenges and concerns they raise from humanitarian, legal, security, technological and ethical perspectives and on the role of humans in the use of force, and to submit a substantive report reflecting the full range of views received with an annex containing these views, to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session for further discussion by Member States;

3. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to invite the views of international and regional organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, civil society, the scientific community and industry to include these views in the original language received in the annex of the aforementioned report;

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<sup>441</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1342, No. 22495.

<sup>442</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/77/53/Add.1)*, chap. III, sect. A.

## II. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the First Committee

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4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session the item entitled “Lethal autonomous weapons systems”.





### III. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

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## RESOLUTION 78/70

Adopted at the 45th plenary meeting, on 7 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/417, para. 8)<sup>1</sup>

### 78/70. Assistance in mine action

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 76/74 of 9 December 2021 and all its previous resolutions on assistance in mine clearance and on assistance in mine action, all adopted without a vote,

*Recalling also* all relevant treaties and conventions<sup>2</sup> and their review processes,

*Noting with appreciation* the extent to which the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action continues to be commemorated worldwide,

*Noting* all relevant United Nations resolutions that take into account the humanitarian aspects of assistance in mine action,

*Reaffirming its deep concern* at the grave humanitarian and development impact of mines and explosive remnants of war,<sup>3</sup> in affected countries, which have serious and lasting social and economic consequences for their civilian populations, including refugees and other displaced persons returning to their homes, as well as persons residing in conflict and post-conflict areas, and which hinder the access of people in need to humanitarian assistance and the achievement of sustainable development and inhibit peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts,

*Noting with appreciation* the resilience shown by the mine action sector in the face of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, including the continuous use of innovative methods, such as virtual training platforms or merging health campaigns and risk education messages, which has allowed for safety and security training and risk education to continue to be delivered to affected communities and international, national and local personnel operating in high-risk areas,

*Deeply concerned* that children continue to be disproportionately affected by mines and explosive remnants of war in conflict and post-conflict situations,

*Bearing in mind* the serious humanitarian risk that mines and explosive remnants of war pose, in affected countries, to the safety, health and lives of populations, including local civilian populations, as well as of personnel participating in humanitarian, peacekeeping, rehabilitation, reconstruction and mine clearance programmes and operations,

*Deeply concerned* by the increasing threat of improvised explosive devices to civilian populations, humanitarian personnel, United Nations personnel, including peacekeepers, and national defence and security forces,

*Strongly condemning* all acts of violence, including direct attacks, against humanitarian mine action personnel and facilities and their means of transport and equipment,

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<sup>1</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

<sup>2</sup> These include the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, 1997; the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices, as amended in 1996 (Protocol II to the 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects); the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War, 2003 (Protocol V to the 1980 Convention); the Convention on Cluster Munitions, 2008; the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts 1977 (Protocol I); and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2006.

<sup>3</sup> As defined by Protocol V to the 1980 Convention.

### III. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

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*Emphasizing* the increased necessity and urgency of strengthening mine action efforts by the international community with a view to eliminating the risk and the humanitarian impact of mines and explosive remnants of war on civilians as soon as possible and to facilitating the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel and the delivery of supplies and equipment, in accordance with the humanitarian principles,

*Recognizing* the continued progress made through a comprehensive approach to mine action, including assessing, surveying and clearing mines and explosive remnants of war, providing risk education to affected populations and supporting victims,

*Noting* that, for the purposes of the implementation of the present resolution, improvised explosive devices meeting the definition of mines, booby traps or other devices fall under the scope of mine action when their clearance is undertaken for humanitarian purposes and in areas where major active hostilities have ceased,

*Recognizing* that, in addition to the primary role of Member States, the United Nations plays a significant role in the field of assistance in mine action, in particular through the implementation of the Strategy of the United Nations on Mine Action 2019–2023 by members of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action,<sup>4</sup> chaired by the Mine Action Service at the working level,

*Considering* mine action to be an important and integrated component of United Nations humanitarian assistance and development activities, and noting the integration of mine action in numerous United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions mandated by the Security Council,

*Recognizing* the contribution of mine action to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>5</sup>

*Noting* the important role of mine action in reducing the human cost of weapons and, in this regard, the importance of including mine action in the discussions to be led by Member States on A New Agenda for Peace, in follow-up to the policy brief presented by the Secretary-General in July 2023,<sup>6</sup>

*Noting also* that mine action contributes to the realization of durable solutions for refugees and internally displaced persons, including through enabling their safe return and sustainable reintegration,

*Noting further* the relevance of the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy launched by the Secretary-General in June 2019 to bring about lasting change on disability inclusion across the United Nations system, in particular by ensuring, through advocacy and technical assistance, equal access for all persons with disabilities, including victims of mines and explosive ordnance,

*Noting* the establishment of a United Nations Global Advocate for persons with disabilities in conflict and peacebuilding situations,

*Noting with satisfaction* that humanitarian appeals increasingly include mine action, where relevant, and underlining the importance of considering mine action during the earliest stages of planning and programming, where appropriate, in humanitarian emergency responses,<sup>7</sup> in accordance with the humanitarian principles,

*Noting with appreciation* the efforts of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action in cooperating and coordinating with non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders and the strengthening of United Nations coordination at the global level through the mine action area of responsibility within the Global Protection Cluster, and encouraging further enhancement of that cooperation,

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<sup>4</sup> Consisting of the Mine Action Service of the Department of Peace Operations of the Secretariat, the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Office for Project Services, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Food Programme and the World Health Organization. The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research and the World Bank are observers.

<sup>5</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>6</sup> [A/77/CRP.1/Add.8](#).

<sup>7</sup> Reaffirming its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 and the guiding principles contained in the annex thereto, other relevant General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions and agreed conclusions of the Council, reaffirming also the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence in the provision of humanitarian assistance and reaffirming further the need for all actors engaged in the provision of humanitarian assistance in situations of complex emergencies and disasters to promote and fully respect these principles.

### III. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

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*Recognizing* the importance of the full involvement and equal opportunities for participation of both women and men in mine action programmes and of gender- and age-appropriate and disability-inclusive perspective in mine action programmes,

*Recognizing also* the valuable mine action efforts of national, regional and international mine action practitioners, including United Nations personnel and peacekeepers, and also experts from relevant non-governmental organizations involved in mine action, enabling local communities and survivors of mines and explosive remnants of war to resume normal lives and reclaim their livelihoods, including by regaining access to previously contaminated lands,

*Noting with appreciation* national, regional and subregional efforts, including the ongoing development by the African Union of a strategic framework on mine action, as well as other relevant regional mine action strategies,

*Taking note* of the United Nations Policy on Victim Assistance in Mine Action, which highlights the significance of integrating victim assistance efforts into broader national and international frameworks, such as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,<sup>8</sup> as well as the importance of sustained services and support to victims of mines and explosive remnants of war,

*Noting with appreciation* the ongoing implementation of the Strategy of the United Nations on Mine Action 2019–2023, including its reinforced monitoring and evaluation mechanism, emphasizing the importance of using evaluation to inform the future direction of mine action within the United Nations, including the role and function of the Mine Action Service, and encouraging the members of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action to continue their work to improve the impact of the United Nations in the field of mine action,

*Noting* the coordination efforts under the informal donor information-sharing forum known as the Mine Action Support Group, which endeavours to coordinate the humanitarian mine action programmes of donor States, harmonizing the prioritization of their respective mine action programmes and increasing donor support for mine action where it is most needed,

*Noting with appreciation* the role of the Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Advisory Group, which is co-chaired by the United Nations Children's Fund and a rotating non-governmental organization and comprises 15 leading organizations in the mine action sector and which was formed to steer risk education efforts and to promote the use of robust behaviour change strategies to systematically protect affected populations from the threat of mines and explosive remnants of war,

*Noting* the discussions on the issue of improvised explosive devices of the Group of Experts of the High Contracting Parties to the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices, as amended on 3 May 1996 (Amended Protocol II), to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects,<sup>9</sup> and on the technical annex to the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (Protocol V)<sup>10</sup> to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects,<sup>11</sup>

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>12</sup> including the recommendations contained therein;
2. *Calls upon* Member States to comply with their respective international obligations related to mine action;
3. *Calls*, in particular, for the continuation of the efforts of Member States, including through South-South, regional and subregional cooperation, bearing in mind the need to ensure national ownership, with the assistance of the United Nations and relevant organizations involved in mine action, upon request and as appropriate and in coordination with the affected country, to foster the establishment and development of national mine action capacities in countries in which mines and explosive remnants of war constitute a serious threat to the safety, health and lives of

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<sup>8</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2048, No. 22495.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2399, No. 22495.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1342, No. 22495.

<sup>12</sup> [A/78/259](#).

### III. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

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the local civilian population, or an impediment to land cultivation and local resilience, and the delivery of humanitarian assistance, as well as social and economic development and peacebuilding efforts at the national and local levels;

4. *Urges* all Member States, in particular those that have the capacity to do so, as well as the United Nations system and other relevant organizations and institutions involved in mine action, to support mine- and explosive remnants of war-affected States, upon request and as appropriate, by providing:

(a) Assistance to countries affected by mines and explosive remnants of war for the establishment and development of national mine action capacities, including in the fulfilment of the relevant international obligations of those countries and the implementation of national mine action strategies and plans;

(b) Support for national and, where and as appropriate, local programmes, in cooperation with the relevant bodies of the United Nations system and relevant regional, governmental and non-governmental organizations, to reduce the risks posed by mines and explosive remnants of war, taking into consideration the different needs of women, girls, boys and men, and the negative implications related to extreme weather events and climate change;

(c) Reliable, predictable, timely and, where possible, multi-annual contributions for mine action activities, including through national mine action efforts and mine action programmes of the United Nations and non-governmental organizations, including those relating to rapid response in humanitarian emergencies, victim assistance and mine risk education, especially at the local level, as well as through relevant national, regional and global trust funds, including the voluntary trust fund for assistance in mine action;

(d) Necessary information and technical, financial and material training and assistance to locate, remove, destroy and otherwise render ineffective minefields, mines and explosive remnants of war, in accordance with international law, as soon as possible;

(e) Technological assistance (i) to countries affected by mines and explosive remnants of war, and (ii) to promote user-oriented scientific research on and development of mine action techniques and technologies that are effective, sustainable, appropriate and environmentally sound;

5. *Encourages* efforts to conduct all mine action activities in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards or national standards compliant with those Standards, and emphasizes the importance of ensuring the accuracy and objectivity of reporting information as well as of using state-of-the-art technologies and an information management system, such as the Information Management System for Mine Action, to help to facilitate mine action activities;

6. *Notes* the continued update of the International Mine Action Standards, and encourages the Mine Action Service to continue its efforts in this regard;

7. *Urges* all mine- and explosive remnants of war-affected States, pursuant to applicable international law, to identify all areas, as appropriate, under their jurisdiction or control containing mines and explosive remnants of war in the most efficient manner possible and to employ land release techniques, including non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance when appropriate;

8. *Encourages* mine- and explosive remnants of war-affected States, with support from relevant United Nations agencies and development partners as appropriate, to proactively mainstream mine action, including victim and survivor assistance requirements and their linkage with health care, including mental health and psychosocial support and disabilities agendas, into development plans and processes to ensure that development priorities include mine action and that mine action, including victim assistance requirements, is funded in a predictable and sustainable manner;

9. *Encourages* all relevant multilateral, regional and national programmes and bodies to include activities related to mine action, including clearance, in their peacebuilding, humanitarian, stabilization, rehabilitation, reconstruction, peace sustainment, climate, food security and development assistance activities, where appropriate, bearing in mind the need to ensure national and local ownership, sustainability and capacity-building, as well as to include a gender- and age-appropriate perspective in all aspects of such activities and to take into account the rights and the specific needs of persons with disabilities;

10. *Encourages* Member States, as appropriate, and relevant organizations involved in mine action to continue efforts to ensure that mine action programmes take into account risk education, the rights, specific needs and requirements of victims and persons with disabilities, that they are gender- and age-sensitive and disability-inclusive

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so that women, girls, boys and men can benefit equally from them, and also take into account the specific needs of refugees and internally displaced persons, as well as persons residing in conflict and post-conflict areas, and encourages the participation of all stakeholders, including women, in the programming of mine action;

11. *Encourages* the inclusion of refugees and internally displaced persons, as well as persons residing in conflict and post-conflict areas, in mine action national plans and strategies in the spirit of “leaving no one behind” and in order to mobilize solutions and reach social cohesion among the populations of countries affected by conflict;

12. *Urges* States to provide humanitarian assistance for victims of mines and explosive remnants of war, as well as support to families and communities, taking into account the rights and specific needs of victims of mines and explosive remnants of war, including persons with disabilities, and to take measures to protect civilians in situations of armed conflict, in accordance with international law, including international humanitarian law;

13. *Encourages* States to support victims’ and survivors’ access to appropriate medical care, including mental health and psychosocial support, physical and sensory rehabilitation, education and skills training and income-earning opportunities, and to provide those services to all, while integrating a gender perspective, with respect for international law, including international humanitarian law;

14. *Encourages* a focus on the localization of mine action, including through local capacity development, bearing in mind relevant international and national frameworks, in order to ensure that sustainable and tailored mine action benefits for affected communities continue;

15. *Encourages* the provision of capacity-building assistance to affected countries in order to integrate assistance for victims into their national policy frameworks on health care, social services and disability-inclusive development by relevant United Nations agencies, civil society organizations and other entities with expertise in those matters;

16. *Stresses* the importance of cooperation and coordination in mine action and of devoting existing resources to that end, as appropriate, emphasizes the primary responsibility of national authorities in that regard, and also stresses the supporting role of the United Nations, with the Mine Action Service as the coordinator for mine action within the United Nations system, the mine action area of responsibility and other relevant organizations in that regard;

17. *Encourages* the United Nations to continue to take measures to improve coordination, efficiency, transparency and accountability, in particular by implementing the Strategy of the United Nations on Mine Action 2019–2023 and completing deliberations on the next United Nations Strategy and monitoring and evaluation framework;

18. *Notes with appreciation* the continued partnership and cooperation of the United Nations with regional and subregional organizations, especially the African Union, to mitigate the risk to civilians from mines and explosive remnants of war, including through the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security and other joint initiatives, and encourages in this regard the establishment of partnerships with regional, national and local organizations, as appropriate;

19. *Recognizes* the importance of explicitly incorporating references to mine action, in ceasefire and peace agreements, when appropriate, as well as in the mandates of peacekeeping operations and special political missions, as appropriate, in the light of the potential that mine action can have as a peace- and confidence-building measure in post-conflict situations among the parties concerned and in view of the ongoing dangers faced by United Nations personnel, including peacekeepers, and host populations;

20. *Encourages* those Member States and organizations in a position to do so to support measures by all relevant actors aimed at improving rapid response capacity in humanitarian emergencies, as well as transparency and accountability;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its eightieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and on follow-up to previous resolutions on assistance in mine clearance and on assistance in mine action;

22. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its eightieth session the item entitled “Assistance in mine action”.



RESOLUTION 78/71

Adopted at the 45th plenary meeting, on 7 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/418, para. 8)<sup>13</sup>

**78/71. Effects of atomic radiation**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 913 (X) of 3 December 1955, by which it established the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, and its subsequent resolutions on the subject, in which, inter alia, it requested the Scientific Committee to continue its work,

*Concerned* about the potentially harmful effects on present and future generations resulting from the levels of radiation to which humankind and the environment are exposed,

*Conscious* of the continuing need to examine and compile information about the observed levels of exposure to ionizing radiation and to analyse its effects on humankind and the environment, and conscious also of the increasing volume, complexity and diversity of that information,

*Acknowledging* the concerns about the radiological consequences of nuclear accidents and other incidents involving radiation exposure,

*Reaffirming* the desirability of the Scientific Committee continuing its work, and welcoming the increased commitment of States members of the Committee,

*Emphasizing* the vital need for sufficient, assured and predictable funding, as well as efficient management of the work of the secretariat of the Scientific Committee to arrange the annual sessions and coordinate the development of documents based on scientific reviews of the exposures to sources of ionizing radiation and its effects on human health and the environment,

*Recognizing* the increasing importance of the scientific work of the Scientific Committee and the need to carry out unforeseen additional work, such as after nuclear accidents,

*Considering* that the high quality of the work and the scientific rigour of the Scientific Committee need to be maintained in the future,

*Recognizing* the importance of disseminating the findings of the Scientific Committee, including to the public, and widely publicizing scientific knowledge about atomic radiation, and recalling in that context principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,<sup>14</sup>

*Noting* the need for the resources of the Scientific Committee to be sufficient, assured and predictable, and recognizing the importance of voluntary contributions, both in-kind and to the general trust fund established by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, to support the work of the Committee,

*Recognizing* that sufficient staffing of the secretariat is essential to support the work of the Scientific Committee,

*Commending* the secretariat of the Scientific Committee for its ongoing efforts to ensure the sustainable and effective work of the Committee, and encouraging all States in a position to do so to provide support to the secretariat of the Committee,

*Recalling* the support expressed by the International Atomic Energy Agency and the World Health Organization for the Scientific Committee's work in producing the most reliable and comprehensive sources of scientific information about the levels and effects of ionizing radiation, without which safety guidance and safety standards

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<sup>13</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Cyprus, Czechia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malta, Monaco, Portugal, Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Thailand and United States of America.

<sup>14</sup> *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.

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could not be developed and maintained and priorities for research in the areas of sources and effects of ionizing radiation could not be determined,

*Recognizing* the importance of keeping aware of any improvement in the understanding of the effects and risks, including at low levels, of radiation exposure,

*Recognizing also* the importance of close cooperation between the Scientific Committee and other relevant international organizations,

*Acknowledging* the memorandum of understanding signed between the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Scientific Committee in May 2022 in Vienna, and the framework of cooperation signed between the World Health Organization and the Committee in September 2022 in Geneva,

1. *Commends* the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation for the valuable contribution that it has been making since its inception to wider knowledge and understanding of the levels, effects and risks of exposure to ionizing radiation and for fulfilling its original mandate with scientific authority and independence of judgment;

2. *Reaffirms* the decision to maintain the present functions and independent role of the Scientific Committee;

3. *Re-emphasizes* the need for the Scientific Committee to hold regular sessions on an annual basis so that its report will be able to reflect the latest developments and findings in the field of ionizing radiation and thereby provide updated information for dissemination among all States;

4. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Scientific Committee, takes note of the report on its seventieth session,<sup>15</sup> including the update on the Committee's long-term strategic directions and the revised governing principles and supporting procedure for the Committee's work,<sup>16</sup> and encourages the Committee, over its coming sessions, to continue to work towards implementing strategies to support its long-term efforts to serve the scientific community, as well as wider audiences;

5. *Also notes with appreciation* the implementation of the 2022 strategy to improve collection, analysis and dissemination of data on radiation exposure aimed at seeking widespread participation in the Scientific Committee's surveys and ensuring that future surveys adapt to changing data sources and use of radiation across the world;

6. *Welcomes* the continuation of the ad hoc working group on effects and mechanisms and the ad hoc working group on sources and exposure to assist the Scientific Committee in supporting and monitoring progress in the implementation of its programme of work, to evaluate new scientific developments relevant to the Committee, to implement the updated strategy for data collection and to work with the secretariat to continue the preparation of the future programme of work of the Committee for 2025 to 2029;

7. *Supports* the Scientific Committee in continuing to conduct its programme of work of scientific review and assessment on behalf of the General Assembly, welcomes progress, in particular its global survey and evaluation of public exposure to ionizing radiation, its epidemiological studies of radiation and cancer, and its evaluation of diseases of the circulatory system from radiation exposure, which are being conducted in close cooperation with other relevant organizations, and requests the Committee to submit plans for its ongoing and future programme of work to the Assembly at its seventy-ninth session;

8. *Welcomes* the progress of the ongoing evaluation on second primary cancer after radiotherapy, and emphasizes the importance of completing this evaluation at the earliest possible time;

9. *Notes* the initiation of the new evaluation on nervous system effects of ionizing radiation;

10. *Requests* the Scientific Committee to continue its work, including its important activities to increase knowledge of the levels, effects and risks of ionizing radiation from all sources, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session;

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<sup>15</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 46 (A/78/46).*

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*, chap. II, sect. D.

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11. *Acknowledges* the importance of sharing data with the Scientific Committee as appropriate and the central role played by the National Contact Persons in order to coordinate data collection at the country level and to cooperate with technical experts to complete the Committee's questionnaires;
12. *Invites* members of the Scientific Committee to introduce alternate National Contact Persons to ensure continuity of engagement by each Member State;
13. *Requests* the secretariat to monitor the timely publication of approved reports and to strive to publish them within 12 months of their approval;
14. *Invites* the Scientific Committee to continue its consultations with scientists and experts from interested Member States in the process of preparing its future scientific reports, and requests the secretariat to continue to facilitate such consultations;
15. *Welcomes*, in this context, the readiness of Member States to provide the Scientific Committee with relevant information on the levels and effects of ionizing radiation, and invites the Committee to analyse and give due consideration to such information, particularly in the light of its own findings;
16. *Recalls* the strategy of the Scientific Committee to improve data collection, encourages in this regard Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations concerned to provide further relevant data about levels, effects and risks of radiation exposure from various sources, which would greatly help in the preparation of future reports of the Committee to the General Assembly, and encourages the International Atomic Energy Agency, the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organization and other relevant organizations to further collaborate with the secretariat on arrangements for the collection, analysis and dissemination of data on radiation exposures of patients, workers and the general public;
17. *Notes* the renewed framework for cooperation with the Information System on Occupational Exposure in December 2022 and the research agreement with the European Commission in June 2023;
18. *Welcomes* the use and ongoing development by the secretariat of an online platform for collecting data on the exposure of patients, workers and the general public, and urges Member States to take part in the Scientific Committee's global survey on public exposure and to nominate National Contact Persons to facilitate coordination of the collection and submission of data on the exposure of patients, workers and the general public within the country;
19. *Also welcomes* the Scientific Committee's outreach strategy for the period 2020–2024, in particular the enhancement of the website of the Committee and the planned publication of information for the general public in all the official languages of the United Nations, continues to encourage that consideration be given to publishing the website in all of those languages, and notes that the dissemination of the Committee's findings and further enhancements to the website would depend on the financial and human resources made available to the secretariat;
20. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme to continue, within existing United Nations resources, to service the Scientific Committee and to disseminate its findings to Member States, the scientific community and the public and to ensure that the administrative measures in place are appropriate so that the secretariat is able to adequately and efficiently service the Committee in a predictable and sustainable manner;
21. *Encourages* the Scientific Committee to stand ready to carry out unplanned additional work, in strict compliance with its mandate, and in coordination with the International Atomic Energy Agency and other relevant international organizations, as appropriate, including in the context of military actions;
22. *Acknowledges* the Scientific Committee's ongoing and increasing concern with respect to the Committee's continued decline in regular budget funds allocated to engage expert consultants for performing the Committee's scientific evaluations, and notes that, despite the slight augmentation in 2023, the annual budget allocated for consultants has decreased by about 50 per cent in the past 10 years;
23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to strengthen support for the secretariat in order to adequately and efficiently provide service to the Scientific Committee in a predictable and sustainable manner, and to effectively facilitate the use of the invaluable expertise offered to the Committee by its members, and to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session on these issues;

24. *Understands* that the present extrabudgetary support is expected to expire by 2023 and the timely implementation of the programme of work to deliver on the mandate of the Committee would require the provision of additional professional and administrative secretariat services;

25. *Acknowledges* that contributions to the general trust fund by Member States (through funding support and mostly in-kind contributions of cost-free experts and technical officers) have augmented the regular budget;

26. *Encourages* Member States in a position to do so to make voluntary contributions to the general trust fund established by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and also to make contributions in kind, in order to support the work of the Scientific Committee, and the dissemination of its findings, in a sustainable manner.

### **RESOLUTION 78/72**

Adopted at the 45th plenary meeting, on 7 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/419, para. 8)<sup>17</sup>

#### **78/72. International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 51/122 of 13 December 1996, 54/68 of 6 December 1999, 59/2 of 20 October 2004, 61/110 and 61/111 of 14 December 2006, 62/101 of 17 December 2007, 62/217 of 22 December 2007, 65/97 of 10 December 2010, 65/271 of 7 April 2011, 66/71 of 9 December 2011, 67/113 of 18 December 2012, 68/50 of 5 December 2013, 68/74 and 68/75 of 11 December 2013, 69/85 of 5 December 2014, 70/1 of 25 September 2015, 70/82 of 9 December 2015, 70/230 of 23 December 2015, 71/90 of 6 December 2016, 72/77 and 72/78 of 7 December 2017, 73/6 of 26 October 2018, 73/91 of 7 December 2018, 74/82 of 13 December 2019, 75/92 of 10 December 2020, 76/3 of 25 October 2021, 76/76 of 9 December 2021 and 77/120 and 77/121 of 12 December 2022,

*Emphasizing* the significant progress in the development of space science and technology and their applications that has enabled humans to explore the universe, and the extraordinary achievements made in space exploration efforts, including deepening the understanding of the planetary system and the Sun and the Earth itself, in the use of space science and technology for the benefit of all humankind and in the development of the international legal regime governing space activities,

*Recognizing*, in that regard, the unique platform at the global level for international cooperation in space activities represented by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and Legal Subcommittee and assisted by the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat,

*Deeply convinced* of the common interest of all humankind in promoting and expanding the exploration and use of outer space, as the province of all humankind, for peaceful purposes and in continuing efforts to extend to all Member States the benefits derived therefrom, and also of the importance of international cooperation in this field, for which the United Nations should continue to provide a focal point,

*Reaffirming* the importance of international cooperation in developing the rule of international law, including the relevant norms of international space law and their important role in international cooperation for the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, and of the widest possible adherence to international treaties that promote the peaceful uses of outer space in order to meet emerging new challenges, especially for developing countries,

*Seriously concerned* about the possibility of an arms race in outer space, and bearing in mind the importance of article IV of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies,<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was introduced in the Committee by the representative of the United Arab Emirates (on behalf of the Working Group of the Whole on International Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space).

<sup>18</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 610, No. 8843.

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*Recognizing* that all Member States, in particular those with major space capabilities, should contribute actively to the prevention of an arms race in outer space with a view to promoting and strengthening international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

*Deeply concerned* about the fragility of the space environment and the challenges to the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, in particular the impact of space debris, which is an issue of concern to all nations,

*Noting* the progress achieved in the development of peaceful space exploration and applications, as well as in various national and cooperative space projects, and the importance of further developing the legal framework to strengthen international cooperation in space,

*Convinced* that space science and technology and their applications, including satellite communications, Earth observation systems and satellite navigation technologies, provide indispensable tools for viable long-term solutions for sustainable development and can contribute more effectively to efforts to promote the development of all countries and regions of the world, and stressing in that regard the need to harness the benefits of space technology towards implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>19</sup>

*Seriously concerned* about the devastating impact of disasters,<sup>20</sup> and desirous of enhancing international coordination and cooperation at the global level in disaster management and emergency response through greater access to and use of space-based services and geospatial information for all countries and facilitating capacity-building and institutional strengthening for disaster management, in particular in developing countries,

*Firmly convinced* that the use of space science and technology and their applications in areas such as telehealth, tele-education, disaster management, environmental protection, natural resources management and ocean and climate monitoring contribute to achieving the objectives of the global conferences of the United Nations that address various aspects of economic, social and cultural development, particularly poverty eradication,

*Deeply concerned* about the devastating effects of infectious diseases, including the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and Ebola virus disease, to the detriment of human life, society and development, and urging the international community to enhance the role of space-based solutions, in particular tele-epidemiology, in monitoring, preparedness and response activities,

*Recalling* the fact that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, recognized the important role that space science and technology play in promoting sustainable development,<sup>21</sup>

*Recognizing* the “Space2030” Agenda: space as a driver of sustainable development and its implementation plan<sup>22</sup> as a forward-looking strategy for reaffirming and strengthening the contribution of space activities and space tools for the achievement of global agendas,<sup>23</sup>

*Having considered* the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its sixty-sixth session,<sup>24</sup>

1. *Endorses* the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its sixty-sixth session;

2. *Agrees* that the Committee, at its sixty-seventh session, should consider the substantive items recommended at its sixty-sixth session,<sup>25</sup> taking into account the concerns of all countries, in particular those of developing countries;

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<sup>19</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>20</sup> The term “disasters” refers to natural or technological disasters.

<sup>21</sup> Resolution 66/288, annex, para. 274.

<sup>22</sup> Resolution 76/3.

<sup>23</sup> The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the Paris Agreement.

<sup>24</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/78/20)*.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 404.

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3. *Notes* that, at its sixty-second session, the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee continued its work,<sup>26</sup> as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution [77/121](#);
4. *Agrees* that the Legal Subcommittee, at its sixty-third session, should consider the substantive items and reconvene the working groups recommended by the Committee,<sup>27</sup> including holding intersessional consultations as necessary, taking into account the concerns of all countries, in particular those of developing countries;
5. *Urges* Member States that have not yet become parties to the international treaties governing the uses of outer space<sup>28</sup> to give consideration to ratifying or acceding to those treaties in accordance with their national law, as well as incorporating them into their national legislation;
6. *Notes with satisfaction* that the space law curriculum developed by the Office and published in all official languages of the United Nations could encourage further studies within Member States in cooperation with relevant entities in support of capacity-building efforts in space law and policy;
7. *Takes note* of the report of the Working Group on the Review of International Mechanisms for Cooperation in the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space on the work conducted under its multi-year workplan,<sup>29</sup> as finalized at the fifty-sixth session of the Legal Subcommittee, and notes that the report provides an important source of information and useful guidance for further joint undertakings by spacefaring nations and emerging space nations, as appropriate;
8. *Notes with satisfaction* the work, under the five-year workplan,<sup>30</sup> of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities of the Legal Subcommittee;
9. *Notes* that, at its sixtieth session, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee continued its work,<sup>31</sup> as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution [77/121](#);
10. *Agrees* that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its sixty-first session, should consider the substantive items and reconvene the working groups recommended by the Committee,<sup>32</sup> including holding intersessional consultations as necessary, taking into account the concerns of all countries, in particular those of developing countries;
11. *Takes note* of the report of the Working Group on Space and Global Health on the work conducted under its multi-year workplan,<sup>33</sup> as finalized at the fifty-ninth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, and notes that the report provides an important source of information and useful guidance for advancing the use of space science and technology for global health for spacefaring nations and emerging space nations, as appropriate;
12. *Recalls with satisfaction* the establishment of the Space and Global Health Platform, based in Geneva, welcomes the work of the Space and Global Health Network,<sup>34</sup> and requests the Office for Outer Space Affairs to strengthen, within existing resources, capacity-building and networking in Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean, through regional technical cooperation projects, and to support field projects for strengthening collaboration between the space and global health sectors as an efficient strategy for making better use of space science and technology for access to global health for beneficiary States and taking better advantage of

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<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*, chap. II, sect. C; see also [A/AC.105/1285](#).

<sup>27</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/78/20)*, paras. 266–269.

<sup>28</sup> Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 610, No. 8843); Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 672, No. 9574); Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 961, No. 13810); Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1023, No. 15020); and Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1363, No. 23002).

<sup>29</sup> [A/AC.105/C.2/112](#).

<sup>30</sup> [A/AC.105/1260](#), annex II, appendix.

<sup>31</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/78/20)*, chap. II, sect. B; see also [A/AC.105/1279](#).

<sup>32</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/78/20)*, paras. 173–176.

<sup>33</sup> [A/AC.105/C.1/121](#).

<sup>34</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/78/20)*, chap. II, sect. B.



opportunities offered by bilateral or multilateral collaboration, as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 77/120;

13. *Takes note* of the report of the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space on the work conducted under its multi-year workplan,<sup>35</sup> as finalized at the sixtieth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, and notes with satisfaction the new five-year workplan of the Working Group;<sup>36</sup>

14. *Reiterates* the importance of information-sharing in discovering, monitoring and physically characterizing potentially hazardous near-Earth objects to ensure that all countries, in particular developing countries with limited capacity for predicting and mitigating a near-Earth object impact, are aware of potential threats, emphasizes the need for capacity-building for effective emergency response and disaster management in the event of a near-Earth object impact, and notes with satisfaction the work carried out by the International Asteroid Warning Network and the Space Mission Planning Advisory Group to strengthen international cooperation to mitigate the potential threat posed by near-Earth objects, with the support of the Office, serving as the permanent secretariat of the Advisory Group;<sup>37</sup>

15. *Notes with satisfaction* the adoption by the Committee of the preamble and 21 Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, as contained in annex II to the report of the Committee on its sixty-second session,<sup>38</sup> and the work, under a five-year workplan, of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee, notes that the Committee encouraged States and international intergovernmental organizations to voluntarily take measures to ensure that the Guidelines were implemented to the greatest extent feasible and practicable, and emphasizes that the Committee serves as the principal forum for continued institutionalized dialogue on issues related to the implementation and review of the Guidelines;

16. *Notes with appreciation* that some Member States are already implementing space debris mitigation measures on a voluntary basis, through national mechanisms and consistent with the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee and with the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,<sup>39</sup> endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/217, and invites other States to implement, through relevant national mechanisms, the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;

17. *Considers* that it is essential that Member States pay more attention to the problem of the gradually increasing probability of collisions of space objects, especially those with nuclear power sources, with space debris, and other aspects of space debris, calls for the continuation of national research on this question, for the development of improved technology for the monitoring of space debris and for the compilation and dissemination of data on space debris, considers that, to the extent possible, information thereon should be provided to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, and agrees that international cooperation is needed to expand appropriate and affordable strategies to minimize the impact of space debris on future space missions;

18. *Urges* all Member States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space as an essential condition for the promotion of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes;

19. *Requests* the Committee to continue to consider, as a matter of priority, ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session, and agrees that the Committee should continue to consider the broader perspective of space security and associated matters that would be instrumental in ensuring the safe and responsible conduct of space activities, including ways to promote international, regional and interregional cooperation to that end;

20. *Decides* to convene a joint half-day panel discussion of the Disarmament and International Security Committee (First Committee) and the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) to address possible challenges to space security and sustainability, and to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth

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<sup>35</sup> [A/AC.105/C.1/124](#).

<sup>36</sup> See [A/AC.105/1279](#), annex III, para. 8; see also [A/AC.105/C.1/124](#), para. 28.

<sup>37</sup> See [A/AC.105/1138](#), paras. 205–210; see also [A/AC.105/C.1/121](#).

<sup>38</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/74/20)*.

<sup>39</sup> *Ibid.*, *Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/62/20)*, paras. 117 and 118 and annex.



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session, under the item entitled “International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space”, a sub-item entitled “Joint panel discussion of the First and Fourth Committees on possible challenges to space security and sustainability”;

21. *Emphasizes* the central role of the Office in promoting international cooperation in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space for economic, social and scientific development, in particular for the benefit of developing countries;

22. *Notes with satisfaction* the programme of work undertaken by the Office in 2023 to strengthen international cooperation in the conduct of space activities for peaceful purposes and the use of space science and technology and their applications towards the achievement of the internationally agreed Sustainable Development Goals, including the workshops and symposiums conducted to build capacity, the assistance provided to developing countries, at their request, in the development of national space policy and legislation in conformity with international space law, and actions implemented to strengthen institutional capacity in space activities;

23. *Welcomes*, in that regard, the activities being carried out by the Office to promote gender equality and the increased role of women in space activities, including through targeted capacity-building and technical advisory activities, and efforts to encourage enhanced involvement of women and girls in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education, and invites Member States to make voluntary contributions to those activities;

24. *Requests* the Office to continue to apprise the Committee and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and Legal Subcommittee, at their respective sessions in 2024, of the status of its capacity-building activities;

25. *Recognizes* the capacity-building activities under the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, which provide unique benefits for Member States, in particular developing countries, participating in those activities;<sup>40</sup>

26. *Notes with satisfaction* the activities carried out under the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), and recognizes the significant achievements made and the advisory support provided to Member States within the framework of UN-SPIDER since its establishment in 2006<sup>41</sup> with the valuable contributions of its network of regional support offices, and encourages Member States, on a voluntary basis, to provide the programme with the additional resources necessary to address the increasing demand for support successfully and in a timely manner;

27. *Reiterates* the importance of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,<sup>42</sup> in which the value of space-based technology and Earth observation for disaster management and emergency response is recognized, notes the midterm review of the Sendai Framework to assess progress on integrating disaster risk reduction into policies, programmes and investments at all levels,<sup>43</sup> and, in that regard, notes with satisfaction the efforts of the Office and its UN-SPIDER programme towards promoting international cooperation as a way to enhance the use of space-based technologies and related services at the national and local levels in contributing to the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

28. *Notes with satisfaction* the continuous progress made by the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems with the support of the Office, in its capacity as executive secretariat of the International Committee, towards achieving compatibility and interoperability among global and regional space-based positioning, navigation and timing systems and in the promotion of the use of global navigation satellite systems and their integration into national infrastructure, particularly in developing countries, and notes with appreciation that the International Committee held its seventeenth meeting in Madrid, from 15 to 20 October 2023;

29. *Notes with appreciation* that the regional centres for space science and technology education, affiliated to the United Nations, namely, the African regional centres for space science and technology education in the French and English languages, located in Morocco and Nigeria, respectively, the Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for Asia and the Pacific, located in China, the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific, located in India, the Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education

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<sup>40</sup> See [A/AC.105/1279](#), sect. II.

<sup>41</sup> See resolution [61/110](#).

<sup>42</sup> Resolution [69/283](#), annex II.

<sup>43</sup> See resolution [77/289](#).

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for Latin America and the Caribbean, with campuses located in Brazil and Mexico, and the Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for Western Asia, located in Jordan, have continued their education programmes in 2023, encourages the regional centres to continue to promote greater participation of women in their education programmes, and agrees that the regional centres should continue to report to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on their activities;

30. *Emphasizes* that regional and interregional cooperation in the field of space activities is essential to strengthen the peaceful uses of outer space, assist Member States in the development of their space capabilities and contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to that end requests relevant regional organizations and their groups of experts to offer the assistance necessary so that countries can carry out the recommendations of regional conferences, and in that regard notes the importance of the equal participation of women in all fields of science and technology;

31. *Recognizes*, in that regard, the important role played by such organizations as the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization and the European Space Agency and by conferences and other mechanisms, such as the African Leadership Conference on Space Science and Technology for Sustainable Development, the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum and the Space Conference of the Americas, in strengthening regional and international cooperation among States;

32. *Recalls* the adoption of the African Space Policy and Strategy by the Assembly of the African Union at its twenty-sixth ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa on 30 and 31 January 2016, also recalls that this achievement marks the first step towards the realization of an African outer space programme within the framework of the African Union Agenda 2063, and recalls with satisfaction in that regard the establishment of the African Space Agency, hosted by Egypt;

33. *Emphasizes* the need to increase the benefits of space technology and its applications and to contribute to an orderly growth of space activities favourable to sustained economic growth and sustainable development in all countries, including strengthening sustainable spatial data infrastructure at the regional and national levels and building resilience to reduce the consequences of disasters, in particular in developing countries;

34. *Reiterates* the need to promote the benefits of space technology and its applications in the major United Nations conferences and summits for economic, social and cultural development and related fields, and recognizes that the fundamental significance of space science and technology and their applications for global, regional, national and local sustainable development processes should be promoted in the formulation of policies and programmes of action and their implementation, including through efforts towards achieving the objectives of those conferences and summits and in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

35. *Encourages* Member States, to that end, to promote the inclusion in those conferences, summits and processes of the relevance of space science and technology applications and the use of space-derived geospatial data, and in general, space-based data and infrastructures, with the involvement of the Office;

36. *Encourages* the Office to take active part in those conferences, summits and processes and other activities in support of their objectives, as appropriate, and to conduct capacity-building activities, hold lectures and participate in academic and research activities to foster international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space;

37. *Urges* the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities (UN-Space), under the leadership of the Office, to continue to examine how space science and technology and their applications could contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and encourages entities of the United Nations system to increase their collaboration, including through UN-Space, with a view to better coordinating their data-sharing, building United Nations system capacity and cooperating on the procurement of space-based information, to accelerate the application of space assets in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals,<sup>44</sup> and to participate, as appropriate, in UN-Space coordination efforts;

38. *Encourages* the Office to continue to conduct capacity-building and outreach activities associated with space security and transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities, as appropriate, and within the context of the long-term sustainability of outer space activities;

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<sup>44</sup> See [A/77/CRP.1/Add.6](#); and *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/78/20)*, para. 330.

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39. *Also encourages* the Office to continue to explore existing avenues and new opportunities to increase its capability to meet the growing demand for support to strengthen the capacity of countries, in particular developing countries, in using space science and technology and their applications and to inform the Committee of those efforts;

40. *Agrees* that the Office should pursue greater engagement with industry and private sector entities to further their support for and contributions to the overall work of the Office;<sup>45</sup>

41. *Appeals* to Governments, the relevant entities of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, institutions, industry and private sector entities and individuals to make voluntary contributions to the trust fund in support of the United Nations Programme on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in order to support the efforts of the Office to secure additional resources to facilitate the full implementation of its programme of work, including, where appropriate, the financing of special projects, and otherwise to assist the Office in carrying out technical cooperation and assistance activities, in particular for developing countries;

42. *Notes* that the African States and the Western European and other States have nominated their candidates for the offices of Chair of the Committee and Chair of the Legal Subcommittee, respectively, for the period 2024–2025;<sup>46</sup>

43. *Urges* the Asia-Pacific States, the Eastern European States and the Latin American and Caribbean States to nominate their candidates for the offices of Second Vice-Chair/Rapporteur of the Committee, Chair of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and First Vice-Chair of the Committee, respectively, for the period 2024–2025, before the respective sessions of the Committee and its subcommittees, to be held in 2024;<sup>47</sup>

44. *Reiterates*, with regard to the composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subcommittees for the period 2024–2025,<sup>48</sup> that the Committee and its subcommittees should elect their officers at their respective sessions in 2024 in accordance with that composition;

45. *Endorses* the decision of the Committee to grant the status of observer to the European Astronomical Society and Three Country – Trusted Broker, in accordance with the procedures of the Committee;<sup>49</sup>

46. *Encourages* the regional groups to promote active participation in the work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies by the States members of the Committee that are also members of the respective regional groups.

#### RESOLUTION 78/73

Adopted at the 45th plenary meeting, on 7 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 165 to 4, with 6 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/420, para. 13)<sup>50</sup>

\* *In favour*: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, 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, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New

<sup>45</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/72/20)*, para. 326.

<sup>46</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/78/20)*, paras. 393 and 394.

<sup>47</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 395.

<sup>48</sup> *Ibid.*, *Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/58/20)*, para. 12 and annex II.

<sup>49</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/78/20)*, paras. 397–400.

<sup>50</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Comoros, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Gambia, Greece, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Tunisia, Türkiye, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen and State of Palestine.

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Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe

*Against:* Canada, Israel, Micronesia (Federated States of), United States of America

*Abstaining:* Cameroon, Guatemala, Kiribati, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu

#### 78/73. Operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 194 (III) of 11 December 1948, 212 (III) of 19 November 1948, 302 (IV) of 8 December 1949 and all subsequent related resolutions, including its resolution 77/122 of 12 December 2022,

*Recalling also* the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

*Having considered* the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2022,<sup>51</sup>

*Taking note* of the letter dated 21 June 2023 from the Chair of the Advisory Commission of the Agency addressed to the Commissioner-General,<sup>52</sup>

*Underlining* that, at a time of heightened conflict and instability in the Middle East, the Agency continues to play a vital role in ameliorating the plight of the Palestine refugees through the provision of, inter alia, essential education, health, relief and social services programmes and emergency assistance to a registered population of more than 5.9 million refugees whose situation is extremely precarious, in mitigating the consequences of alarming trends in the Agency's areas of operation, including increasing violence, marginalization and poverty and the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and in providing a crucial measure of stability in the region,

*Recalling* its resolutions 2252 (ES-V) of 4 July 1967 and 2341 B (XXII) of 19 December 1967 and all subsequent related resolutions, recalling also Security Council resolutions 237 (1967) of 14 June 1967 and 259 (1968) of 27 September 1968, stressing the necessity of an accelerated return of displaced persons, and calling for compliance with the mechanism agreed upon by the parties in article XII of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements of 13 September 1993<sup>53</sup> on the return of displaced persons,

*Deeply concerned* about the extremely critical financial situation of the Agency, caused by the structural underfunding of the Agency, as well as by rising needs and expenditures resulting from the deterioration of the socioeconomic and humanitarian conditions and the conflicts and rising instability in the region and their significant negative impact on the ability of the Agency to deliver essential services to the Palestine refugees, including its emergency, recovery, reconstruction and development programmes in all fields of operation,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East,<sup>54</sup> submitted pursuant to resolution 71/93 of 6 December 2016, and the request contained therein for broad consultations to explore all ways and means, including through voluntary and assessed contributions, to ensure that the Agency's funding is sufficient, predictable and sustained for the duration of its mandate, and considering the recommendations contained in the report,

*Taking note also* of the report of 31 May 2023 of the Commissioner-General, submitted pursuant to paragraph 57 of the report of the Secretary-General and in follow-up to the update to the special report of 3 August 2015 of the Commissioner-General,<sup>55</sup> submitted pursuant to paragraph 21 of General Assembly resolution 302 (IV), regarding

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<sup>51</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 13 (A/78/13); and ibid., Supplement No. 13A (A/78/13/Add.1).*

<sup>52</sup> *Ibid., Supplement No. 13 (A/78/13), pp. 7–9.*

<sup>53</sup> A/48/486-S/26560, annex.

<sup>54</sup> A/71/849.

<sup>55</sup> A/70/272, annex.

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the severe financial crisis of the Agency and the negative implications for the continued delivery of core Agency programmes to the Palestine refugees in all fields of operation,

*Expressing appreciation* for the efforts of donors and host countries to respond to the Agency's unprecedented financial crisis, including through generous, additional contributions and, where possible, continued increases in voluntary contributions and agreements for multi-year funding, while acknowledging the steadfast support of all other donors to the Agency,

*Welcoming* the contributions made to the Agency's emergency appeals, including for the Gaza Strip and for the Syrian Arab Republic, and calling urgently upon the international community to continue its support, since needs persist and these appeals remain severely underfunded,

*Noting* that contributions have not been predictable enough or sufficient to meet growing needs and remedy the persistent shortfalls, thereby undermining the Agency's operations and efforts to promote human development and meet Palestine refugees' basic needs, and stressing the need for further efforts to comprehensively address the recurrent funding shortfalls affecting the Agency's operations,

*Recognizing* the Agency's extensive efforts to rapidly develop innovative and diversified ways to address its financial shortfall and mobilize resources, including through the expansion of the donor base and partnerships with United Nations entities, international financial institutions, the private sector and civil society, including through special digital campaigns,

*Commending* the Agency for the measures taken to address the financial crisis, despite difficult operational circumstances, including through the implementation of the medium-term strategy for 2016–2022 and various internal measures to contain expenditures, reduce operational and administrative costs, maximize the use of resources and reduce the funding shortfalls, and expressing profound concern that, despite such measures, the Agency's programme budget, which is funded primarily by voluntary contributions from Member States and intergovernmental organizations, faces persistent shortfalls that continue to threaten the delivery of the Agency's core programmes of assistance to the Palestine refugees,

*Encouraging* the Agency to sustain those reform efforts, while also taking all possible measures to protect and improve the quality of access to and the delivery of core programmes of assistance,

*Recalling* its resolution [65/272](#) of 18 April 2011, in which it requested the Secretary-General to continue to support the institutional strengthening of the Agency,

*Stressing* the need to support the Agency's capacity to uphold its mandate and to avert the serious humanitarian, political and security risks that would result from any interruption or suspension of its vital work,

*Recognizing* that the recurring and growing financial shortfalls directly affecting the sustainability of the Agency's operations need to be remedied by examining new funding modalities designed to put the Agency on a stable financial footing to enable it to effectively carry out its core programmes in accordance with its mandate and commensurate with humanitarian needs,

*Welcoming* the affirmation in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, adopted by the General Assembly on 19 September 2016,<sup>56</sup> that, inter alia, the Agency, along with other relevant organizations, requires sufficient funding to be able to carry out its activities effectively and in a predictable manner,

*Bearing in mind* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>57</sup> including the pledge that no one will be left behind, emphasizing that the Sustainable Development Goals apply to all, including refugees, and commending the efforts of the Agency's programmes to promote 10 of the 17 Goals, as indicated in the report of the Secretary-General,

*Welcoming* the joint efforts of host countries and donors to mobilize support for the Agency, including through extraordinary ministerial meetings, inter alia, the extraordinary ministerial conference held in Rome on 15 March 2018, the ministerial meeting convened at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 26 September 2019, the extraordinary virtual ministerial pledging conference convened on 23 June 2020 and the most recent ministerial meetings held on 22 September 2022 and 21 September 2023, hosted by Jordan and Sweden, aimed at urgently

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<sup>56</sup> Resolution [71/1](#).

<sup>57</sup> Resolution [70/1](#).



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addressing the Agency's funding shortfall and the need for predictable multi-year funding, expanding donor support for the Agency and reaffirming support for its mandate,

*Recalling* Articles 100, 104 and 105 of the Charter of the United Nations and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations,<sup>58</sup>

*Recalling also* the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel,<sup>59</sup>

*Recalling further* its resolutions [75/125](#) of 11 December 2020 on the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel and [75/127](#) of 11 December 2020 on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, calling upon, inter alia, all States to ensure respect for and the protection of all humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, to respect the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence for the provision of humanitarian assistance and to respect and ensure respect for the inviolability of United Nations premises,

*Affirming* the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,<sup>60</sup> to the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem,

*Aware* of the continuing needs of the Palestine refugees in all fields of operation, namely Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Occupied Palestinian Territory,

*Gravely concerned* about the extremely difficult socioeconomic conditions being faced by the Palestine refugees in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, particularly in the refugee camps in the Gaza Strip, as a result of the recurrent military operations, continuing prolonged Israeli closures, the construction of settlements and the wall, evictions, the demolition of homes and livelihood properties causing forced transfers of civilians, and the severe economic and movement restrictions that in effect amount to a blockade, which have deepened unemployment and poverty rates among the refugees, with potentially lasting, long-term negative effects, while taking note of developments with regard to the situation of access there,

*Concerned* about plans and measures to interfere with or obstruct the operations of the Agency, including in East Jerusalem, contrary to international law and the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, and reiterating the need for the Agency to fully implement its mandate in support of Palestine refugees without interference, including in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

*Commending* the health-care staff of the Agency for their dedication in responding to the profound stresses caused to the health system by the high number of Palestinian civilian casualties in the recent period in the Gaza Strip,

*Commending also* the important role played by the Agency throughout its areas of operations to help to prevent and contain the spread of COVID-19,

*Expressing grave concern* in this regard about the lasting impact on the humanitarian and socioeconomic situation of the Palestine refugees in the Gaza Strip, including high rates of food insecurity, poverty, displacement and the depletion of coping capacities,

*Recalling* the temporary tripartite agreement facilitated by the United Nations in September 2014, and stressing the urgent need for the lifting of all Israeli closures and restrictions on the Gaza Strip,

*Recalling also* its resolution [ES-10/18](#) of 16 January 2009 and Security Council resolution [1860 \(2009\)](#) of 8 January 2009, as well as the Agreement on Movement and Access of 15 November 2005,

*Expressing concern* about the continuing classroom shortage, including in the Gaza Strip, and the consequent negative impact on the right to education of refugee children,

*Stressing* the urgent need for the provision of the necessary humanitarian assistance and funding support for the advancement of reconstruction and recovery in the Gaza Strip, including by ensuring the timely facilitation of construction projects, including extensive shelter repair, and the need for the accelerated implementation of other urgent United Nations-led civilian reconstruction activities, and calling upon Israel to ensure the expedited and

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<sup>58</sup> Resolution [22 A \(I\)](#).

<sup>59</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2051, No. 35457.

<sup>60</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 75, No. 973.

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unimpeded import of all necessary construction materials into the Gaza Strip and to reduce the burdensome cost of importation of Agency supplies, while taking note of the continued implementation of the tripartite agreement facilitated by the United Nations,

*Stressing also* that the situation in the Gaza Strip is unsustainable and that a durable ceasefire agreement must lead to a fundamental improvement in the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, including through the sustained and regular opening of crossing points, and must ensure the safety and well-being of civilians on both sides,

*Affirming* the need to support the Palestinian Government in its assumption of full government responsibilities in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, in all fields, as well as through its presence at Gaza's crossing points,

*Expressing deep concern* at the critical situation of Palestine refugees in the Syrian Arab Republic and at the impact of the crisis on the Agency's installations and its ability to deliver its services, and regretting profoundly the loss of life and widespread displacement among refugees and the killing of staff members of the Agency in the crisis since 2012,

*Emphasizing* the continuing need for assistance to Palestine refugees in the Syrian Arab Republic, as well as those who have fled to neighbouring countries, including in particular Lebanon, where an unprecedented financial crisis is further affecting socioeconomic conditions among the refugees and exacerbating already high unemployment and poverty rates, and emphasizing the necessity of ensuring open borders for Palestine refugees fleeing the crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic, consistent with the principles of non-discrimination and non-refoulement under international law, and recalling in this regard the statement by the President of the Security Council of 2 October 2013<sup>61</sup> and the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants,

*Aware* of the valuable work done by the Agency in providing protection to the Palestinian people, in particular Palestine refugees, and recalling the need for the protection of all civilians in situations of armed conflict,

*Deploring* the endangerment of the safety of the Agency's staff and the damage and destruction caused to the facilities and properties of the Agency, and stressing the need to maintain the neutrality and safeguard the inviolability of United Nations premises, installations and equipment at all times,

*Deploring also* the breaches of the inviolability of United Nations premises, the failure to accord the property and assets of the Organization immunity from any form of interference, incursions or misuse, the failure to protect United Nations personnel, premises and property and any disruption caused to Agency operations by such violations,

*Deploring further* all attacks affecting United Nations installations, including Agency schools sheltering displaced civilians, and all other breaches of the inviolability of United Nations premises, including during the conflict in the Gaza Strip in July and August 2014, as reported in the summary by the Secretary-General of the report of the Board of Inquiry<sup>62</sup> and by the independent commission of inquiry established pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution S-21/1,<sup>63</sup> and stressing the imperative of ensuring accountability,

*Condemning* the killing, injury and detention contrary to international law of Agency staff members,

*Condemning also* the killing, wounding and detention contrary to international law of refugee children and women,

*Affirming* the need for accountability and compensation to victims of violations of international law in accordance with international standards by all sides,

*Deeply concerned* about the continuing imposition of restrictions on the freedom of movement and access of the Agency's staff, vehicles and goods, and the injury, harassment and intimidation of the Agency's staff, which undermine and obstruct the work of the Agency, including its ability to provide essential basic and emergency services,

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<sup>61</sup> S/PRST/2013/15; see *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1 August 2013–31 July 2014 (S/INF/69)*.

<sup>62</sup> S/2015/286, annex.

<sup>63</sup> See A/HRC/29/52.



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*Recalling* the statement of 15 July 1999 and the declarations adopted on 5 December 2001 and on 17 December 2014<sup>64</sup> by the Conference of High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention, including the call upon parties to facilitate the activities of the Agency, to guarantee its protection and to refrain from levying taxes and imposing undue financial burdens,

*Aware* of the agreement between the Agency and the Government of Israel,

*Taking note* of the agreement reached on 24 June 1994, embodied in an exchange of letters between the Agency and the Palestine Liberation Organization,<sup>65</sup>

1. *Reaffirms* that the effective functioning of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East remains essential in all fields of operation;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Commissioner-General of the Agency, as well as to all the staff of the Agency, for their tireless efforts and valuable work, particularly in the light of the difficult conditions, instability and crises faced during the past year;

3. *Expresses special commendation* to the Agency for the essential role that it has played for more than seven decades since its establishment in providing vital services for the well-being, human development and protection of the Palestine refugees and the amelioration of their plight and for the stability of the region, and affirms the necessity for continuing the work of the Agency and its unimpeded operation and provision of services, pending the just resolution of the question of the Palestine refugees;

4. *Commends* the Agency for its extraordinary efforts, in cooperation with other United Nations agencies on the ground, to provide emergency humanitarian assistance, including shelter, food and medical aid, to refugees and affected civilians during periods of crisis and conflict, and recognizes its exemplary capacity to mobilize in emergency situations while continuously carrying out its core human development programmes;

5. *Endorses* in this regard the efforts of the Commissioner-General of the Agency to continue to provide humanitarian assistance, as far as practicable, on an emergency basis, and as a temporary measure, to persons in the area who are currently displaced and in serious need of continued assistance as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities, while reaffirming the right of all persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities to return to their homes or former places of residence in the territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

6. *Strongly appeals* to all Governments and to organizations and individuals to contribute generously to the Agency and to the other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned for the above-mentioned purpose;

7. *Expresses its grave concern* about attempts to discredit the Agency despite its proven operational capacity, record of effective provision of humanitarian and development assistance and consistent implementation of its mandate in accordance with relevant resolutions and its regulatory framework, even under the most difficult circumstances;

8. *Reaffirms* the Agency's important role in providing humanitarian and development assistance to Palestine refugees, engaging with international human rights mechanisms, as appropriate, and in doing so contributing to the protection and resilience of Palestinian civilians, as outlined in the report of the Secretary-General on the protection of the Palestinian civilian population,<sup>66</sup> and contributing to regional stability;

9. *Expresses its appreciation* for the important support and cooperation provided by the host Governments to the Agency in the discharge of its duties;

10. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Advisory Commission of the Agency, and requests it to continue its efforts and to keep the General Assembly informed of its activities;

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<sup>64</sup> [A/69/711-S/2015/1](#), annex.

<sup>65</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 13 (A/49/13)*, annex I.

<sup>66</sup> [A/ES-10/794](#).

### III. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

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11. *Takes note* of the report of the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East<sup>67</sup> and the efforts to assist in ensuring the financial security of the Agency, and requests the Secretary-General to provide the necessary services and assistance to the Working Group for the conduct of its work;
12. *Expresses its deep appreciation* to all donor countries and organizations that have, inter alia, sustained, accelerated or increased their contributions to the Agency, helping to alleviate its recurrent financial crises, to mitigate imminent risks to its core and emergency programming and to prevent an interruption of essential assistance to Palestine refugees;
13. *Commends* the Agency for its strategic plan and the Commissioner-General for his continuing efforts to increase the budgetary transparency and efficiency of the Agency, as reflected in the Agency's proposed programme budget for 2024;<sup>68</sup>
14. *Also commends* the Agency for sustaining its robust internal reform efforts, despite difficult operational circumstances, and recognizes its implementation of maximum efficiency procedures to contain expenditures, reduce operational and administrative costs, reduce its funding shortfalls and maximize the use of resources;
15. *Calls upon* the Agency to further enhance its internal governance and oversight mechanisms to ensure that the Agency's management is delivering on its mandate with transparency and accountability, while preserving the Agency's agility and operational response capacity;
16. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein, including the proposal for an increased assessed contribution from the regular budget of the United Nations;
17. *Decides* to consider a gradual increase in the United Nations regular budget allocation to the Agency that would, in addition to covering international staff requirements, in accordance with resolution [3331 B \(XXIX\)](#) of 17 December 1974, be utilizable to support expenses for operational costs related to executive and administrative management functions of the Agency, and invites the Secretary-General, accordingly, to submit proposals for consideration by the relevant committees at its seventy-ninth session;
18. *Appeals* to States and organizations for the maintenance of their voluntary contributions to the Agency, as well as an increase in contributions where possible, in particular to the Agency's programme budget, including in the consideration of their allocation of resources for international human rights, peace and stability, development and humanitarian efforts, to support the Agency's mandate and its ability to meet the rising needs of the Palestine refugees and essential associated costs of operations;
19. *Appeals* to States and organizations not currently contributing to the Agency to urgently consider making voluntary contributions in response to the calls of the Secretary-General for expansion of the Agency's donor base, in order to stabilize funding and ensure greater sharing of the financial burden of supporting the Agency's operations, in accordance with the continuing responsibility of the international community as a whole to assist the Palestine refugees;
20. *Calls for* the provision by donors of early annual voluntary contributions, less earmarking, and multi-year funding, in line with the Grand Bargain on humanitarian financing announced at the World Humanitarian Summit, held in Istanbul, Turkey, in May 2016, in order to enhance the Agency's ability to plan and implement its operations with a greater degree of assurance regarding resource flows;
21. *Also calls for* the full and timely funding by donors of the Agency's emergency, recovery and reconstruction programmes as set out in its appeals and response plans;
22. *Requests* the Commissioner-General to continue efforts to maintain and increase traditional donor support and to enhance income from non-traditional donors, including through partnerships with public and private entities;

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<sup>67</sup> [A/78/314](#).

<sup>68</sup> [A/78/6 \(Sect. 26\)](#).

### III. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

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23. *Encourages* the Agency to explore financing avenues in relation to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals;<sup>69</sup>

24. *Urges* States and organizations to actively pursue partnerships with and innovative support for the Agency, including as recommended in paragraphs 47, 48 and 50 of the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>70</sup> including through the establishment of endowments, trust funds or revolving fund mechanisms and assistance to the Agency to access humanitarian, development and peace and security trust funds and grants;

25. *Welcomes* pledges by States and organizations to provide diplomatic and technical support to the Agency, including engagement with international and financial development institutions, including the World Bank and the Islamic Development Bank, and, where appropriate, to facilitate support for the establishment of financing mechanisms that can provide assistance to refugees and in fragile contexts, including to meet the needs of the Palestine refugees, and calls for serious follow-up efforts;

26. *Urges* States and organizations to provide contributions to the waqf fund established by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation at the Islamic Development Bank in support of Palestine refugees through enhanced support to the Agency;

27. *Encourages* further progress with regard to the creation of a World Bank multi-donor trust fund;

28. *Requests* the Agency to continue to implement efficiency measures through its medium-term strategy and the development of a five-year proposal for stabilizing the Agency's finances, including specific and time-bound measures, and to continue to improve its cost-efficiency and resource mobilization efforts;

29. *Calls upon* the members of the Advisory Commission and the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to consider the relevant recommendations in the report of the Secretary-General, including to help the Agency to address resource mobilization challenges and to actively assist the Commissioner-General in the efforts to create sustainable, sufficient and predictable support for the Agency's operations;

30. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Secretary-General regarding the support provided to the Agency from the regular budget of the United Nations;

31. *Endorses* the efforts of the Commissioner-General to continue to provide humanitarian assistance, as far as is practicable, on an emergency basis and as a temporary measure, to persons in the area who are internally displaced and in serious need of continuing assistance as a result of recent crises in the Agency's fields of operation;

32. *Encourages* the Agency to provide increased assistance, in accordance with its mandate, to affected Palestine refugees in the Syrian Arab Republic as well as to those who have fled to neighbouring countries, as detailed in the Syrian regional crisis response plans, and calls upon donors to urgently ensure sustained support to the Agency in this regard in the light of the continuing grave deterioration of the situation and the growing needs of the refugees;

33. *Welcomes* the progress made thus far by the Agency in rebuilding the Nahr el-Bared refugee camp in northern Lebanon, and calls for donor funding to enable the expeditious completion of its reconstruction, for the continued provision of relief assistance to those displaced following its destruction in 2007 and for the alleviation of their ongoing suffering through the provision of the necessary support and financial assistance until the reconstruction of the camp is complete;

34. *Encourages* the Agency, in close cooperation with other relevant United Nations entities, to continue to make progress in addressing the needs, rights and protection of children, women and persons with disabilities in its operations, including through the provision of necessary psychosocial and humanitarian support, in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>71</sup> the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women<sup>72</sup> and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;<sup>73</sup>

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<sup>69</sup> See resolution 70/1.

<sup>70</sup> A/71/849.

<sup>71</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>72</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

<sup>73</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

### III. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

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35. *Also encourages* the Agency to continue to reduce the vulnerability and improve the self-reliance and resilience of Palestine refugees through its programmes;

36. *Recognizes* the acute protection needs of Palestine refugees across the region, and encourages the Agency's efforts to contribute to a coordinated and sustained response in accordance with international law, including the Agency's new protection strategic framework;

37. *Commends* the Agency for its humanitarian and psychosocial support programmes and other initiatives that provide recreational, cultural and educational activities for children in all fields, including in the Gaza Strip, recognizing their positive contribution, calls for full support for such initiatives by donor and host countries, and encourages the building and strengthening of partnerships to facilitate and enhance the provision of these services;

38. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to comply fully with the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949;

39. *Also calls upon* Israel to abide by Articles 100, 104 and 105 of the Charter of the United Nations and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations in order to ensure the safety of the personnel of the Agency, the protection of its institutions and the safeguarding of the security of its facilities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, at all times;

40. *Urges* the Government of Israel to expeditiously reimburse the Agency for all transit charges incurred and other financial losses sustained as a result of the delays and restrictions on movement and access imposed by Israel;

41. *Calls upon* Israel particularly to cease obstructing the movement and access of the staff, vehicles and supplies of the Agency and to cease levying taxes, extra fees and charges, which affect the Agency's operations detrimentally;

42. *Reiterates its call upon* Israel to fully lift the restrictions impeding or delaying the import of necessary construction materials and supplies for the reconstruction and repair of the remaining damaged or destroyed refugee shelters, and for the implementation of suspended and urgently needed civilian infrastructure projects in refugee camps in the Gaza Strip, noting the alarming figures reflected in the United Nations country team reports of 26 August 2016, entitled "Gaza: two years after", and of July 2017, entitled "Gaza ten years later";

43. *Notes with appreciation* the positive contribution of the Agency's microfinance and job creation programmes, encourages efforts to enhance the sustainability and benefits of microfinance services to a greater number of Palestine refugees, especially in view of the high unemployment rates affecting them, and youth in particular, welcomes the Agency's efforts to streamline costs and increase microfinance services through internal reform efforts, and calls upon the Agency, in close cooperation with the relevant agencies, to continue to contribute to the development of the economic and social stability of the Palestine refugees in all fields of operation;

44. *Reiterates its appeals* to all States, the specialized agencies, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue and to augment their contributions to the programme budget of the Agency, to increase their special allocations for grants and scholarships for higher education to Palestine refugees and to contribute to the establishment of vocational training centres for Palestine refugees, and requests the Agency to act as the recipient and trustee for the special allocations for grants and scholarships;

45. *Calls upon* the Commissioner-General to include, in the annual reporting to the General Assembly, assessments on the progress made to remedy the recurrent funding shortfalls of the Agency and ensure sustained, sufficient and predictable support for the Agency's operations, including through the implementation of the relevant provisions of the present resolution.

## RESOLUTION 78/74

Adopted at the 45th plenary meeting, on 7 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 168 to 1, with 10 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/420, para. 13)<sup>74</sup>

\* *In favour:* Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, 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, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe

*Against:* Israel

*Abstaining:* Cameroon, Guatemala, Kiribati, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, Paraguay, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu

### 78/74. Assistance to Palestine refugees

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 194 (III) of 11 December 1948 and all its subsequent resolutions on the question, including resolution 77/123 of 12 December 2022,

*Recalling also* its resolution 302 (IV) of 8 December 1949, by which, inter alia, it established the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East,

*Recalling further* the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

*Aware* of the fact that, for more than seven decades, the Palestine refugees have suffered from the loss of their homes, lands and means of livelihood,

*Affirming* the imperative of resolving the problem of the Palestine refugees for the achievement of justice and for the achievement of lasting peace in the region,

*Acknowledging* the essential role that the Agency has played for more than seven decades since its establishment in ameliorating the plight of the Palestine refugees through the provision of education, health, relief and social services and ongoing work in the areas of camp infrastructure, microfinance, protection and emergency assistance,

*Acknowledging also* the commitment of the Agency to operate in line with the humanitarian principles of neutrality, humanity, independence and impartiality,

*Taking note* of the report of the Commissioner-General of the Agency covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2022,<sup>75</sup>

<sup>74</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Comoros, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Gambia, Greece, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritania, Monaco, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen and State of Palestine.

<sup>75</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 13 (A/78/13).*

### III. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

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*Taking note also* of the report of the Commissioner-General of 31 May 2023, submitted pursuant to paragraph 57 of the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>76</sup> and expressing concern regarding the severe financial crisis of the Agency and the negative implications for the continued delivery of core programmes to the Palestine refugees in all fields of operation,

*Aware* of the growing needs of the Palestine refugees throughout all the fields of operation, namely, Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Occupied Palestinian Territory,

*Expressing grave concern* at the especially difficult situation of the Palestine refugees under occupation, including with regard to their safety, well-being and socioeconomic living conditions,

*Expressing grave concern in particular* at the grave humanitarian situation and socioeconomic conditions of the Palestine refugees in the Gaza Strip, and underlining the importance of emergency and humanitarian assistance and urgent reconstruction efforts,

*Noting* the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements on 13 September 1993 by the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization<sup>77</sup> and the subsequent implementation agreements,

1. *Notes with regret* that repatriation or compensation of the refugees, as provided for in paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194 (III), has not yet been effected, and that, therefore, the situation of the Palestine refugees continues to be a matter of grave concern and the Palestine refugees continue to require assistance to meet basic health, education and living needs;

2. *Also notes with regret* that the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine has been unable to find a means of achieving progress in the implementation of paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194 (III), and reaffirms its request to the Conciliation Commission to continue exerting efforts towards the implementation of that paragraph and to report to the Assembly on the efforts being exerted in this regard as appropriate, but no later than 1 September 2024;

3. *Affirms* the necessity for the continuation of the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and the importance of its unimpeded operation and its provision of services, including emergency assistance, for the well-being, protection and human development of the Palestine refugees and for the stability of the region, pending the just resolution of the question of the Palestine refugees;

4. *Calls upon* all donors to continue to strengthen their efforts to meet the anticipated needs of the Agency, including with regard to increased expenditures and needs arising from conflicts and instability in the region and the serious socioeconomic and humanitarian situation, particularly in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and those needs mentioned in recent emergency, recovery and reconstruction appeals and plans for the Gaza Strip and in the regional crisis response plans to address the situation of Palestine refugees in the Syrian Arab Republic and those Palestine refugees who have fled to countries in the region;

5. *Commends* the Agency for its provision of vital assistance to the Palestine refugees and its role as a stabilizing factor in the region and the tireless efforts of the staff of the Agency in carrying out its mandate.

#### RESOLUTION 78/75

Adopted at the 45th plenary meeting, on 7 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 163 to 5, with 9 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/420, para. 13)<sup>78</sup>

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<sup>76</sup> A/71/849.

<sup>77</sup> A/48/486-S/26560, annex.

<sup>78</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Comoros, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Gambia, Greece, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen and State of Palestine.



\* *In favour:* Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, 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, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe

*Against:* Canada, Israel, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, United States of America

*Abstaining:* Cameroon, Guatemala, Kiribati, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Togo, Tuvalu, Vanuatu

### 78/75. Palestine refugees' properties and their revenues

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions [194 \(III\)](#) of 11 December 1948 and [36/146 C](#) of 16 December 1981 and all its subsequent resolutions on the question,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to its resolution [77/124](#) of 12 December 2022,<sup>79</sup> as well as that of the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine for the period from 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023,<sup>80</sup>

*Recalling* that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights<sup>81</sup> and the principles of international law uphold the principle that no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his or her property,

*Recalling in particular* its resolution [394 \(V\)](#) of 14 December 1950, in which it directed the Conciliation Commission, in consultation with the parties concerned, to prescribe measures for the protection of the rights, property and interests of the Palestine refugees,

*Noting* the completion of the programme of identification and evaluation of Arab property, as announced by the Conciliation Commission in its twenty-second progress report,<sup>82</sup> and the fact that the Land Office had a schedule of Arab owners and a file of documents defining the location, area and other particulars of Arab property,

*Expressing its appreciation* for the preservation and modernization of the existing records, including the land records, of the Conciliation Commission, and stressing the importance of such records for a just resolution of the plight of the Palestine refugees in conformity with resolution [194 \(III\)](#),

*Recalling* that, in the framework of the Middle East peace process, the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Government of Israel agreed, in the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements of 13 September 1993,<sup>83</sup> to commence negotiations on permanent status issues, including the important issue of the refugees,

1. *Reaffirms* that the Palestine refugees are entitled to their property and to the income derived therefrom, in conformity with the principles of equity and justice;

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<sup>79</sup> [A/78/305](#).

<sup>80</sup> [A/78/279](#).

<sup>81</sup> Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

<sup>82</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Nineteenth Session, Annexes, Annex No. 11*, document [A/5700](#).

<sup>83</sup> [A/48/486-S/26560](#), annex.



### III. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all appropriate steps, in consultation with the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine, for the protection of Arab property, assets and property rights in Israel;
3. *Calls once again upon* Israel to render all facilities and assistance to the Secretary-General in the implementation of the present resolution;
4. *Calls upon* all the parties concerned to provide the Secretary-General with any pertinent information in their possession concerning Arab property, assets and property rights in Israel that would assist him in the implementation of the present resolution;
5. *Urges* the Palestinian and Israeli sides, as agreed between them, to deal with the important issue of Palestine refugees' properties and their revenues within the framework of the final status peace negotiations;
6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

#### RESOLUTION 78/76

Adopted at the 45th plenary meeting, on 7 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 86 to 12, with 75 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/421, para. 13)<sup>84</sup>

\* *In favour:* Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nicaragua, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Qatar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe

*Against:* Australia, Austria, Canada, Czechia, Guatemala, Hungary, Israel, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Papua New Guinea, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Abstaining:* Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kiribati, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Sudan, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu

#### **78/76. Work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories**

*The General Assembly,*

*Guided* by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

*Guided also* by international humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,<sup>85</sup> as well as international standards of human rights, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights<sup>86</sup> and the International Covenants on Human Rights,<sup>87</sup>

*Recalling* its relevant resolutions and the relevant resolutions of the Human Rights Council,

<sup>84</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brunei Darussalam, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Gambia, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Tunisia, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen and State of Palestine.

<sup>85</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

<sup>86</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>87</sup> Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

### III. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

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*Recalling also* the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, including resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#) of 23 December 2016,

*Taking into account* the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory,<sup>88</sup> and recalling in this regard its resolution [ES-10/15](#) of 20 July 2004,

*Recalling* the statement of 15 July 1999 and the declarations adopted on 5 December 2001 and on 17 December 2014<sup>89</sup> by the Conference of High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention, and welcoming initiatives by States parties, both individually and collectively, according to article 1 of the Convention and aimed at ensuring respect for the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

*Recalling also* its resolution [58/292](#) of 6 May 2004,

*Convinced* that occupation itself represents a grave violation of human rights, and deeply concerned by the ensuing persistent violations of international law committed by Israel, including international humanitarian and human rights law, including discriminatory policies against the Palestinian civilian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,<sup>90</sup>

*Gravely concerned* by reports regarding serious human rights violations and grave breaches of international humanitarian law,

*Taking note* of the report of the independent international fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of the Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,<sup>91</sup>

*Recalling* the report of the independent international commission of inquiry established pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution [S-28/1](#),<sup>92</sup>

*Stressing* the need for ensuring accountability for all violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law in order to end impunity, ensure justice, deter further violations, protect civilians and promote peace,

*Having considered* the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories<sup>93</sup> and the relevant reports of the Secretary-General,<sup>94</sup>

*Recalling* the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements of 13 September 1993<sup>95</sup> and the subsequent implementation agreements between the Palestinian and Israeli sides,

*Noting* the accession by Palestine to several human rights treaties and the core humanitarian law conventions, as well as other international treaties,

*Stressing* the urgency of bringing a complete end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967, and an end to the violation of the human rights of the Palestinian people, and of allowing for the realization of their inalienable human rights, including their right to self-determination and their independent State, leading to a peaceful, just, lasting and comprehensive solution for the question of Palestine,

1. *Commends* the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories for its efforts in performing the tasks assigned to it by the General Assembly, in spite of the obstruction of its mandate;

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<sup>88</sup> See [A/ES-10/273](#) and [A/ES-10/273/Corr.1](#).

<sup>89</sup> [A/69/711-S/2015/1](#), annex.

<sup>90</sup> See [A/63/855-S/2009/250](#) and [A/HRC/12/48](#).

<sup>91</sup> [A/HRC/22/63](#).

<sup>92</sup> [A/HRC/40/74](#).

<sup>93</sup> [A/78/553](#).

<sup>94</sup> [A/78/502](#), [A/78/529](#) and [A/78/554](#).

<sup>95</sup> [A/48/486-S/26560](#), annex.

### III. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

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2. *Reiterates its demand* that Israel, the occupying Power, cooperate, in accordance with its obligations as a State Member of the United Nations, with the Special Committee in implementing its mandate, and regrets the continued lack of cooperation in this regard;

3. *Deplores* those policies and practices of Israel that violate the human rights of the Palestinian people and other Arabs of the occupied territories, as reflected in the report of the Special Committee covering the reporting period;

4. *Expresses grave concern* about the critical situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as a result of unlawful Israeli practices and measures, and especially condemns and calls for the immediate cessation of all illegal Israeli settlement activities and the construction of the wall, the lifting of the blockade of the Gaza Strip, as well as the complete cessation of the excessive and indiscriminate use of force and military operations against the civilian population, settler violence, provocations and incitements regarding the holy places, the destruction and confiscation of properties, the forced displacement of civilians, the detention and imprisonment of thousands of civilians, and all measures of collective punishment against the Palestinian civilian population;

5. *Requests* the Special Committee, pending complete termination of the Israeli occupation, to continue to investigate Israeli policies and practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, especially Israeli violations of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and to consult, as appropriate, with the International Committee of the Red Cross, according to its regulations, in order to ensure that the welfare and human rights of the peoples of the occupied territories, including prisoners and detainees, are safeguarded, as well as to submit to the Secretary-General annual reports on the current situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;

6. *Also requests* the Special Committee to continue to investigate the treatment and status of the thousands of Palestinian and Arab prisoners and detainees, including children, women and elected representatives, in Israeli prisons and detention centres, and expresses grave concern about the harsh conditions of imprisonment and ill-treatment of prisoners and recent hunger strikes, stressing the need for respect for all applicable rules of international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention,<sup>96</sup> the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules)<sup>97</sup> and the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules);<sup>98</sup>

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To provide the Special Committee with all necessary facilities, including those required for its visits to the occupied territories, so that it may investigate the Israeli policies and practices referred to in the present resolution;

(b) To utilize his good offices to facilitate and support the Special Committee in carrying out its mandate;

(c) To continue to task the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights with assisting the Special Committee in the performance of its tasks;

(d) To circulate to Member States the annual reports mentioned in paragraph 5 above and ensure the widest availability of the reports of the Special Committee and of information regarding its activities and findings through the Department of Global Communications of the Secretariat.

### RESOLUTION 78/77

Adopted at the 45th plenary meeting, on 7 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 151 to 2, with 23 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/421, para. 13)<sup>99</sup>

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<sup>96</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

<sup>97</sup> Resolution 70/175, annex.

<sup>98</sup> Resolution 65/229, annex.

<sup>99</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brunei Darussalam, Comoros, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Egypt, Gambia, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen and State of Palestine.

### III. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

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\* *In favour:* Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, 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, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe

*Against:* Israel, United States of America

*Abstaining:* Australia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Georgia, Guatemala, Haiti, Kiribati, Madagascar, Malawi, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, South Sudan, Togo, Tonga, Tuvalu, Uruguay, Vanuatu

#### 78/77. The occupied Syrian Golan

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories,<sup>100</sup>

*Deeply concerned* that the Syrian Golan, occupied since 1967, has been under continued Israeli military occupation,

*Recalling* Security Council resolution [497 \(1981\)](#) of 17 December 1981,

*Recalling also* its previous relevant resolutions, the most recent of which was resolution [77/125](#) of 12 December 2022,

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General submitted in pursuance of resolution [77/125](#),<sup>101</sup>

*Recalling* its previous relevant resolutions in which, inter alia, it called upon Israel to put an end to its occupation of the Arab territories,

*Reaffirming once more* the illegality of the decision of 14 December 1981 taken by Israel to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan, which has resulted in the effective annexation of that territory,

*Reaffirming* that the acquisition of territory by force is inadmissible under international law, including the Charter of the United Nations,

*Reaffirming also* the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,<sup>102</sup> to the occupied Syrian Golan,

*Bearing in mind* Security Council resolution [237 \(1967\)](#) of 14 June 1967,

*Welcoming* the convening at Madrid of the Peace Conference on the Middle East on the basis of Security Council resolutions [242 \(1967\)](#) of 22 November 1967 and [338 \(1973\)](#) of 22 October 1973 aimed at the realization of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace, and expressing grave concern about the stalling of the peace process on all tracks,

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<sup>100</sup> [A/78/553](#).

<sup>101</sup> [A/78/529](#).

<sup>102</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

### III. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

1. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to comply with the relevant resolutions on the occupied Syrian Golan, in particular Security Council resolution 497 (1981), in which the Council, inter alia, decided that the Israeli decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan was null and void and without international legal effect and demanded that Israel, the occupying Power, rescind forthwith its decision;
2. *Also calls upon* Israel to desist from changing the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure and legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan and in particular to desist from the establishment of settlements;
3. *Determines* that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken or to be taken by Israel, the occupying Power, that purport to alter the character and legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan are null and void, constitute a flagrant violation of international law and of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and have no legal effect;
4. *Calls upon* Israel to desist from imposing Israeli citizenship and Israeli identity cards on the Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan, and from its repressive measures against the population of the occupied Syrian Golan;
5. *Deplores* the violations by Israel of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949;
6. *Calls once again upon* Member States not to recognize any of the legislative or administrative measures and actions referred to above;
7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

#### RESOLUTION 78/78

Adopted at the 45th plenary meeting, on 7 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 149 to 6, with 19 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/421, para. 13)<sup>103</sup>

\* *In favour:* Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, 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, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe

*Against:* Canada, Hungary, Israel, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, United States of America

*Abstaining:* Cameroon, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Georgia, Guatemala, Haiti, Kiribati, Malawi, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, South Sudan, Togo, Tuvalu, Uruguay, Vanuatu

<sup>103</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Comoros, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Gambia, Greece, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Norway, Oman, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen and State of Palestine.

**78/78. Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan**

*The General Assembly,*

*Guided* by the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and the need to respect the obligations arising from the Charter and other instruments and rules of international law,

*Reaffirming* the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force,

*Recalling* its relevant resolutions, including resolution [77/126](#) of 12 December 2022, as well as those resolutions adopted at its tenth emergency special session,

*Recalling also* the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, including resolutions [242 \(1967\)](#) of 22 November 1967, [446 \(1979\)](#) of 22 March 1979, [465 \(1980\)](#) of 1 March 1980, [476 \(1980\)](#) of 30 June 1980, [478 \(1980\)](#) of 20 August 1980, [497 \(1981\)](#) of 17 December 1981, [904 \(1994\)](#) of 18 March 1994 and [2334 \(2016\)](#) of 23 December 2016, and stressing the need for their implementation,

*Recalling further* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>104</sup>

*Recalling* the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>105</sup> the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights<sup>106</sup> and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>107</sup> and affirming that these human rights instruments must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

*Reaffirming* the applicability of the Regulations annexed to the Hague Convention IV of 1907, the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,<sup>108</sup> and relevant provisions of customary law, including those codified in Additional Protocol I<sup>109</sup> to the four Geneva Conventions,<sup>110</sup> to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including the occupied Syrian Golan,

*Affirming* that the transfer by the occupying Power of parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies constitutes a breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention,<sup>111</sup>

*Recalling* the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory,<sup>112</sup> and recalling also General Assembly resolutions [ES-10/15](#) of 20 July 2004 and [ES-10/17](#) of 15 December 2006,

*Noting* that the International Court of Justice concluded that “the Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (including East Jerusalem) have been established in breach of international law”,<sup>113</sup>

*Taking note* of the recent reports of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967,<sup>114</sup> as well as of other relevant recent reports of the Council,

*Recalling* the report of the independent international fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of the Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,<sup>115</sup>

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<sup>104</sup> Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

<sup>105</sup> See resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

<sup>106</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>107</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>108</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 75, No. 973.

<sup>109</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1125, No. 17512.

<sup>110</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 75, Nos. 970–973.

<sup>111</sup> *Ibid.*, No. 973.

<sup>112</sup> See [A/ES-10/273](#) and [A/ES-10/273/Corr.1](#).

<sup>113</sup> *Ibid.*, advisory opinion, para. 120.

<sup>114</sup> [A/HRC/53/59](#); see also [A/78/545](#).

<sup>115</sup> [A/HRC/22/63](#).



### III. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

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*Recalling also* the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements of 13 September 1993<sup>116</sup> and the subsequent implementation agreements between the Palestinian and Israeli sides,

*Recalling further* the Quartet road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,<sup>117</sup> and emphasizing specifically its call for a freeze on all settlement activity, including so-called natural growth, and the dismantlement of all settlement outposts erected since March 2001, and the need for Israel to uphold its obligations and commitments in this regard,

*Recalling* its resolution 67/19 of 29 November 2012,

*Noting* the accession by Palestine to several human rights treaties and the core humanitarian law conventions, as well as other international treaties,

*Aware* that Israeli settlement activities involve, inter alia, the transfer of nationals of the occupying Power into the occupied territories, the confiscation of land, the forced transfer of Palestinian civilians, including Bedouin families, the exploitation of natural resources, the fragmentation of territory and other actions against the Palestinian civilian population and the civilian population in the occupied Syrian Golan that are contrary to international law,

*Bearing in mind* the extremely detrimental impact of Israeli settlement policies, decisions and activities on the ongoing regional and international efforts to resume and advance the peace process, on the prospects for the achievement of peace in the Middle East in accordance with the two-State solution of Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security within recognized borders, on the basis of the pre-1967 borders, and on the viability and credibility of that solution,

*Condemning* settlement activities by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as violations of international humanitarian law, relevant United Nations resolutions, the agreements reached between the parties and obligations under the Quartet road map and as actions in defiance of the calls by the international community to cease all settlement activities,

*Deploring in particular* Israel's construction and expansion of settlements in and around occupied East Jerusalem, including its so-called E-1 plan that aims to connect its illegal settlements around and further isolate occupied East Jerusalem, the continuing demolition of Palestinian homes and eviction of Palestinian families from the city, the revocation of Palestinian residency rights in the city, and ongoing settlement activities in the Jordan Valley, all of which further fragment and undermine the contiguity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory,

*Deploring* the plans to demolish the Palestinian village of Khan al-Ahmar, in contravention of international law, which would have serious consequences with regard to the displacement of its residents, severely threaten the viability of the two-State solution and undermine the prospect of peace, given the area's sensitive location and importance for preserving the contiguity of the Palestinian territory, and demanding the cessation of such plans,

*Condemning* the demolition by Israel, in contravention of international law, of Palestinian buildings in the neighbourhood of Wadi al-Hummus in the village of Sur Bahir, south of occupied East Jerusalem, and of homes in Masafer Yatta, as well as other coercive measures potentially leading to the forced displacement and affecting over 1,200 Palestinian civilians,

*Taking note* of the Quartet report of 1 July 2016,<sup>118</sup> and stressing its recommendations, as well as its relevant statements in which the Quartet members concluded that, inter alia, the continuing policy of settlement construction and expansion, designation of land for exclusive Israeli use and denial of Palestinian development, including the recent high rate of demolitions, are steadily eroding the two-State solution,

*Deploring* the continuing unlawful construction by Israel of the wall inside the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and expressing its concern, in particular, about the route of the wall in departure from the Armistice Line of 1949 and in such a way as to include the great majority of the Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and which is causing humanitarian hardship and a serious decline of socioeconomic conditions for the Palestinian people, is fragmenting the territorial contiguity of the

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<sup>116</sup> A/48/486-S/26560, annex.

<sup>117</sup> S/2003/529, annex.

<sup>118</sup> S/2016/595, annex.



Territory and undermining its viability, and could prejudice future negotiations and make the two-State solution physically impossible to implement,

*Condemning* acts of violence and terror against civilians on both sides, and recalling the need to end all acts of violence, including acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction,

*Condemning also* all acts of violence, destruction, harassment, provocation and incitement by Israeli settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, against Palestinian civilians, including children, and their properties, including historic and religious sites, and agricultural lands, as well as acts of terror by several extremist Israeli settlers, and calling for accountability for the illegal actions perpetrated in this regard,

*Taking note* of the relevant reports of the Secretary-General, including pursuant to Security Council resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#),<sup>119</sup>

1. *Reaffirms* that the Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan are illegal and an obstacle to peace and economic and social development;

2. *Demands* that Israel accept the de jure applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including the occupied Syrian Golan, and abide scrupulously by the provisions of the Convention, in particular article 49, and comply with all of its obligations under international law and cease immediately all actions causing the alteration of the character, status and demographic composition of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the occupied Syrian Golan;

3. *Reiterates its demand* for the immediate and complete cessation of all Israeli settlement activities in all of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, and calls in this regard for the full implementation of all the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, including, inter alia, resolutions [446 \(1979\)](#), [452 \(1979\)](#) of 20 July 1979, [465 \(1980\)](#), [476 \(1980\)](#), [478 \(1980\)](#), [1515 \(2003\)](#) of 19 November 2003 and [2334 \(2016\)](#);

4. *Stresses* that a complete cessation of all Israeli settlement activities is essential for salvaging the two-State solution on the basis of the pre-1967 borders;

5. *Also stresses* the urgent need to reverse negative trends on the ground, including the building of settlements and the demolition of Palestinian homes, which are imperilling the viability of the two-State solution and entrenching a situation of unequal rights and discrimination, and are preventing the Palestinian people from exercising their fundamental rights;

6. *Recalls* the affirmation by the Security Council, in its resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), that it will not recognize any changes to the 4 June 1967 lines, including with regard to Jerusalem, other than those agreed by the parties through negotiations;

7. *Stresses* that the occupation of a territory is to be a temporary, de facto situation, whereby the occupying Power can neither claim possession nor exert its sovereignty over the territory it occupies, recalls in this regard the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of land by force and therefore the illegality of the annexation of any part of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes a breach of international law, undermines the viability of the two-State solution and challenges the prospects for a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement, and expresses its grave concern at recent statements calling for the annexation by Israel of areas in the Occupied Palestinian Territory;

8. *Condemns* in this regard settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan and any activities involving the confiscation of land, the disruption of the livelihood of protected persons, the forced transfer of civilians and the annexation of land, whether de facto or through national legislation;

9. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply with its legal obligations, as mentioned in the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice;

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<sup>119</sup> [A/78/502](#), [A/78/529](#) and [A/78/554](#).

### III. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

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10. *Reiterates its call for* the prevention of all acts of violence, destruction, harassment and provocation by Israeli settlers, especially against Palestinian civilians and their properties, including historic and religious sites and including in Occupied East Jerusalem, and their agricultural lands;

11. *Calls for* accountability for the illegal actions perpetrated by Israeli settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, stresses in this regard the need for the implementation of Security Council resolution 904 (1994), in which the Council called upon Israel, the occupying Power, to continue to take and implement measures, including the confiscation of arms, aimed at preventing illegal acts of violence by Israeli settlers, and called for measures to be taken to guarantee the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilians in the occupied territory, recalls in this regard the report of the Secretary-General on the protection of the Palestinian civilian population,<sup>120</sup> and welcomes the Secretary-General's observations, including with respect to the expansion of existing protection mechanisms to prevent and deter violations;

12. *Stresses* the responsibility of Israel, the occupying Power, to investigate all acts of settler violence against Palestinian civilians and their properties and to ensure accountability for these acts and end prevailing impunity in this regard;

13. *Calls upon* all States and international organizations to continue to actively pursue policies that ensure respect for their obligations under international law with regard to all illegal Israeli practices and measures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, particularly Israeli settlement activities;

14. *Calls for* measures of accountability, consistent with international law, in the light of continued non-compliance with the demands for a complete and immediate cessation of all settlement activities, which are illegal under international law, constitute an obstacle to peace and threaten to make a two-State solution impossible, stressing that compliance with and respect for international humanitarian law and international human rights law is a cornerstone for peace and security in the region;

15. *Recalls*, in this regard, the statement of 15 July 1999 and the declarations adopted on 5 December 2001 and on 17 December 2014<sup>121</sup> by the Conference of High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention on measures to enforce the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, welcomes in this regard initiatives by States parties, both individually and collectively, in accordance with article 1 of the Convention, aimed at ensuring respect for the Convention and accountability, and calls upon all High Contracting Parties to the Convention to continue, individually and collectively, to exert all efforts to ensure respect for its provisions by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

16. *Also recalls* that the Security Council, in its resolution 2334 (2016), called upon all States to distinguish, in their relevant dealings, between the territory of the State of Israel and the territories occupied since 1967;

17. *Calls upon* all States, consistent with their obligations under international law and the relevant resolutions, not to recognize, and not to render aid or assistance in maintaining, the situation created by measures that are illegal under international law, including those aimed at advancing annexation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

18. *Calls upon* the relevant United Nations bodies to take all necessary measures and actions within their mandates to ensure full respect for and compliance with Human Rights Council resolution 17/4 of 16 June 2011,<sup>122</sup> concerning the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights<sup>123</sup> and other relevant international laws and standards, and to ensure the implementation of the United Nations "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework, which provides a global standard for upholding human rights in relation to business activities that are connected with Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

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<sup>120</sup> A/ES-10/794.

<sup>121</sup> A/69/711-S/2015/1, annex.

<sup>122</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/66/53)*, chap. III, sect. A.

<sup>123</sup> A/HRC/17/31, annex.

20. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session the item entitled “Israeli practices and settlement activities affecting the rights of the Palestinian people and other Arabs of the occupied territories”.

### RESOLUTION 78/79

Adopted at the 45th plenary meeting, on 7 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/423, para. 8)<sup>124</sup>

#### 78/79. Comprehensive review of special political missions

*The General Assembly,*

*Guided by* the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

*Recalling* its resolution 67/123 of 18 December 2012 and its subsequent resolutions on the comprehensive review of special political missions, including resolution 77/127 of 12 December 2022,

*Reaffirming its commitment* to respecting the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States,

*Recalling* the primary role of the United Nations and the respective roles and authority of the General Assembly and the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with the Charter, and recalling also in this context the contribution of regional and subregional arrangements and the important role they can play, as appropriate,

*Recalling also* the adoption by the General Assembly and the Security Council of substantively identical resolutions 70/262 and 2282 (2016) of 27 April 2016, further recalling the adoption of resolutions 72/276 and 2413 (2018) of 26 April 2018 on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, and recognizing in this regard the important role played by special political missions in the area of sustaining peace, as a goal and a process, where mandated, as well as resolutions 75/201 and 2558 (2020) of 21 December 2020 on the third review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture,

*Recalling further* the adoption of Security Council resolution 2668 (2022) of 21 December 2022 on the mental health of United Nations peace operations personnel,

*Recognizing* the important role of the special political missions as a flexible tool for the maintenance of international peace and security, including through contributions to a comprehensive approach to peacebuilding and sustaining peace,

*Reaffirming* its resolution 75/1 of 21 September 2020 on the declaration on the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, in which it called for the diplomatic toolbox of the Charter to be used to its full potential, including preventive diplomacy and mediation,

*Noting* that 2023 marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of the establishment of the first special political mission,

*Recalling* its resolution 76/6 of 15 November 2021 on the follow-up to the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Our Common Agenda”,<sup>125</sup> noting the important role of special political missions as a central component of the continuum of United Nations responses to peace and security challenges, and in this regard acknowledging the importance of including special political missions in the discussions to be led by Member States on A New Agenda for Peace, as a follow-up to the policy brief presented by the Secretary-General in July 2023,<sup>126</sup>

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<sup>124</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Belize, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malta, Mexico, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania and Uruguay.

<sup>125</sup> A/75/982.

<sup>126</sup> A/77/CRP.1/Add.8.

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*Stressing* that actions by the United Nations should support and complement, as appropriate, the conflict prevention roles of national Governments,

*Encouraging* enhanced exchanges of information, in an appropriate manner, among the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Secretariat, making use of the advisory role of the Peacebuilding Commission, when relevant, on overall policy matters pertaining to special political missions,

*Reaffirming* the principles of impartiality, consent of the parties, national ownership and national responsibility, and stressing the significance of the views of and dialogue with countries hosting special political missions,

*Recalling* the relevant reports on the review of arrangements for funding and backstopping special political missions,<sup>127</sup> which addressed the financial and administrative arrangements pertaining to such missions, recognizing that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters,

*Recalling also* resolution 76/305 of 8 September 2022, recognizing in this regard that financing for peacebuilding remains a critical challenge and recognizing also the importance of adequately resourcing the peacebuilding components of relevant special political missions, including during mission transitions and drawdown, to support the stability and continuity of peacebuilding activities,

*Stressing* the need for the United Nations to continue to improve its capabilities in the pacific settlement of disputes, including mediation, conflict prevention, conflict resolution, peacebuilding and sustaining peace, for the maintenance of international peace and security,

*Acknowledging* the significant increase in the number and complexity of special political missions and the challenges faced by them,

*Underlining* the need for system-wide coherence between special political missions and the United Nations system, and emphasizing the importance of close cooperation between special political missions, peacekeeping operations, United Nations country teams and resident coordinators for maintaining sustainable peace, conflict prevention and conflict resolution,

*Recognizing* the need for special political missions to operate under clear, credible, sequenced and achievable mandates, including through the articulation of their goals and purposes, and the need to review their progress as stipulated in their respective mandates,

*Stressing* the need for, as relevant, enhanced coordination and cooperation between special political missions and concerned regional and subregional organizations, particularly leveraging ongoing strategic partnerships, to take concrete measures to strengthen mechanisms for conflict prevention, management and resolution, and emphasizing the need to build and strengthen human and institutional capacities at the national, subregional and regional levels,

*Recognizing* the importance of efforts towards improving broad geographical representation, gender balance and expertise in the composition of all special political missions, and acknowledging the necessity of reducing the overall environmental footprint of relevant special political missions and, where mandated, identifying climate-related risks,

*Recalling* the relevant resolutions on women, peace and security, reaffirming the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding, and stressing the need for the full, equal and meaningful participation of women at all levels, at all stages and in all aspects of the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and conflict resolution,

*Recalling also* the relevant resolutions on youth, peace and security, and affirming the important role that youth can play in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and as a key aspect of the sustainability, inclusiveness and success of peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts,

*Stressing* that the United Nations should ensure a more coordinated approach to strengthen the ability of special political missions to deliver on their mandates and should contribute to ensuring enhanced accountability, coherence and effectiveness of special political missions,

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<sup>127</sup> [A/66/340](#) and [A/66/7/Add.21](#).

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1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to resolution [77/127](#),<sup>128</sup>
2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to hold regular, inclusive and interactive dialogue on the overall policy matters pertaining to special political missions, and requests the Secretariat to reach out to Member States prior to the holding of such dialogue to ensure wide and meaningful participation;
3. *Respects* the purview of the mandate of special political missions, as stipulated in the respective relevant resolutions, recognizes the specificity of each mandate of such missions, and emphasizes the role of the General Assembly in discussing the overall policy matters pertaining to special political missions;
4. *Encourages* stronger coordination, coherence and cooperation of the Security Council and the General Assembly with the Peacebuilding Commission, and invites the Security Council to continue to regularly request, deliberate and draw upon the specific, strategic and targeted advice of the Commission, including to assist with the longer-term perspective required for sustaining peace being reflected in the formation, review and drawdown of peacekeeping operations and special political missions mandates, in line with General Assembly resolution [70/262](#) and Security Council resolution [2282 \(2016\)](#);
5. *Encourages* special political missions to continue fostering inclusive partnerships with regional and subregional organizations and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate and in line with respective mandates, to address multidimensional challenges to peace and security, including during transitions;
6. *Also encourages* special political missions, where consistent with their mandates, to work closely with the United Nations country teams, as well as relevant partners, to ensure coherence and coordination, including in support of efforts of host countries to implement comprehensive responses to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), as appropriate;
7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its seventy-ninth session, a timely, results-based report on the implementation of the present resolution regarding the overall policy matters pertaining to special political missions, including efforts towards improving expertise and effectiveness, transparency, accountability, geographical representation, gender perspective and the full, equal and meaningful participation of women, as well as the full, effective and meaningful participation of youth;
8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to include in the aforementioned report information on the impact of the reforms at Headquarters on the delivery of relevant special political mission mandates in the field;
9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session the item entitled “Comprehensive review of special political missions” and to consider the above-mentioned report of the Secretary-General under that item.

#### RESOLUTIONS 78/80 A and B

Adopted at the 45th plenary meeting, on 7 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee ([A/78/424](#), para. 9)<sup>129</sup>

#### 78/80. Questions relating to information

##### A

##### Information in the service of humanity

*The General Assembly,*

*Taking note* of the comprehensive and important report of the Committee on Information,<sup>130</sup>

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<sup>128</sup> [A/78/307](#).

<sup>129</sup> The draft resolutions recommended in the report of the Fourth Committee were submitted by the Committee on Information.

<sup>130</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 21 (A/78/21)*.

*Taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General,*<sup>131</sup>

*Urges* all countries, organizations of the United Nations system as a whole and all others concerned, reaffirming their commitment to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and respect for all human rights, including the right to hold opinions without interference and the right to freedom of expression in accordance with article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>132</sup> including freedom to seek, receive and impart information, as well as to the importance of the principles of freedom of the press and freedom of information, as well as to those of the independence, pluralism and diversity of the media, deeply concerned by the disparities existing between developed and developing countries and the consequences of every kind arising from those disparities that affect the capability of the public, private or other media and individuals in developing countries to disseminate information and communicate their views and their cultural and ethical values through endogenous cultural production, as well as to ensure the diversity of sources and their free access to information, and recognizing the call in this context for what in the United Nations and at various international forums has been termed “a new world information and communication order, seen as an evolving and continuous process”:

- (a) To cooperate and interact with a view to reducing existing disparities in information flows at all levels by increasing assistance for the development of communications infrastructures and capabilities in developing countries, with due regard for their needs and the priorities attached to such areas by those countries, and in order to enable them and the public, private or other media in developing countries to develop their own information and communications policies freely and independently and increase the participation of media and individuals in the communication process, and to ensure a free flow of information at all levels;
- (b) To ensure for journalists the free and effective performance of their professional tasks and condemn resolutely all attacks against them;
- (c) To provide support for the continuation and strengthening of practical training programmes for broadcasters and journalists from public, private and other media in developing countries;
- (d) To enhance regional efforts and cooperation among developing countries, as well as cooperation between developed and developing countries, to strengthen communications capacities and to improve the media infrastructure and communications technology in developing countries, especially in the areas of training and dissemination of information;
- (e) To aim at, in addition to bilateral cooperation, providing all possible support and assistance to developing countries and their media, public, private or other, with due regard to their interests and needs in the field of information and to action already adopted within the United Nations system, including:
  - (i) The development of the human and technical resources that are indispensable for the improvement of information and communications systems in developing countries and support for the continuation and strengthening of practical training programmes, such as those already operating under both public and private auspices throughout the developing world;
  - (ii) The creation of conditions that will enable developing countries and their media, public, private or other, to have, by using their national and regional resources, the communications technology suited to their national needs, as well as the necessary programme material, especially for radio and television broadcasting;
  - (iii) Assistance in establishing and promoting telecommunication links at the subregional, regional and interregional levels, especially among developing countries;
  - (iv) Facilitation, as appropriate, of access by developing countries on mutually agreed terms to advanced communications technology available on the open market;
- (f) To provide full support for the International Programme for the Development of Communication of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which should support both public and private media.

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<sup>131</sup> [A/78/294](#).

<sup>132</sup> See resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.



**B**

**United Nations global communications policies and activities**

*The General Assembly,*

*Emphasizing* that the Committee on Information is its main subsidiary body mandated to make recommendations to it relating to the work of the Department of Global Communications of the Secretariat,

*Reaffirming* its resolution 13 (I) of 13 February 1946, by which the General Assembly established the Department of Public Information (now the Department of Global Communications), with a view to promoting to the greatest possible extent an informed understanding of the work and purposes of the United Nations among the peoples of the world, and all other relevant resolutions of the Assembly related to the activities of the Department,

*Emphasizing* that the contents of public information and communications should be placed at the heart of the strategic management of the United Nations and that a culture of communications and transparency should permeate all levels of the Organization as a means of fully informing the peoples of the world of the aims and activities of the United Nations, in accordance with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, in order to create broad-based global support for the United Nations,

*Stressing* that the primary mission of the Department of Global Communications is to provide, through its outreach activities, accurate, impartial, comprehensive, balanced, timely, relevant and multilingual information to the public on the tasks and responsibilities of the United Nations in order to strengthen international support for the activities of the Organization with the greatest transparency, and in this regard reaffirming the crucial role of the Department in addressing the spread of misinformation, disinformation and information manipulation,

*Stressing also* the need for all individuals to be equipped with the information and media literacy skills needed to build resilience against discriminatory, false or misleading content, manipulated information and disinformation,

*Recalling* its resolutions 77/128 A and B of 12 December 2022, which provided an opportunity to take due steps to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the Department of Global Communications and to maximize the use of its resources,

*Expressing its concern* that the gap in information and communications technology between the developed and the developing countries has continued to widen and that vast segments of the population in developing countries are not benefiting from the information and communications technologies that are currently available, and in this regard underlining the necessity of rectifying the imbalances in the present development of and access on mutually agreed terms to information and communications technologies in order to create a more just, equitable, accessible and effective environment in this regard,

*Recognizing* that reducing inequality, including the gender digital divide, will positively impact the empowerment of all women and girls,

*Recognizing also* that developments in information and communications technologies open vast new opportunities for economic growth and social development and can play an important role in the eradication of poverty in developing countries, and at the same time emphasizing that the development of these technologies poses challenges and risks and could lead to further rising inequalities within and among countries,

*Encouraging* States, international and regional organizations, national human rights institutions and civil society, business enterprises, including media, online platforms, social media and technology companies, to foster respect for human rights online and offline in the context of new and emerging digital technologies and human rights due diligence processes,

*Expressing serious concern* at attacks and violence against journalists and media professionals and associated personnel, and bearing in mind that impunity for attacks against journalists remains one of the greatest challenges to the safety of journalists and that ensuring accountability for crimes committed against journalists is a key element in preventing future attacks,

*Expressing concern* about the spread of disinformation, including as a means of information manipulation, including on the Internet, through the use of digital and non-digital technologies, which can be designed and implemented so as to mislead, to violate human rights, including the right to privacy and to freedom of expression, and to incite discrimination, hostility or violence, and emphasizing the important contribution of journalists, media



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professionals and associated personnel in countering this trend, and further expressing grave concern about information manipulation, including disinformation, by States, aimed at attempting to justify, provoke or encourage any threat to peace, including in multilateral forums,

*Recalling* the report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression on disinformation and freedom of opinion and expression,<sup>133</sup>

*Highlighting* the global concerns about the rapid spread and proliferation of misinformation, disinformation and information manipulation, thereby increasing the importance of disseminating factual, timely, clear, accessible, multilingual and evidence-based information, and emphasizing the need for all relevant stakeholders to address the challenge of disinformation,

*Stressing* that responses to the spread of information manipulation, including disinformation, must comply with international human rights law and the principles of legality, necessity and proportionality, and underlining the importance in this effort of free, independent, plural and diverse media and of providing and promoting access to independent, factual and evidence-based information,

*Welcoming* the submission of the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Our Common Agenda”<sup>134</sup> as a basis for continued consideration by Member States, in collaboration with all relevant partners through broad and inclusive consultations,

*Welcoming in particular* the Secretary-General’s resolve to address disinformation and misinformation, and recalling his proposal for a global code of conduct that promotes integrity in public information,

*Reaffirming* its resolution [75/267](#), adopted without a vote on 25 March 2021, by which it proclaimed 24 to 31 October of each year as Global Media and Information Literacy Week,

*Recognizing* that multilingualism, as a core value of the Organization, contributes to the achievement of the goals of the United Nations, as set out in Article 1 of the Charter, and reaffirming the crucial role of the Department of Global Communications in effectively upholding and prioritizing multilingualism in all circumstances,

*Bearing in mind* that multilingualism is an enabler of multilateral diplomacy and that it contributes to the promotion of the values of the United Nations, as well as the faith of our peoples in the purposes and principles enshrined in its Charter,

*Recalling* its resolution [76/268](#) of 10 June 2022 on multilingualism, in which it reaffirmed the role of the Department of Global Communications in multilingualism, notably the provisions related to the appropriate use of all the official languages of the United Nations in all the activities of the Department, including in coordination with other departments of the Secretariat, with the aim of eliminating the disparity between the use of English and the use of the five other official languages, as well as the importance of ensuring the full and equitable treatment of all the official languages of the United Nations in all the activities of the Department,

*Recalling also* its resolution [74/135](#) of 18 December 2019, in which it proclaimed the period 2022–2032 as the International Decade of Indigenous Languages to draw attention to the critical loss of Indigenous languages and the urgent need for their preservation, revitalization and promotion,

## I Introduction

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in respect of the global communications policies and activities of the United Nations, to continue to implement fully the recommendations contained in relevant resolutions;

2. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations remains the indispensable foundation of a peaceful and just world and that its voice must be heard in a clear and effective manner, and emphasizes the essential role of the Department of Global Communications of the Secretariat in this context;

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<sup>133</sup> [A/HRC/47/25](#).

<sup>134</sup> [A/75/982](#).

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3. *Underlines* that the reform of the Department of Global Communications with a view to adapting its capacity and work to the current trends of global communication should take into account the priorities set out by the Committee on Information as the main subsidiary body mandated to make recommendations relating to the work of the Department, and also underlines in that regard the importance of continuing the process of consultation with Member States;
4. *Calls upon* Member States to promote and facilitate international cooperation aimed at the development of media, information and communication facilities and technologies in all countries, with a particular focus on capacity-building of developing countries;
5. *Reiterates its concerns* about the exponential spread and proliferation of misinformation, disinformation and information manipulation, thereby increasing the need for the dissemination of factual, timely, targeted, clear, accessible, multilingual and science-based information, and emphasizes the need for all Member States to stand together to address the challenge of disinformation and misinformation, including on the Internet and other digital technologies;
6. *Re-emphasizes* the importance of ensuring public access to information and protecting fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of opinion and expression, freedom of the press, as well as the right to privacy, and also recognizes the importance of the promotion and protection of the safety of journalists in this regard;
7. *Condemns unequivocally* all attacks, reprisals and violence against journalists and media workers such as torture, extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrest, arbitrary detention and expulsion, as well as intimidation, threats and harassment, online and offline, including through attacks on, or the forced closure of, their offices and media outlets, in both conflict and non-conflict situations;
8. *Stresses* the importance of the full respect for the right to seek, receive and impart information, as included in the right to freedom of opinion and expression, and in this regard for the freedom of journalists to have access to information and the right of the general public to receive media output, and that the safety of journalists and media workers is indispensable to ensuring these rights;
9. *Emphasizes* that all forms of disinformation can negatively impact the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals;
10. *Reiterates* its condemnation of all forms of propaganda, in whatsoever country conducted, which is either designed or likely to provoke or encourage any threat to peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression, as well as its request to the Government of each Member to take appropriate steps, within its constitutional limits, to promote, by all means of publicity, friendly relations among nations based upon the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;
11. *Urges* the Department of Global Communications to recommend that the United Nations system consistently use in its communications the terminology of resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and strongly observe the principle of impartiality, while duly reflecting the positions of all Member States, without any discrimination;
12. *Calls upon* States to refrain from providing support to entities or persons involved in terrorist acts, including support in establishing propaganda platforms advocating hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, including through media, Internet and other digital technologies, and emphasizes in this regard the key importance of full respect for the right to freedom of opinion and expression as set out in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;<sup>135</sup>
13. *Stresses* that Member States should abstain from using information and communications technologies in contravention of international law, including the Charter, and encourages Member States to consider better ways to cooperate, consistent with international law, in addressing threats posed by the use of information and communications technologies for terrorist purposes;

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<sup>135</sup> See resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

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14. *Affirms* the important role that the exercise of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and full respect for the freedom to seek, receive and impart information plays in strengthening democracy, promoting pluralism and multiculturalism, enhancing transparency and press freedom, and countering disinformation;

15. *Recognizes* that disinformation and information manipulation undermine the promotion of peace and cooperation and have the potential to incite discrimination, hostility and violence, in particular against people in vulnerable situations, including in natural disaster situations, armed conflicts and situations involving the use or threat of use of force, and affirms the responsibility of States to counter, as appropriate, and in accordance with human rights law, the dissemination of disinformation;

16. *Condemns unequivocally* measures taken by Member States in violation of international human rights law aiming to or that intentionally prevent or disrupt access to or the dissemination of information online and offline, aiming to undermine the work of journalists in informing the public, including through practices such as Internet shutdowns or measures to unduly restrict, block or take down media websites, such as denial of service attacks, and calls upon all Member States to cease and refrain from these measures, which cause irreparable harm to efforts at building inclusive and peaceful knowledge societies and democracies;

17. *Stresses* the importance of the provision of clear, timely, accurate and comprehensive information by the Secretariat to Member States, upon their request, within the framework of existing mandates and procedures;

18. *Reaffirms* the central role of the Committee on Information in United Nations global communications policies and activities, including the prioritization of those activities, and decides that recommendations relating to the programme of the Department of Global Communications shall originate, to the extent possible, in the Committee and shall be considered by the Committee;

19. *Requests* the Department of Global Communications, including its network of United Nations information centres, following the priorities for the period 2023–2024 set out by the General Assembly in its resolution 77/128 B, to pay particular attention to the promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the Assembly and recent United Nations conferences, the maintenance of international peace and security, including peacekeeping operations, the development of Africa, the promotion of human rights, gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, climate change and the environment, the effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts, the defence of multilateralism, the promotion of justice and international law, disarmament, the fight against disinformation and misinformation, drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and global efforts to combat and sustainably recover from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, including through global equitable access to and distribution of safe and effective vaccines, in particular to developing countries;

20. *Also requests* the Department of Global Communications and its network of United Nations information centres to pay particular attention to the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences, forums and summits and the progress in implementing their outcomes;

21. *Notes* the contribution of the Department of Global Communications to the preparatory process for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration,<sup>136</sup> in line with the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants;<sup>137</sup>

22. *Encourages* the Department of Global Communications to support the efforts of Member States and the United Nations system in implementing the actions recommended in the Progress Declaration of the first International Migration Review Forum, convened from 17 to 20 May 2022, which was endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 76/266 of 7 June 2022, in their commitment to eliminate all forms of discrimination, including racism, systemic racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, stigmatization, hate speech, hate crimes targeting migrants and diasporas as well as negative stereotyping and misleading narratives that generate negative perceptions of migration and migrants, including by reviewing, developing and implementing relevant legislation, policies and practices and promoting evidence-based public discourse, inter alia in partnership with local authorities, migrants, diaspora communities and the media, bearing in mind the role of migrants as agents of sustainable development and as rights holders, and in their commitment to protect freedom of expression in accordance with

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<sup>136</sup> Resolution 73/195, annex.

<sup>137</sup> Resolution 71/1.

international law, recognizing that an open and free debate contributes to a comprehensive understanding of all aspects of migration; and to report thereon to the Committee on Information at its forty-sixth session;

## **II**

### **General activities of the Department of Global Communications**

23. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Department of Global Communications;<sup>138</sup>

24. *Requests* the Department of Global Communications to ensure, through recruitment and training, that its workforce reflects equitable geographical distribution, is diverse from a multilingual perspective and has the language skills necessary to effectively carry out its duties;

25. *Also requests* the Department of Global Communications to maintain its commitment to a culture of evaluation and to continue to evaluate its products and activities with the objective of enhancing their effectiveness, and to continue to cooperate and coordinate with Member States and the Office of Internal Oversight Services of the Secretariat to ensure transparency and accountability of its operations in a more effective manner;

26. *Recalls* the launch of the 2020 global communications strategy for the United Nations developed in all official languages by the Department of Global Communications that is aimed not only at informing people about the state of the world and how the United Nations works to make it better, but also at motivating and empowering people to take action, and commends the Department for its role in promoting the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development;

27. *Supports and encourages* coordination between the Department of Global Communications and the Office of the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure consistency in the messages of the Organization;

28. *Calls for* intensified cooperation with the United Nations system for the effective dissemination of scientific knowledge, best practices and information regarding, inter alia, diagnostics, drugs, vaccines, and relevant guidelines, to prevent and respond to the emergence of diseases, including zoonotic infections, and pandemics, including through promoting a One Health approach;

29. *Urges* the Department of Global Communications to support, as appropriate, the efforts of the United Nations system, as well as United Nations country teams, to highlight the impact and long-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on women, children, including girls, and particularly older persons, and people in vulnerable situations;

30. *Notes* the efforts of the Department of Global Communications to continue to publicize the work and decisions of the General Assembly and its subsidiary bodies, and requests the Department to continue to enhance its working relationship with the Office of the President of the General Assembly;

31. *Encourages* continued collaboration between the Department of Global Communications and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the promotion of culture and in the fields of education, the advancement of communication and multilingualism, in accordance with General Assembly resolution [76/268](#), including through multilingual education, as vehicles for sustainable development using existing resources and bridging the existing gap between the developed and the developing countries;

32. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts of the Department of Global Communications to work at the local level with other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to enhance the coordination of their communications activities, urges the Department to encourage the United Nations Communications Group to promote linguistic diversity in its work, and reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at its forty-sixth session on progress achieved in this regard;

33. *Encourages* the Department of Global Communications to continue to engage and collaborate with regional and other organizations in its efforts to promote greater awareness and understanding of the work of the

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<sup>138</sup> [A/AC.198/2023/2](#), [A/AC.198/2023/3](#) and [A/AC.198/2023/4](#).

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United Nations, with a particular focus on the current partnerships between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations;

34. *Reaffirms* that the Department of Global Communications must prioritize its work programme, while respecting existing mandates and in line with regulation 5.6 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation,<sup>139</sup> to focus its message and better concentrate its efforts and to match its programmes with the needs of its target audiences, including the linguistic dimension, on the basis of improved feedback and evaluation mechanisms;

35. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to exert all efforts to ensure that publications and other information services of the Secretariat, including the United Nations website, the United Nations News Service and United Nations social media accounts, contain comprehensive, balanced, objective and equitable information in all official languages about the issues before the Organization and that they maintain editorial independence, impartiality, accuracy and full consistency with resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly;

36. *Underlines* the critical need to address violations of the relevant international rules and regulations that govern the area of broadcasting, including television, radio and satellite broadcasting, in the most appropriate manner;

37. *Reiterates its request* to the Department of Global Communications and content-providing offices of the Secretariat to ensure that United Nations publications are produced in all six official languages, as well as in an environmentally friendly and cost-neutral manner, and to continue to coordinate closely with all other entities, including all other departments of the Secretariat and funds and programmes of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, in order to avoid duplication in the issuance of United Nations publications;

38. *Encourages*, in this regard, the Department of Global Communications and the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management of the Secretariat to develop new collaborative arrangements to enhance multilingualism in other outputs in a cost-neutral manner, bearing in mind the importance of ensuring the full and equitable treatment of all the official languages of the United Nations, and to report thereon to the Committee on Information at its forty-sixth session;

39. *Emphasizes* that the Department of Global Communications should maintain and improve its activities in the areas of special interest to developing countries and, where appropriate, other countries with special needs, and that the activities of the Department should contribute to bridging the existing gap between the developing and the developed countries in the crucial field of public information and communications;

40. *Reiterates its growing concern* that the issuance of daily press releases has not been expanded to all official languages, as requested in previous resolutions and in full respect of the principle of parity of all six official languages, recalls the relevant report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Department of Global Communications,<sup>140</sup> and reiterates its request that the Department, as a matter of priority, proactively explore options for delivering daily press releases in all six official languages, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions, at the latest by the forty-sixth session of the Committee on Information, and report thereon to the Committee at that session;

41. *Notes with concern* the recent trends that contribute to undermining credible, transparent and fact-based information, and encourages the Department of Global Communications to continue to promote unbiased and impartial information about the work of the United Nations, to identify specific proposals in this regard and to report thereon to the Committee on Information at its forty-sixth session;

42. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Department of Global Communications in sharing accurate, timely, relevant and multilingual information about the COVID-19 pandemic and the United Nations system response to it, and in helping to counter the proliferation of misinformation, disinformation and information manipulation in this regard;

43. *Requests* the Department of Global Communications to make specific efforts aimed at identifying and raising awareness about misinformation and disinformation, based on information and best practices shared by

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<sup>139</sup> [ST/SGB/2018/3](#).

<sup>140</sup> [A/AC.198/2023/3](#).

Member States, United Nations entities, civil society and the private sector, and to propose ways to address such a challenge in accordance with international human rights law, within existing resources;

44. *Urges* the Department of Global Communications to support the efforts of the United Nations system to eradicate all forms of hatred, intolerance and discrimination, including based on religion or belief, harassment, racism, hate speech, xenophobia and related intolerance, particularly in the response to the global crisis emanating from pandemics such as COVID-19, and notes with concern the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the existing inequalities within our societies and regrets that, in that context, persons belonging to racial and ethnic minorities and to other groups, including Asians and people of Asian descent, especially women and girls, have been victims of racist violence, threats of violence, discrimination and stigmatization;

45. *Takes note* of the United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech, and encourages the Department of Global Communications to establish and further strengthen partnerships with new and traditional media to address hate speech narratives and to promote tolerance, non-discrimination, pluralism and freedom of opinion and expression;

#### **Multilingualism and global communications**

46. *Emphasizes* that multilingualism, as a core value of the Organization, entails the active involvement and commitment of all stakeholders, including all United Nations duty stations and offices away from Headquarters;

47. *Underlines* the responsibility of the Secretariat in the mainstreaming of multilingualism into all of its communication and information activities, within existing resources on an equitable basis, calls upon the Department of Global Communications to consider it as an integral part of its strategic approach and to continue to work with the Coordinator for Multilingualism on best practices throughout the Secretariat to fulfil this responsibility, and requests the Secretary-General to report on such best practices and their implementation in his upcoming report to the Committee on Information, bearing in mind the provisions of resolution [76/268](#);

48. *Emphasizes* the importance of making use of all the official languages of the United Nations, ensuring their full and equitable treatment in all the activities of all divisions and offices of the Department of Global Communications with the aim of eliminating the disparity between the use of English and the use of the five other official languages, in this regard reaffirms its request that the Secretary-General ensure that the Department has the necessary capacity in all the official languages to undertake all of its activities, and requests that this aspect be included in future programme budget proposals for the Department, bearing in mind the principle of parity of all six official languages, while respecting the workload in each official language;

49. *Expresses appreciation* for the efforts of the Department of Global Communications in highlighting some recent important communications and messages of the Secretary-General in non-official languages, such as Portuguese, Hindi, Kiswahili, Persian, Bangla and Urdu, in addition to official languages, and in order to promote multilingualism, and encourages the Department to disseminate them in all six official languages, as well as in non-official languages whenever appropriate, within existing resources;

50. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the Department of Global Communications to enhance multilingualism in all of its activities, stresses the importance of ensuring that the texts of all new public United Nations documents in all six official languages, information materials, global promotional campaigns and all older United Nations documents are made available through the United Nations websites and are accessible to Member States without delay, and further stresses the importance of fully implementing resolution [76/268](#) and subsequent resolutions on multilingualism;

51. *Encourages* the Department of Global Communications to build upon its efforts to implement multilingual policies during the COVID-19 pandemic, and requests the Secretariat to disseminate information in the six official languages, on the activities and decisions of the main organs of the Organization, and its subsidiary bodies;

52. *Also encourages* the Department of Global Communications to continue its ongoing efforts to incorporate the working method of having thematic focal points, currently applied by the language units of the United Nations websites, as a best practice of multilingualism to improve the quality of the content of the websites;

53. *Supports and encourages* the continued use by the Department of Global Communications of Bangla, Hindi, Kiswahili, Persian, Portuguese, Urdu and the 128 languages in use by the United Nations information centres in addition to the official languages, when appropriate, and within existing resources, according to the target audience,



with a view to reaching the widest possible spectrum of audiences and extending the United Nations and Secretary-General's message and communication to all corners of the world in order to strengthen international support for the activities of the Organization;

54. *Encourages* the Department of Global Communications to continue its long-standing and ongoing efforts to promote multilingualism through global outreach in languages other than official languages, and to mobilize adequate resources, including by exploring innovative financing options as well as voluntary contributions;

#### **Bridging the digital divide**

55. *Requests* the Department of Global Communications to contribute to raising the awareness of the international community of the importance of the implementation of the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society<sup>141</sup> and of the possibilities that the use of the Internet and other information and communications technologies, emerging particularly from the fourth industrial revolution, can bring to societies and economies, as well as of ways to bridge the digital divide, within and among countries, including by commemorating World Telecommunication and Information Society Day on 17 May;

56. *Reiterates its call upon* all relevant United Nations entities, within their mandates and existing resources, and all other stakeholders to continue to work together to regularly analyse the nature of digital divides, study strategies to bridge them and make their findings available to the international community, as well as to promote public and private initiatives that aim to bridge the digital divide;

57. *Takes note* of the Secretary-General's Road Map for Digital Cooperation<sup>142</sup> and proposals set out in his report entitled "Our Common Agenda" relating to digital cooperation to outline shared principles for a digital future for all Member States to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;<sup>143</sup>

#### **Network of United Nations information centres**

58. *Emphasizes* the importance of the network of United Nations information centres in enhancing the public image of the United Nations, in communicating messages on the United Nations to local populations, especially in developing countries, bearing in mind that information in local languages has the strongest impact on local populations, and in mobilizing support for the work of the United Nations at the local level;

59. *Welcomes* the work done by the network of United Nations information centres, including the United Nations Regional Information Centre, in favour of the publication of United Nations information materials and the translation of important documents into languages other than the official languages of the United Nations, encourages information centres to continue their important multilingual activities in the interactive and proactive aspects of their work and to develop web pages and content in social media in local languages, encourages the Department of Global Communications to provide the necessary resources and technical facilities, with a view to reaching the widest possible spectrum of audiences and extending the United Nations message to all corners of the world in order to strengthen international support for the activities of the Organization, and encourages the continuation of efforts in this regard;

60. *Recognizes* the support of the network of United Nations information centres to the resident coordinator system during the COVID-19 pandemic, to promote the information and guidance from the United Nations system, including the World Health Organization, to contribute to countering the proliferation of disinformation and misinformation and to disseminate messages and information about relevant activities of United Nations funds and programmes and specialized agencies;

61. *Stresses* the importance of rationalizing the network of United Nations information centres, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to continue to make proposals in this direction, including through the redeployment of resources where necessary, and to report to the Committee on Information at its successive sessions;

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<sup>141</sup> Resolution 70/125; see also [A/C.2/59/3](#) and [A/60/687](#).

<sup>142</sup> [A/74/821](#).

<sup>143</sup> Resolution 70/1.



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62. *Reaffirms* that the rationalization of United Nations information centres must be carried out on a case-by-case basis in consultation with all concerned Member States in which existing information centres are located, the countries served by those information centres and other interested countries in the region, taking into consideration the distinctive characteristics of each region;

63. *Requests* the Department of Global Communications, through the United Nations information centres, to strengthen its cooperation with all other United Nations entities at the country level and in the context of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework in order to enhance coherence in communications and to avoid duplication of work, and in that regard notes the ongoing United Nations reform, which, inter alia, calls for the integration of the information centres into the resident coordinator system, to ensure coordinated, coherent and strategic communications on local and global issues across the United Nations system and through the information centres, including the United Nations Regional Information Centre, taking into account the needs and inputs emerging at the country level, and requests the Secretary-General to include comprehensive information on this process in his next report;

64. *Stresses* the importance of taking into account the special needs and requirements of developing countries in the field of information and communications technology for the free flow of information and knowledge in those countries;

65. *Emphasizes* the importance of implementing the 2030 Agenda at all levels, and in this regard requests further the Department of Global Communications, through the United Nations information centres, as appropriate, and especially in developing countries, to cooperate with other United Nations entities at the country level to ensure that people have the relevant information and awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals;

66. *Stresses* the importance of efforts to strengthen the outreach activities of the United Nations to those Member States remaining outside the network of United Nations information centres, through resident coordinator offices, using the mechanism established by the United Nations development system reform between the Department of Global Communications and the resident coordinator system, to provide communications support, and encourages the Secretary-General, within the context of rationalization, to extend the services of the network of information centres to those Member States;

67. *Also stresses* that the Department of Global Communications should continue to review the allocation of both staff and financial resources to the United Nations information centres in developing countries, taking into account the specific needs of the least developed countries in this regard, and requests the Secretary-General to include in the next report comprehensive information on the functioning of the United Nations information centres, including the outcome of the review of the effective and efficient allocation of staff and financial resources to United Nations information centres and the possible measures to improve the operation of the centres in developing countries;

68. *Welcomes* the support of some Member States, including developing countries, in offering, inter alia, rent-free premises for the United Nations information centres because of lack of funding, bearing in mind that such support should not be a substitute for the full allocation of financial resources for the information centres in the context of the programme budget of the United Nations;

69. *Notes* the steps taken by the Secretariat to address the concerns of many Member States regarding the impact of measures taken by the Secretariat in previous years in relation to the information centres in Cairo, Mexico City, Pretoria and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, among others, and requests the Secretary-General to further report on and to explore ways to strengthen these and other United Nations information centres around the world, especially in Africa, keeping in mind the need to do so within existing resources;

70. *Also notes* the discussions between the Department of Global Communications and the Government of Angola on the establishment of the information centre in Luanda to address the needs of Portuguese-speaking African countries, and reiterates its request to the Secretary-General, in coordination with the Government of Angola, to accelerate the establishment and operationalization of the centre in Luanda and report on its status to the Committee on Information at its forty-sixth session;

### III

#### Strategic communications services

71. *Reaffirms* the role of the strategic communications services in devising and disseminating United Nations messages by developing communications strategies, with the overall emphasis on multilingualism from the planning stage, in close collaboration with the substantive departments, United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, in full compliance with their legislative mandates, in accordance with the priorities set out by the Committee on Information;

72. *Recognizes* that the network of United Nations information centres, especially in developing countries, should continue to enhance its impact and activities, including through strategic communications support, and calls upon the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of this approach to the Committee on Information at its successive sessions;

73. *Encourages* the Department of Global Communications, in coordination with the Department of Peace Operations and the Department of Operational Support of the Secretariat, to update the 2017 policy on strategic communications and public information, bearing in mind the key role of strategic communications in the effective implementation of peacekeeping mandates and acknowledging the risks that misinformation and disinformation pose to the implementation of mandates by United Nations peacekeeping operations and the safety and security of its personnel, especially those operating in complex, multidimensional and challenging environments;

#### Promotional campaigns

74. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Department of Global Communications in promoting, through its campaigns, issues of importance to the international community, and requests the Department, in cooperation with the countries concerned and with the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, to continue to take appropriate measures to enhance world public awareness about such themes, inter alia, reinforcing multilateralism and international cooperation, unprecedented humanitarian crises and needs in the world, the 2030 Agenda, South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, United Nations reform, the eradication of poverty, sustainable urban development, conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, climate change, sustainable management of forests, combating desertification, conservation of biodiversity and other environmental issues, conflict prevention, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and sustaining peace, refugees and migrants, people forcibly displaced by conflict and other means that violate human rights and international law, culture and development, disarmament, decolonization, human rights, gender equality, the rights of children, persons with disabilities and migrant workers, strategic coordination in humanitarian relief, especially in natural disasters and other crises, communicable and non-communicable diseases, the needs of the African continent, the strategic partnership between the African Union and the United Nations, the nature of the critical economic and social situation in Africa and the priorities of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,<sup>144</sup> the special needs of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and the countries that have met the criteria for graduation from the least developed country category, the importance of international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows and the activities that underlie them, such as corruption, embezzlement, fraud, tax evasion, safe havens that create incentives for the transfer abroad of stolen assets, money-laundering and illegal exploitation of natural resources, the identification, freezing and recovery of stolen assets and their return to their countries of origin in a manner consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption,<sup>145</sup> combating human trafficking and modern slavery, combating transnational illicit trafficking, including in cultural heritage, the permanent memorial to and remembrance of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade, combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, the initiative on a world against violence and violent extremism, dialogue among civilizations, the culture of peace and tolerance and the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, as well as prevention of genocide;

75. *Requests* the Secretariat, in particular the Department of Global Communications, to contribute to the observance of international days and celebrations established by the General Assembly and to play a role in raising awareness and promoting these events, in a cost-neutral manner, where appropriate, in accordance with the respective

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<sup>144</sup> A/57/304, annex.

<sup>145</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

### III. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

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Assembly resolutions, and in cooperation with the specialized agencies in charge of their implementation, where appropriate;

76. *Requests* the Department of Global Communications and its network of United Nations information centres to raise broad awareness and to engage in a comprehensive and multilingual promotional campaign and coverage, on an equal basis, of all summits, international conferences and high-level meetings mandated by the General Assembly, including those to be held in 2024;

77. *Notes* that 2023 marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights<sup>146</sup> and that 2024 marks the forty-fifth anniversary of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women adopted on 18 December 1979,<sup>147</sup> as well as the thirty-fifth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child adopted on 20 November 1989,<sup>148</sup> and requests the Department of Global Communications to raise awareness of and disseminate information on these human rights instruments;

78. *Recognizes* the communication efforts led by the Department of Global Communications in promoting the review conferences of the parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and their preparatory processes, in particular the production of various multimedia materials, including videos, images and graphics, to promote the conferences and the issues before them in the six official languages of the Organization, and in this regard encourages the Department to continue this practice in promoting high-level meetings, including through the use of traditional and new media such as social media, as appropriate;

79. *Recalls* its resolution [75/267](#) on Global Media and Information Literacy Week, and requests the Department of Global Communications and its network of United Nations information centres to commemorate Global Media and Information Literacy Week in the way that each considers most appropriate, including by focusing on commemorative, educational and public awareness activities that tackle the issue of disinformation and misinformation, within their existing resources;

80. *Also recalls* its resolution [76/227](#) of 24 December 2021 on countering disinformation for the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and Human Rights Council resolution [49/21](#) of 1 April 2022 on the role of Member States in countering the negative impact of disinformation on the enjoyment and realization of human rights, and urges all stakeholders to promote media and information literacy, as a way to empower all people and facilitate digital inclusion and global connectivity, and to assist in countering disinformation and misinformation, within their existing resources;

81. *Requests* the Department of Global Communications and its network of United Nations information centres to continue raising awareness of and to disseminate information in a cost-neutral manner on the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, declared by the General Assembly in its resolution [75/123](#) of 10 December 2020;

82. *Recalls* its resolutions [68/237](#) of 23 December 2013 and [69/16](#) of 18 November 2014 on the International Decade for People of African Descent, and requests the Department of Global Communications and its network of United Nations information centres to continue raising awareness of and to disseminate information on the International Decade, in accordance with the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade adopted by the General Assembly,<sup>149</sup> in a cost-neutral manner;

83. *Also recalls* its resolution [72/239](#) of 20 December 2017 on the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019–2028), and requests the Department of Global Communications and its network of United Nations information centres to raise awareness of and to disseminate information on the Decade;

84. *Further recalls* its resolution [74/135](#), in which it proclaimed the period 2022–2032 as the International Decade of Indigenous Languages, and requests the Department of Global Communications and its network of United Nations information centres to draw attention to the critical loss of Indigenous languages and the urgent need to preserve, revitalize and promote Indigenous languages;

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<sup>146</sup> Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

<sup>147</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

<sup>148</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>149</sup> Resolution [69/16](#), annex.

85. *Welcomes* the political declaration adopted at the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit, held on 24 September 2018<sup>150</sup> to commemorate the centenary of the birth of Nelson Mandela, in which the period from 2019 to 2028 was recognized as the Nelson Mandela Decade of Peace, and in this regard requests the Department of Global Communications to raise awareness of and to disseminate information on the Decade;

86. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Department of Global Communications and its network of United Nations information centres to disseminate information on the International Year of Millets and the International Year of Dialogue as a Guarantee of Peace, both in 2023, as proclaimed in its resolutions [75/263](#) of 3 March 2021 and [77/32](#) of 6 December 2022, respectively, and further encourages the Department to promote awareness on the International Year of Camelids in 2024, as prescribed in resolution [72/210](#) of 20 December 2017;

87. *Underlines* the importance of the Department of Global Communications integrating multilingualism in the planning and implementation of promotional campaigns, including the design of logotypes and isologotypes in different languages, where appropriate, as well as the use of hashtags for social media campaigns in more than one language, taking into account the needs of the target audiences;

88. *Encourages* the Department of Global Communications to develop partnerships with the private sector and relevant organizations that promote the official languages of the United Nations and other languages, as appropriate, in order to promote the activities of the United Nations in a cost-neutral manner, and to report thereon to the Committee on Information at its forty-sixth session, and in this regard welcomes the partnership with airlines that provide to their customers in-flight programmes featuring United Nations activities;

#### **Role of the Department of Global Communications in United Nations peacekeeping operations, special political missions and peacebuilding**

89. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to ensure the active involvement of the Department of Global Communications from the planning stage and in all stages of future peacekeeping operations and special political missions through interdepartmental consultations and coordination with other departments and offices of the Secretariat, in particular with the Department of Peace Operations, the Department of Operational Support, the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the Peacebuilding Support Office;

90. *Recognizes* the coordination between the Department of Global Communications and the relevant United Nations departments in disseminating information on the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping initiative as well as on the progress of its implementation taking into account views expressed by the Member States;

91. *Requests* the Department of Global Communications, the Department of Peace Operations, the Department of Operational Support, the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the Peacebuilding Support Office to continue their cooperation in raising awareness of the new realities, successes and challenges faced by peacekeeping operations, especially multidimensional and complex ones, in conflict prevention, resolution and peacebuilding efforts and by special political missions, and continues to call upon them to develop and implement a comprehensive communications strategy on current challenges facing United Nations peacekeeping, countries on the agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission and special political missions, in consultation with Member States as appropriate;

92. *Encourages* the Department of Global Communications to consider continuing to issue relevant communication materials on the contribution and ongoing activities of peacekeeping operations in coordination with the relevant United Nations entities in commemoration of the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers on 29 May;

93. *Stresses* the importance of enhancing the public information capacity of the Department of Global Communications in the field of peacekeeping operations and special political missions as well as its role, in close cooperation with the Department of Peace Operations, the Department of Operational Support and the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, in the process of selecting public information staff for United Nations peacekeeping operations or missions, and in this regard invites the Department of Global Communications to second public information staff who have the skills necessary to fulfil the tasks of the operations and special political missions, taking into account the principle of equitable geographical distribution in accordance with Chapter XV, Article 101,

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<sup>150</sup> Resolution [73/1](#).

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paragraph 3, of the Charter, and to consider views expressed, especially by host countries, when appropriate, in this regard;

94. *Expresses deep concern* over the attacks on peacekeepers and other United Nations personnel in the field, urges the Department of Global Communications to further improve its communication strategies to address the issue of anti-United Nations propaganda, which can result in such attacks, in coordination with relevant United Nations departments and field missions, and requests the Secretary-General to include an update on this issue in his next report to the Committee on Information;

95. *Emphasizes* the critical importance of strategic communications to the performance of peacekeeping operations in a rapidly changing communications landscape, encourages the Department of Global Communications, within existing resources, to support relevant departments and offices of the Secretariat in continuing to develop, in close consultation with Member States and making use of their best practices, guidelines and training materials on strategic communications to be implemented at all levels of peacekeeping operations, with the objective of integrating strategic communications into planning and decision-making, and giving due consideration to the feedback of local populations and host States;

96. *Notes with great concern* the increasing amount of disinformation and misinformation directed against United Nations peacekeeping operations, which may negatively impact missions and peacekeepers, and requests the Department of Global Communications, within existing resources, to support the efforts of United Nations peacekeeping operations to provide accurate content, including in local languages and in coordination with national authorities, as appropriate, to help to strengthen the understanding of their mandates, manage expectations and garner trust and support among relevant stakeholders, notably host Governments and local communities, and contribute to countering disinformation and misinformation by developing expertise to identify, monitor, analyse and respond to it in order to strengthen the ability of United Nations peacekeeping operations to implement their mandates and enhance the safety and security of peacekeepers;

97. *Requests* the Department of Global Communications to coordinate with the Department of Operational Support and the Department of Peace Operations to raise awareness to reduce the environmental footprint in the field as part of the implementation of the environment strategy for peace operations;

98. *Emphasizes* the importance of the peacekeeping gateway on the United Nations website, and requests the Secretariat to continue its efforts to support the implementation of the mandates of the peacekeeping missions by further developing and maintaining their websites and to ensure that their communications strategies are tailored to address the host Governments, the local populations, the troop and police-contributing countries and other relevant stakeholders;

99. *Welcomes* promotional campaigns of the Department of Global Communications showcasing troop- and police-contributing countries, and encourages the Department to develop more effective and integrated communications strategies to highlight the contributions of individual troop- and police-contributing countries in an equitable manner;

100. *Encourages* the Department of Global Communications to pay tribute to the peacekeepers who have served at great personal risk during the pandemic and those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the cause of peace, thereby also recognizing the efforts of troop- and police-contributing countries;

101. *Requests* the Department of Global Communications, in the context of its promotion of the United Nations peacekeeping activities, to highlight the work and mandate of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations;

102. *Requests* the Department of Global Communications and other relevant departments and offices of the Secretariat to continue to cooperate in implementing an effective outreach programme to explain the zero-tolerance policy of the Organization regarding sexual exploitation and abuse and to inform the public of the outcome of all such cases involving United Nations staff and related personnel, including cases where allegations are ultimately found to be legally unproven, as appropriate and consistent with all United Nations rules and regulations, and about steps taken to protect the rights of the victims and ensure adequate support for the witnesses, and stresses the importance of the Department of Global Communications in showcasing the compact proposed between the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries in that regard, as well as all the activities related to the circle of leadership;

103. *Notes* the importance of communication activities and the dissemination of information relating to sustaining peace and peacebuilding efforts, in particular, peacebuilding activities carried out by the peacekeeping

missions, meetings and activities of the Peacebuilding Commission, country-specific configurations, the Peacebuilding Support Office and the Peacebuilding Fund, and requests the Department of Global Communications to enhance its cooperation with these entities in that regard, in particular through increased usage of social media within existing resources, with a view to widening outreach of their important work and encouraging national ownership;

#### **Role of the Department of Global Communications in strengthening dialogue among civilizations and the culture of peace as a means of enhancing understanding among nations**

104. *Recalls* its resolutions on dialogue among civilizations and the culture of peace, and requests the Department of Global Communications, while ensuring the pertinence and relevance of subjects for promotional campaigns on this issue, to continue to provide the support necessary for the dissemination of information pertaining to dialogue among civilizations and the culture of peace, as well as the initiative on the Alliance of Civilizations, and to take due steps in fostering the culture of dialogue among civilizations, promoting the initiative on a world against violence and violent extremism in accordance with General Assembly resolution 72/241 of 20 December 2017, and promoting cultural understanding, tolerance, respect for and freedom of religion or belief and effective enjoyment by all of all human rights and civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development, and requests a briefing by the Secretariat on the measures taken to disseminate information pertaining to dialogue among civilizations and the culture of peace, before the next session of the Committee on Information;

105. *Invites* the United Nations system, especially the Department of Global Communications, to continue to encourage and facilitate dialogue among civilizations and to formulate ways and means to promote dialogue among civilizations in the activities of the United Nations in various fields, taking into account the Programme of Action of the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations;<sup>151</sup>

106. *Calls* for strengthened efforts of the Department of Global Communication to foster a global dialogue on the promotion of a culture of tolerance and peace at all levels, based on respect for all human rights, including the right to freedom of religion or belief and the right to freedom of opinion and expression, and strongly deplores all acts of violence against persons on the basis of their religion or belief and such acts directed against places of worship, as well as all attacks on and in religious places, sites and shrines, which are in violation of international law, and recalls its resolutions 73/296 of 28 May 2019,<sup>152</sup> 76/254 of 15 March 2022<sup>153</sup> and 76/250 of 20 January 2022,<sup>154</sup>

107. *Recalls* its resolution 69/312 of 6 July 2015, in which it acknowledged the achievements of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and the efforts of the High Representative of the Secretary-General for the Alliance of Civilizations, as well as the declarations adopted by the Global Forums of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations,<sup>155</sup> and welcomes the continuing support of the Department of Global Communications for the work of the Alliance, including its ongoing projects;

108. *Welcomes and encourages* the various initiatives at the local, national, regional and international levels to enhance interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation and to strengthen people-to-people bonds;

#### **IV News services**

109. *Stresses* that the central objective of the news services implemented by the Department of Global Communications is the timely delivery of accurate, objective, evidence-based and balanced news and information emanating from the United Nations system in different supports and formats, including print, radio, television and the Internet, including social media platforms, to the free, independent, plural and diverse media and other audiences worldwide, with the overall emphasis on multilingualism from the planning stage, and reiterates its request to the

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<sup>151</sup> Resolution 56/6, sect. B.

<sup>152</sup> Entitled “International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief”.

<sup>153</sup> Entitled “International Day to Combat Islamophobia”.

<sup>154</sup> Entitled “Holocaust denial”.

<sup>155</sup> Madrid, Spain; Istanbul, Türkiye; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Doha, Qatar; Vienna, Austria; Bali, Indonesia; and Baku, Azerbaijan.

Department to ensure that all breaking news stories, and news alerts are accurate, impartial and free of bias, and are objectively selected for publication while adhering to the Department's editorial standards;

110. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue the preparations for a global code of conduct that promotes integrity in public information through an inclusive approach that involves all relevant stakeholders within existing resources;

111. *Recognizes* the efforts of the Department of Global Communications to mainstream and consolidate news and multimedia content through the coordinated and centralized UN News online portal, which provides content in both traditional and digital format in the six official languages, as well as in Hindi, Kiswahili, Portuguese and Urdu, and in this regard requests the Secretariat to continue those efforts by seeking to ensure that those services provide content in an equitable manner in all official languages, as well as in Portuguese and Kiswahili, including by encouraging the sharing of best practices among language sections;

112. *Also recognizes* the important role of television and video services provided by the Department of Global Communications, and notes the recent efforts in making available online broadcast-quality video that can be streamed or downloaded by smaller broadcast outlets that do not have access to satellite feeds;

#### **Traditional means of communication**

113. *Welcomes* the sustained efforts of United Nations Radio, which remains one of the most effective and far-reaching traditional media available to the Department of Global Communications and an important instrument in United Nations activities, to enhance the timeliness, presentation and thematic focus of its multilingual programmes on United Nations activities and to ensure the widest possible dissemination of its programming to media outlets using the most suitable platforms and formats, and requests the Department to continue producing and disseminating the programmes, in accordance with client needs;

114. *Also welcomes* the ongoing efforts being made by the Department of Global Communications to disseminate programmes directly to broadcasting stations all over the world in the six official languages, with the addition of Portuguese, Kiswahili, Urdu, Bangla and Hindi as well as other languages, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to include in his upcoming report to the Committee on Information detailed information about such partnerships with broadcasting stations as well as statistics about their multiplying impacts on potential audiences;

115. *Requests* the Department of Global Communications to continue to build partnerships with local, national and regional media outlets (print, broadcast and digital) to extend the United Nations message to all corners of the world in an accurate and impartial way, and requests the News and Media Division of the Department to continue to take full advantage of modern technologies and equipment;

116. *Welcomes* the completion of the inventory of the first seven decades of United Nations analogue audiovisual history, and, recognizing the importance of the audiovisual archives of the United Nations, stresses the urgency of digitization of the remaining 40 per cent of the archives in order to prevent further deterioration of these unique historical archives, encourages the Department of Global Communications to prioritize the development of collaborative arrangements for the digitization of these archives while preserving their multilingual character, in a cost-neutral manner, and to report thereon to the Committee on Information at its forty-sixth session, and recalls the contribution of Oman in this regard;

117. *Notes*, in this regard, the proposed strategy for the digitization of the United Nations audiovisual archive materials for long-term preservation, access and sustainable management,<sup>156</sup> and requests the Department of Global Communications to revise and update for consideration by the relevant bodies both a detailed proposal for the mass digitization of the remaining audiovisual collections, within existing resources, and report on solicitation efforts and plans for voluntary contributions to fund the digitization and storage and long-term preservation of the audiovisual archives;

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<sup>156</sup> [A/AC.198/2014/3](#), annex.



**United Nations website and social media**

118. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations website is an essential tool for Member States and for the general public, the media, non-governmental organizations and educational institutions, and in this regard reiterates the continued need for strengthened efforts by the Department of Global Communications to regularly maintain, update and improve it;

119. *Recognizes* the potential of United Nations websites and social media accounts to offer multilingual and multimedia digital content, integrating written, spoken and visual elements in all of the official languages, and encourages the Department of Global Communications to work towards such an objective;

120. *Also recognizes* the efforts made by the Secretariat to implement the basic accessibility requirements for persons with disabilities to gain access to and take part in the work of the United Nations in person or online, including through the work of the Accessibility Centre at United Nations Headquarters, calls upon the Department of Global Communications to continue to work towards compliance with accessibility requirements on all new and updated pages of the website, with the aim of ensuring its accessibility for persons with different kinds of disabilities, and in this regard encourages the Department of Global Communications and the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management to further cooperate and identify potential synergies;

121. *Further recognizes* that the COVID-19 pandemic has deepened pre-existing inequalities and that persons with disabilities have been disproportionately affected by the impact of the pandemic, and in this regard encourages the Department of Global Communications to continue to promote the design, development, production and distribution of accessible information and communications at an early stage, so that these become accessible at minimum cost;

122. *Recalls* the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy, welcomes the development of the United Nations Disability-Inclusive Communications Guidelines, which provide guidance on how to create inclusive and accessible content, requests the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at its forty-sixth session on progress achieved in this regard, and recalls its resolution [77/240](#) of 16 December 2022 on promoting and mainstreaming easy-to-understand communication for accessibility for persons with disabilities, in this regard;

123. *Reaffirms* the need to achieve full parity among the six official languages on all United Nations websites, and urges the Secretary-General to strengthen his efforts to develop, maintain and update multilingual United Nations websites, including United Nations Web TV, its video content and metadata, and the web page of the Secretary-General in all the official languages of the United Nations, from within existing resources and on an equitable basis;

124. *Notes with concern* that the multilingual development and enrichment of the United Nations website in certain official languages has improved at a much slower rate than expected, and in this regard urges the Department of Global Communications, in coordination with content-providing offices, to advance actions taken to achieve full parity among the six official languages on the United Nations website;

125. *Recalls* paragraph 49 of its resolution [76/268](#), notes with concern the disparity between the English and the non-English languages on the websites maintained by the Secretariat, urges the Secretary-General to lead the efforts of all offices and departments of the Secretariat to take concrete action to address such uneven development, and in this regard calls upon all stakeholders, including the Department of Global Communications, content-providing Secretariat entities and the Office of Information and Communications Technology of the Secretariat, to continue their collaboration, within their respective mandates, so as to achieve full parity among the six official languages on all United Nations websites developed and maintained by all Secretariat entities, in full conformance with the principles of multilingualism and in compliance with the relevant resolutions addressing multilingualism and accessibility for persons with disabilities, by making every effort to translate materials currently available only in English and by providing offices and departments with technological solutions that comply with the principle of parity, from within existing resources;

126. *Reaffirms its request* to the Secretary-General to ensure, while maintaining an up-to-date and accurate website and social media, the equitable distribution among all official languages of financial and human resources within the Department of Global Communications allocated to the United Nations website and social media, to ensure engagement with full respect for the needs and the specificities of all six official languages;

127. *Welcomes* the cooperative arrangements undertaken by the Department of Global Communications with academic institutions to increase the number of web pages available in official and non-official languages, and

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requests the Secretary-General, in coordination with content-providing offices, to extend such cooperative arrangements, in a cost-effective manner, to all the official languages of the United Nations, bearing in mind the necessity of adherence to United Nations standards and guidelines;

128. *Requests* the Department of Global Communications to ensure, to the extent possible within existing resources, that its guidelines on minimum standards for multilingualism, which serve as a guide for website developers and managers, ensure the full and equitable use of all the official languages of the United Nations in websites within the un.org domain, continue to be developed and updated, and are applied consistently across Secretariat entities and their respective subdivisions, requests the Department to exert restraint in granting waivers, and encourages the Department to explore the possibilities of applying these norms to websites under different domain names in a cost-neutral manner, while ensuring the development of a control mechanism of the implementation of the guidelines, within existing resources;

129. *Encourages* the continuation of live webcasts of public meetings of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and their respective subsidiary bodies, as well as of the Security Council, with interpretation services, and requests the Secretariat to make every effort to provide full access to archived videos in all official languages of all past open formal United Nations meetings with interpretation services, in strict observance of the principle of full parity of the six official languages of the United Nations, in order to promote transparency and accountability within the Organization, and in that regard requests the Department of Global Communications, the Office of Information and Communications Technology and the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management to collaborate, on a cost-neutral basis, to explore cost-efficient technological options to ensure equal availability, searchability, completeness and user-friendly presentation of webcast archives in all official languages on the United Nations website, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at its forty-sixth session on progress achieved in this regard;

130. *Reaffirms* the need to enhance the technological infrastructure of the Department of Global Communications, including the United Nations information centres, on a continuous basis in order to widen the outreach of the Department and to continue to improve the United Nations website in a cost-neutral manner;

131. *Encourages* the Department of Global Communications, in collaboration with the Office of Information and Communications Technology, to continue its efforts to ensure that technological infrastructures and supportive applications in the United Nations fully support Latin, non-Latin and bidirectional scripts in order to enhance the equality of all official languages on the United Nations website;

132. *Acknowledges* the increasing importance of social media in order to reach the widest possible audience, and as such welcomes the growing popularity of the United Nations official social media accounts across all languages, and encourages the Department of Global Communications to continue to expand, within existing resources, its multilingual presence across platforms, including those showing a trend in growth outlets, including new social media platforms, by providing timely updates on the work and priorities of the Organization in the six official languages of the United Nations, as well as additional non-official languages whenever appropriate;

133. *Underlines* the importance that, in the implementation of its multilingual social media strategy, the Department of Global Communications ensures full parity among the official languages of the Organization, and in that regard stresses the need for United Nations social media campaigns to use content suitable for each language, including hashtags and other labels, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at its forty-sixth session by providing available analytics, classified by official languages, as well as Kiswahili, Portuguese and Hindi, on audiences of social media accounts managed by the Secretariat;

134. *Recalls* that, in paragraph 47 of its resolution [76/268](#), the General Assembly welcomed the renewed efforts of the Secretary-General to conduct a comprehensive review of the United Nations websites, presenting the status of content in non-official languages, and noted with appreciation the innovative ideas, potential synergies and other cost-neutral measures proposed in the report of the Secretary-General on multilingualism<sup>157</sup> to reinforce the broader multilingual development and enrichment of the United Nations websites, as appropriate, and requests the Secretary-General to present an updated version of the review to the Assembly at its seventy-ninth session;

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<sup>157</sup> [A/73/761](#).

## V

### Library services

135. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Department of Global Communications to implement the recommendations of the Strategic Outlook 2025 of the Dag Hammarskjöld Library, a result of the Library working group on improvement of knowledge and electronic library services;

136. *Commends* the steps taken by the Dag Hammarskjöld Library and the other Secretariat libraries, members of the Steering Committee for Libraries of the United Nations, to put forward the New York pledge: United Nations libraries mobilize to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and calls upon United Nations Secretariat libraries to work with the Dag Hammarskjöld Library on practical cooperation in devising modern library and knowledge services and electronic platforms, in a cost-neutral manner;

137. *Reiterates* the need to maintain a multilingual collection of books, periodicals and other materials in both hard copy and electronic formats, accessible to Member States and others, ensuring that the Dag Hammarskjöld Library continues to be a broadly accessible resource for information about the United Nations and its activities, including through a multilingual home page, from within existing resources;

138. *Welcomes* the initiatives taken by the Dag Hammarskjöld Library, in its capacity as the focal point, to expand the scope of the regional training and knowledge-sharing workshops organized for the depository libraries in developing countries to include outreach in their activities;

139. *Acknowledges* the role of the Dag Hammarskjöld Library in enhancing knowledge-sharing and networking activities to ensure access to the vast store of United Nations knowledge for delegates, permanent missions of Member States, the Secretariat, researchers and depository libraries worldwide;

140. *Recalls* paragraph 80 of its resolution [74/252](#) of 27 December 2019, and requests the Secretary-general to digitize and preserve the print heritage of the Organization (1946–1993) currently held in the basements of the Dag Hammarskjöld Library and make it available online through the United Nations Digital Library by exploring all possible avenues, including voluntary contributions and support from other stakeholders;

## VI

### Outreach services

141. *Stresses* that the central objective of the outreach and knowledge services implemented by the Department of Global Communications is to promote awareness of the role and work of the United Nations by fostering dialogue with global constituencies, such as academia, civil society, educators, students and youth, with the overall emphasis on multilingualism from the planning stage, in close collaboration with the substantive departments, specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations;

142. *Notes with serious concern* that many outreach and knowledge services are not yet available in all official languages, and in this regard urges the Department of Global Communications, as a matter of priority, to mainstream multilingualism into all outreach and knowledge services, bearing in mind the importance of making use of all the official languages of the United Nations and ensuring their full and equitable treatment in all the activities of the Department, with the aim of eliminating the disparity between the use of English and the use of the five other official languages;

143. *Encourages* the United Nations Academic Impact to take effective steps to facilitate exchanges between the United Nations and institutions of higher education and academic, research and scientific communities in all regions to support the common principles and purposes of the United Nations, contribute to the realization of the 2030 Agenda, foster global citizenship and fill knowledge gaps, while recognizing the role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and its constitution;

144. *Notes* the continued growth of the United Nations Academic Impact, calls upon the Department of Global Communications to promote global awareness of the Academic Impact in order to encourage balanced participation among Member States and their continued support for the initiative, within existing resources, and encourages Member States to support the initiative and promote it among their academic institutions, as appropriate, with a view to their joining it, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions [77/128](#) A and B;

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145. *Commends* the United Nations Academic Impact for its continued engagement with the global community of scholarship in realizing the objectives of the Organization, requests the Secretary-General to continue to promote this initiative by encouraging eligible institutions of higher education in all regions, especially from developing countries, to enrol and contribute actively to the goals of the United Nations, and in this regard notes with appreciation the cost-neutral partnerships it has successfully initiated thus far with a view to multiplying membership;

146. *Welcomes* the educational outreach activities of the Department of Global Communications, and requests the Department to continue to reach educators and young people worldwide through a range of multilingual multimedia platforms, including, in particular, in the dissemination of the 2030 Agenda through the educational system, including elementary and secondary schools as well as tertiary institutions;

147. *Also welcomes* the engagement by the Department of Global Communications with Model United Nations clubs and conferences throughout the world, and requests the Department to continue its efforts to educate Model United Nations organizers and participants about the practices, procedures and norms of the Organization, thereby ensuring the accuracy of simulations and promoting adherence to United Nations values;

148. *Notes* the efforts of the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth in supporting the meaningful engagement of young people on a global scale in close collaboration with other United Nations entities, and recalls its resolution [76/306](#) of 8 September 2022;

149. *Emphasizes* the importance of the continued implementation by the Department of Global Communications of the ongoing Reham Al-Farra Memorial Journalists' Fellowship Programme for broadcasters and journalists from developing countries and countries with economies in transition, as mandated by the General Assembly, and requests the Department to consider how best to maximize the benefits derived from the Programme by extending, inter alia, its duration and the number of its participants, in accordance with Assembly resolution [35/201](#) of 16 December 1980;

150. *Encourages* the UN Chronicle to continue to publish online content in all six official languages to develop partnerships and collaborative educational activities and events with civil society organizations and institutions of higher learning;

151. *Acknowledges* the historical record that the *Yearbook of the United Nations* provided in the years it was produced, and welcomes the work of the Department of Global Communications to modernize the reference documentation that it produces and access to such documentation;

152. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to ensure that, in view of their income-generating nature and the significance of their educational outreach, in particular their impact on increasing numbers of young people, guided tours, including virtual tours, at United Nations Headquarters continue to be made available in all six official languages of the United Nations as well as in non-official languages;

153. *Notes* the ongoing efforts of the Department of Global Communications to strengthen its role as a focal point for two-way interaction with civil society relating to the priorities and concerns of the Organization identified by Member States, and also notes in this regard the increasing involvement of civil society in United Nations activities, including the outreach activities directed at youth representatives and young journalists;

154. *Recalls* its resolution [41/68](#) D of 3 December 1986, commends the World Federation of United Nations Associations and its more than 100 national United Nations associations for the valuable contributions that they have made during the past 77 years through their global activities in the mobilization of popular support for the United Nations, and calls for continued collaboration between the World Federation and the Department of Global Communications in support of their complementary objectives;

155. *Commends*, in a spirit of cooperation, the United Nations Correspondents Association for its ongoing activities and for its Dag Hammarskjöld Memorial Scholarship Fund, which sponsors journalists from developing countries to come to United Nations Headquarters and report on the activities during the sessions of the General Assembly, and further encourages the international community to continue its financial support for the Fund;

156. *Expresses its appreciation* for the efforts and contribution of United Nations Messengers of Peace, Goodwill Ambassadors and other advocates to promote the work of the United Nations and to enhance international public awareness of its priorities and concerns, and calls upon the Department of Global Communications to continue to involve them in its global communications and media strategies and outreach activities;

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157. *Welcomes* the continued collaborations between the Department of Global Communications and cultural, sporting and other personalities and characters as well as with global events such as world expos and festivals, throughout the world to promote the issues on the United Nations agenda, as well as an understanding of the role of the Organization itself, while encouraging the Department to reach out to a broader range of nationalities, notes the progress made in working with partners worldwide, and requests the Department to continue efforts to leverage these partnerships to reach mass audiences with content related to the work of the United Nations;

## VII

### Final remarks

158. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at its forty-sixth session and to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session on the activities of the Department of Global Communications and on the implementation of all recommendations and requests contained in the present resolution, and requests the Department to provide a briefing in this regard, before the next session of the Committee;

159. *Notes* the initiative taken by the Department of Global Communications, in cooperation with the Department of Safety and Security and the Protocol and Liaison Service of the Secretariat, during the annual general debate of the General Assembly, to issue special identification stickers to mission-designated personnel of Member States to enable them to escort media covering the visits of high-level officials to restricted areas, and strongly urges the Secretary-General to continue to improve this practice by acceding to the request by Member States to provide the needed number of additional passes to press and other relevant officers of Member States to allow their access to all areas that are deemed restricted, in order to effectively and comprehensively report on high-level meetings that include officials of delegations of Member States;

160. *Requests* the Committee on Information to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session;

161. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session the item entitled “Questions relating to information”.

## RESOLUTION 78/81

Adopted at the 45th plenary meeting, on 7 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 174 to 2, with 2 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/425, para. 8)<sup>158</sup>

\* *In favour:* Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against:* Israel, United States of America

*Abstaining:* France, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

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<sup>158</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report of the Fourth Committee was submitted by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.



**78/81. Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution [1970 \(XVIII\)](#) of 16 December 1963, in which it requested the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to study the information transmitted to the Secretary-General in accordance with Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations and to take such information fully into account in examining the situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration, contained in General Assembly resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#) of 14 December 1960,

*Recalling also* its resolution [77/129](#) of 12 December 2022, in which it requested the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under resolution [1970 \(XVIII\)](#),

*Stressing* the importance of the timely transmission by the administering Powers of adequate information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter, in particular in relation to the preparation by the Secretariat of the working papers on the Territories concerned,

*Mindful* of the non-fulfilment of the obligation to transmit information on some Non-Self-Governing Territories in accordance with Article 73 *e* of the Charter,

*Recalling* its resolution [75/123](#) of 10 December 2020 on the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and stressing in that regard the need to make real progress towards its full implementation,

*Having examined* the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>159</sup>

1. *Reaffirms* that, in the absence of a decision by the General Assembly itself that a Non-Self-Governing Territory has attained a full measure of self-government in terms of Chapter XI of the Charter of the United Nations, the administering Power concerned should continue to transmit information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter with respect to that Territory;

2. *Requests* the administering Powers concerned to respect their obligations under Article 73 *e* of the Charter with regard to each Territory on the agenda of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

3. *Also requests* the administering Powers concerned, in accordance with their Charter obligations, to transmit or continue to transmit regularly to the Secretary-General for information purposes, subject to such limitation as security and constitutional considerations may require, statistical and other information of a technical nature relating to the economic, social and educational conditions in the Territories for which they are respectively responsible, as well as the fullest possible information on political and constitutional developments in the Territories concerned, including the constitution, legislative act or executive order providing for the government of the Territory and the constitutional relationship of the Territory to the administering Power, within a maximum period of six months following the expiration of the administrative year in those Territories;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that adequate information is drawn from all available published sources in connection with the preparation of the working papers relating to the Territories concerned;

5. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under General Assembly resolution [1970 \(XVIII\)](#), in accordance with established procedures.

**RESOLUTION 78/82**

Adopted at the 45th plenary meeting, on 7 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 172 to 2, with 3 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee ([A/78/426](#), para. 8)<sup>160</sup>

\* *In favour:* Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and

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<sup>159</sup> [A/78/63](#).

<sup>160</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report of the Fourth Committee was submitted by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

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Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against:* Israel, United States of America

*Abstaining:* Central African Republic, France, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

#### **78/82. Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories**

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the item entitled "Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories",

*Having examined* the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2023,<sup>161</sup>

*Recalling* its resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#) of 14 December 1960, as well as all its other relevant resolutions, including, in particular, resolutions [46/181](#) of 19 December 1991, [55/146](#) of 8 December 2000, [65/119](#) of 10 December 2010 and [75/123](#) of 10 December 2020,

*Reaffirming* the solemn obligation of the administering Powers under the Charter of the United Nations to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants of the Territories under their administration and to protect the human and natural resources of those Territories against abuses,

*Reaffirming also* that any economic or other activity, including the use of the Non-Self-Governing Territories for military activity, that has a negative impact on the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and on the exercise of their right to self-determination in conformity with the Charter, General Assembly resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#) and the other relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization is contrary to the purposes and principles of the Charter,

*Reaffirming further* that the natural resources are the heritage of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the Indigenous populations,

*Taking into account* its resolution [1803 \(XVII\)](#) of 14 December 1962 regarding the sovereignty of peoples over their natural wealth and resources in accordance with the Charter and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization,

*Aware* of the special circumstances of the geographical location, size and economic conditions of each Territory, and bearing in mind the need to promote the stability, diversification and strengthening of the economy of each Territory,

*Conscious* of the particular vulnerability of the small Territories to hurricanes, natural phenomena or other extreme weather events and environmental degradation,

*Reaffirming its deep concern* at the number and scale of hurricanes, natural phenomena or other extreme weather events and their devastating impact in 2017 in the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean Sea, resulting in the loss of life and negative economic, social and environmental consequences for their vulnerable societies and

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<sup>161</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/78/23).



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hampering the achievement of sustainable development in these Territories, in particular in Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands, as well as in Puerto Rico, whose situation is addressed in the Special Committee,

*Stressing* the importance of inclusiveness within the United Nations development system and with respect to the implementation of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, and resolution 77/164 of 14 December 2022 on disaster risk reduction,

*Conscious* that foreign economic investment, when undertaken in collaboration with the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in accordance with their wishes, could make a valid contribution to the socioeconomic development of the Territories and to the exercise of their right to self-determination in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations,

*Concerned* about any activities aimed at exploiting the natural and human resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to the detriment of the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories,

*Bearing in mind* the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum and the Caribbean Community,

1. *Reaffirms* the right of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and with other relevant resolutions of the United Nations, as well as their right to the enjoyment of their natural resources and their right to dispose of those resources in their best interest;

2. *Affirms* the value of foreign economic investment undertaken in collaboration with the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in accordance with their wishes in order to make a valid contribution to the socioeconomic development of the Territories, especially during times of economic and financial crisis;

3. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Powers under the Charter to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and also reaffirms the legitimate rights of their peoples over their natural resources;

4. *Reaffirms its concern* about any activities aimed at the exploitation of the natural resources that are the heritage of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the Indigenous populations, in the Caribbean, the Pacific and other regions, and of their human resources, to the detriment of their interests, and in such a way as to deprive them of their right to dispose of those resources;

5. *Reaffirms* the need to avoid any economic or other activities, including the use of the Non-Self-Governing Territories for military activity, that adversely affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and in this regard reminds the administering Powers of their responsibility and accountability vis-à-vis any detriment to the interests of the peoples of those Territories, in accordance with relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

6. *Calls once again upon* all Governments that have not yet done so to take, in accordance with the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, legislative, administrative or other measures in respect of their nationals and the bodies corporate under their jurisdiction that own and operate enterprises in the Non-Self-Governing Territories that are detrimental to the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories, in order to put an end to such enterprises;

7. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to ensure that the exploitation of the marine and other natural resources in the Non-Self-Governing Territories under their administration is not in violation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and does not adversely affect the interests of the peoples of those Territories;

8. *Invites* all Governments and organizations of the United Nations system to take all possible measures to ensure that the permanent sovereignty of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories over their natural resources is fully respected and safeguarded in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

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9. *Once again urges* the administering Powers concerned to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable right of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to their natural resources and to establish and maintain control over the future development of those resources, and requests the administering Powers to take all steps necessary to protect the property rights of the peoples of those Territories in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

10. *Calls upon* the administering Powers concerned to ensure that no discriminatory working conditions prevail in the Territories under their administration and to promote in each Territory a fair system of wages applicable to all the inhabitants without any discrimination;

11. *Also calls upon* the administering Powers concerned to provide all the necessary assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories affected by hurricanes, natural phenomena or other extreme weather events in order to alleviate the humanitarian needs in the affected communities, support the recovery and rebuilding efforts and enhance capabilities for emergency preparedness and risk reduction;

12. *Encourages* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations to continue to provide assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories affected by hurricanes, natural phenomena or other extreme weather events and to formulate appropriate programmes to support emergency response and recovery and rebuilding efforts, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly on this matter;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue, through all means at his disposal, to inform world public opinion of any activity that affects the exercise of the right of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination in conformity with the Charter, General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the other relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

14. *Appeals* to trade unions and non-governmental organizations, as well as individuals, to continue their efforts to promote the economic well-being of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and also appeals to the media to disseminate information about the developments in this regard;

15. *Decides* to follow the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories so as to ensure that all economic activities in those Territories are aimed at strengthening and diversifying their economies in the interest of their peoples, in particular the Indigenous populations, and at promoting the economic and financial viability of those Territories;

16. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to examine this question and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session.

#### RESOLUTION 78/83

Adopted at the 45th plenary meeting, on 7 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 126 to 2, with 51 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/427, para. 8)<sup>162</sup>

\* *In favour:* Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

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<sup>162</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report of the Fourth Committee was submitted by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

*Against:* Israel, United States of America

*Abstaining:* Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Central African Republic, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

**78/83. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations**

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the item entitled “Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations”,

*Having also considered* the report of the Secretary-General<sup>163</sup> and the report of the Economic and Social Council<sup>164</sup> on the item,

*Having examined* the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2023,<sup>165</sup>

*Recalling* its resolutions [1514 \(XV\)](#) of 14 December 1960 and [1541 \(XV\)](#) of 15 December 1960 and the resolutions of the Special Committee, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions, including, in particular, Economic and Social Council resolution [2022/21](#) of 22 July 2022,

*Bearing in mind* the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum and the Caribbean Community,

*Conscious* of the need to facilitate the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#),

*Noting* that the large majority of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories are small island Territories,

*Welcoming* the assistance extended to Non-Self-Governing Territories by certain specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system,

*Welcoming also* the participation in the capacity of observers of those Non-Self-Governing Territories that are associate members of regional commissions in the world conferences in the economic and social spheres, subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and in accordance with relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, including resolutions and decisions of the Assembly and the Special Committee on specific Territories,

*Noting* that only some specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system have been involved in providing assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories,

*Stressing* that, because the development options of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories are limited, there are special challenges to planning for and implementing sustainable development and that those Territories will be constrained in meeting those challenges without the continuing cooperation and assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system,

*Stressing also* the importance of securing the resources necessary for funding expanded programmes of assistance for the peoples concerned and the need to enlist the support of all major funding institutions within the United Nations system in that regard,

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<sup>163</sup> [A/78/65](#).

<sup>164</sup> [E/2023/68](#).

<sup>165</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/78/23)*.

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*Reaffirming* the mandates of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to take all appropriate measures, within their respective responsibilities, to ensure the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions,

*Expressing its appreciation* to the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum, the Caribbean Community and other regional organizations for the continued cooperation and assistance that they have extended to the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in this regard,

*Expressing its conviction* that closer contacts and consultations between and among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations help to facilitate the effective formulation of programmes of assistance to the peoples concerned,

*Mindful* of the imperative need to keep under continuous review the activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in the implementation of the various resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to decolonization,

*Bearing in mind* the extremely fragile economies of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories and their vulnerability to natural disasters, such as hurricanes, cyclones and sea level rise, and recalling the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly,

*Recalling* its resolution 77/131 of 12 December 2022 on the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations,

*Recalling also* relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in connection with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Recommends* that all States intensify their efforts through the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system of which they are members to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;
3. *Reaffirms* that the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system should continue to be guided by the relevant resolutions of the United Nations in their efforts to contribute to the implementation of the Declaration and all other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;
4. *Also reaffirms* that the recognition by the General Assembly, the Security Council and other United Nations organs of the legitimacy of the aspirations of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to exercise their right to self-determination entails, as a corollary, the extension of all appropriate assistance to those peoples;
5. *Expresses its appreciation* to those specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that have continued to cooperate with the United Nations and the regional and subregional organizations in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and requests all the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to implement the relevant provisions of those resolutions;
6. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to intensify their engagement with the work of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples as an important element for the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), including participation in the regional seminars on decolonization, upon the invitation of the Special Committee;
7. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations to examine and review conditions in each Territory so as to take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of the Territories;
8. *Urges* those specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that have not yet provided assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories to do so as soon as possible;
9. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system and regional organizations to strengthen existing measures of support and formulate appropriate programmes of

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assistance for the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, within the framework of their respective mandates, in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories;

10. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system concerned to provide information on:

- (a) Environmental problems facing the Non-Self-Governing Territories;
- (b) The impact of natural disasters, such as hurricanes and volcanic eruptions, and other environmental problems, such as beach and coastal erosion and droughts, on those Territories;
- (c) Ways and means to assist the Territories to fight drug trafficking, money-laundering and other illegal and criminal activities;
- (d) Illegal exploitation of the marine and other natural resources of the Territories and the need to utilize those resources for the benefit of the peoples of the Territories;

11. *Recommends* that the executive heads of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system formulate, with the active cooperation of the regional organizations concerned, concrete proposals for the full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and submit the proposals to their governing and legislative organs;

12. *Also recommends* that the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system continue to review at the regular meetings of their governing bodies the implementation of General Assembly resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

13. *Recalls* the adoption by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean of its resolution 574 (XXVII) of 16 May 1998,<sup>166</sup> calling for the necessary mechanisms for its associate members, including Non-Self-Governing Territories, to participate in the special sessions of the General Assembly, subject to the rules of procedure of the Assembly, to review and assess the implementation of the plans of action of those United Nations world conferences in which the Territories originally participated in the capacity of observer, and in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies;

14. *Requests* the Chair of the Special Committee to deepen cooperation with the President of the Economic and Social Council on the identical agenda items of both bodies on assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, through regular consultations, in accordance with relevant resolutions on decolonization;

15. *Recalls* the publication by the Department of Public Information and the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, in consultation with United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and the Special Committee, of an information leaflet on assistance programmes available to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, which was updated for the United Nations website on decolonization, and requests its continued updating and wide dissemination;

16. *Welcomes* the continuing efforts made by the United Nations Development Programme in maintaining close liaison among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, including the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and in providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

17. *Encourages* the Non-Self-Governing Territories to take steps to establish and/or strengthen disaster preparedness and management institutions and policies, inter alia, with the assistance of the relevant specialized agencies;

18. *Requests* the administering Powers concerned to facilitate, when appropriate, the participation of appointed and elected representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the relevant meetings and conferences of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in accordance with relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, including resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee on specific Territories, so that the Territories may benefit from the related activities of those agencies and organizations;

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<sup>166</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 21 (E/1998/41)*, sect. III.G.

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19. *Recommends* that all Governments intensify their efforts through the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system of which they are members to accord priority to the question of providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to assist the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in working out appropriate measures for implementing the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and to prepare for submission to the relevant bodies, with the assistance of those agencies and organizations, a report on the action taken in implementation of the relevant resolutions, including the present resolution, since the circulation of his previous report;

21. *Commends* the Economic and Social Council for its debate and resolution on this question, and requests it to continue to consider and intensify its cooperation with the Special Committee, with the aim of developing appropriate measures for the further coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

22. *Requests* the specialized agencies to report annually to the Secretary-General on the implementation of the present resolution;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the present resolution to the governing bodies of the appropriate specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations so that those bodies may take the measures necessary to implement it, and also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

24. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session.

#### RESOLUTION 78/84

Adopted at the 45th plenary meeting, on 7 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/428, para. 8)<sup>167</sup>

#### **78/84. Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 77/132 of 12 December 2022,

*Having examined* the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>168</sup> prepared pursuant to its resolution 845 (IX) of 22 November 1954,

*Conscious* of the importance of promoting the educational advancement of the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories,

*Strongly convinced* that the continuation and expansion of offers of scholarships is essential in order to meet the increasing need of students from Non-Self-Governing Territories for educational and training assistance, and considering that students in those Territories should be encouraged to avail themselves of such offers,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States that have made scholarships available to the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

3. *Invites* all States to make or continue to make generous offers of study and training facilities to the inhabitants of those Territories that have not yet attained self-government or independence and, wherever possible, to provide travel funds to prospective students;

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<sup>167</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Algeria, Argentina, Cuba, El Salvador, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

<sup>168</sup> A/78/69.



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4. *Urges* the administering Powers to take effective measures to ensure the widespread and continuous dissemination in the Territories under their administration of information relating to offers of study and training facilities made by States and to provide all the facilities necessary to enable students to avail themselves of such offers;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

6. *Draws* the attention of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to the present resolution.

#### RESOLUTION 78/85

Adopted at the 45th plenary meeting, on 7 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/429, para. 33)<sup>169</sup>

#### 78/85. Question of Western Sahara

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* in depth the question of Western Sahara,

*Reaffirming* the inalienable right of all peoples to self-determination and independence, in accordance with the principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

*Recognizing* that all available options for self-determination of the Territories are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the people concerned and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960 and other resolutions of the Assembly,

*Recalling* its resolution 77/133 of 12 December 2022,

*Recalling also* all resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council on the question of Western Sahara,

*Recalling further* Security Council resolutions 658 (1990) of 27 June 1990, 690 (1991) of 29 April 1991, 1359 (2001) of 29 June 2001, 1429 (2002) of 30 July 2002, 1495 (2003) of 31 July 2003, 1541 (2004) of 29 April 2004, 1570 (2004) of 28 October 2004, 1598 (2005) of 28 April 2005, 1634 (2005) of 28 October 2005, 1675 (2006) of 28 April 2006 and 1720 (2006) of 31 October 2006,

*Underlining* the adoption of Security Council resolutions 1754 (2007) on 30 April 2007, 1783 (2007) on 31 October 2007, 1813 (2008) on 30 April 2008, 1871 (2009) on 30 April 2009, 1920 (2010) on 30 April 2010, 1979 (2011) on 27 April 2011, 2044 (2012) on 24 April 2012, 2099 (2013) on 25 April 2013, 2152 (2014) on 29 April 2014, 2218 (2015) on 28 April 2015, 2285 (2016) on 29 April 2016, 2351 (2017) on 28 April 2017, 2414 (2018) on 27 April 2018, 2440 (2018) on 31 October 2018, 2468 (2019) on 30 April 2019, 2494 (2019) on 30 October 2019, 2548 (2020) on 30 October 2020, 2602 (2021) on 29 October 2021 and 2654 (2022) on 27 October 2022,

*Expressing its satisfaction* that the parties met on 18 and 19 June 2007, on 10 and 11 August 2007, from 7 to 9 January 2008 and from 16 to 18 March 2008 under the auspices of the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara and in the presence of the neighbouring countries and that they have agreed to continue the negotiations,

*Also expressing its satisfaction* at the holding of nine informal meetings convened by the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General on 9 and 10 August 2009 in Dürnstein, Austria, on 10 and 11 February 2010 in Westchester County, New York, United States of America, from 7 to 10 November 2010, from 16 to 18 December 2010 and from 21 to 23 January 2011, all on Long Island, New York, from 7 to 9 March 2011 in Mellieha, Malta, from 5 to 7 June 2011

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<sup>169</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Chair of the Committee.



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and from 19 to 21 July 2011, both on Long Island, and from 11 to 13 March 2012 in Manhasset, New York, to prepare for the fifth round of negotiations,

*Calling upon* all the parties and the States of the region to cooperate fully with the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy and with each other,

*Reaffirming* the responsibility of the United Nations towards the people of Western Sahara,

*Welcoming*, in this regard, the efforts of the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy in search of a mutually acceptable political solution to the dispute, which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara,

*Having examined* the relevant chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2023,<sup>170</sup>

*Having also examined* the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>171</sup>

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

2. *Supports* the process of negotiations initiated by Security Council resolution 1754 (2007) and further sustained by Council resolutions 1783 (2007), 1813 (2008), 1871 (2009), 1920 (2010), 1979 (2011), 2044 (2012), 2099 (2013), 2152 (2014), 2218 (2015), 2285 (2016), 2351 (2017), 2414 (2018), 2440 (2018), 2468 (2019), 2494 (2019), 2548 (2020), 2602 (2021) and 2654 (2022), with a view to achieving a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution, which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, and commends the efforts undertaken by the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy for Western Sahara in this respect;

3. *Welcomes* the commitment of the parties to continue to show political will and work in an atmosphere propitious for dialogue, in order to enter into a more intensive phase of negotiations, in good faith and without preconditions, noting efforts and developments since 2006, thus ensuring the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1754 (2007), 1783 (2007), 1813 (2008), 1871 (2009), 1920 (2010), 1979 (2011), 2044 (2012), 2099 (2013), 2152 (2014), 2218 (2015), 2285 (2016), 2351 (2017), 2414 (2018), 2440 (2018), 2468 (2019), 2494 (2019), 2548 (2020), 2602 (2021) and 2654 (2022) and the success of negotiations;

4. *Also welcomes* the ongoing negotiations between the parties held on 18 and 19 June 2007, on 10 and 11 August 2007, from 7 to 9 January 2008 and from 16 to 18 March 2008 in the presence of the neighbouring countries and under the auspices of the United Nations;

5. *Calls upon* the parties to cooperate with the International Committee of the Red Cross, and calls upon them to abide by their obligations under international humanitarian law;

6. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to consider the situation in Western Sahara and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session;

7. *Invites* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

#### RESOLUTION 78/86

Adopted at the 45th plenary meeting, on 7 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/429, para. 33)<sup>172</sup>

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<sup>170</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/78/23).*

<sup>171</sup> A/78/249.

<sup>172</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report of the Fourth Committee was submitted by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

**78/86. Question of American Samoa**

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the question of American Samoa and examined the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2023,<sup>173</sup>

*Taking note* of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on American Samoa<sup>174</sup> and other relevant information,

*Recognizing* that all available options for self-determination of the Territory are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the people of American Samoa and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly resolutions [1514 \(XV\)](#) of 14 December 1960, [1541 \(XV\)](#) of 15 December 1960 and other resolutions of the Assembly,

*Expressing concern* that, more than 60 years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,<sup>175</sup> there still remain 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories, including American Samoa,

*Conscious* of the importance of continuing the effective implementation of the Declaration, taking into account the target set by the United Nations to eradicate colonialism by 2030 and the plan of action for the International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism,<sup>176</sup>

*Recognizing* that the specific characteristics and the aspirations of the people of American Samoa require flexible, practical and innovative approaches to the options for self-determination, without any prejudice to territorial size, geographical location, size of population or natural resources,

*Convinced* that the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territory should continue to guide the development of their future political status and that referendums, free and fair elections and other forms of popular consultation play an important role in ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the people,

*Concerned* by the use and exploitation of the natural resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories by the administering Powers for their benefit, by the use of the Territories as international financial centres to the detriment of the world economy and by the consequences of any economic activities of the administering Powers that are contrary to the interests of the people of the Territories, as well as to resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#),

*Convinced* that any negotiations to determine the status of the Territory must take place with the active involvement and participation of the people of the Territory, under the auspices of the United Nations, on a case-by-case basis, and that the views of the people of American Samoa in respect of their right to self-determination should be ascertained,

*Noting* the continued cooperation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories at the local and regional levels, including participation in the work of regional organizations,

*Mindful* that, in order for the Special Committee to enhance its understanding of the political status of the people of American Samoa and to fulfil its mandate effectively, it is important for it to be apprised by the United States of America as the administering Power and to receive information from other appropriate sources, including the representatives of the Territory, concerning the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territory,

*Aware* of the importance both to American Samoa and to the Special Committee of the participation of elected and appointed representatives of American Samoa in the work of the Committee,

*Recognizing* the need for the Special Committee to ensure that the appropriate bodies of the United Nations actively pursue a public awareness campaign aimed at assisting the people of American Samoa with their inalienable

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<sup>173</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/78/23).*

<sup>174</sup> [A/AC.109/2023/1](#).

<sup>175</sup> Resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#).

<sup>176</sup> [A/56/61](#), annex.

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right to self-determination and in gaining a better understanding of the options for self-determination, on a case-by-case basis,

*Mindful*, in that connection, that the holding of regional seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions and at Headquarters, with the active participation of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, provides a helpful means for the Special Committee to fulfil its mandate and that the regional nature of the seminars, which alternate between the Caribbean and the Pacific, is a crucial element in the context of a United Nations programme for ascertaining the political status of the Territories,

*Welcoming* the Pacific regional seminar on the theme “Innovative steps to ensure the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Non-Self-Governing Territories”, held by the Special Committee in Bali, Indonesia, and hosted by the Government of Indonesia from 24 to 26 May 2023, as a significant and forward-looking event, which enabled the participants to assess progress made and address challenges faced in the decolonization process, review the existing working methods of the Committee and renew its commitment to implementing its historic task,

*Recalling* the importance of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the seminar, which are annexed to the report of the Special Committee and which outline the findings of the seminar, including, especially, the way forward for the decolonization process within the context of the proclamation by the General Assembly of the period 2021–2030 as the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,<sup>177</sup>

*Noting with appreciation* the contribution to the development of some Territories by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Food Programme, as well as regional institutions such as the Caribbean Development Bank, the Caribbean Community, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, the Pacific Islands Forum and the agencies of the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific,

*Recalling* the statement made by a representative of the Governor of American Samoa at the 2018 Pacific regional seminar,<sup>178</sup>

*Recalling also* the statement made by that representative in which he expressed his view that the people of American Samoa were happy with the relationship with the administering Power, which could be described as strong and healthy as well as beneficial to the people and the Government of the Territory, and that the most important benefit to American Samoa had been the protection of its Indigenous rights to the land as provided for in the Deeds of Cession,

*Recalling further* the statement made by the representative that the political status of American Samoa as an unincorporated and unorganized territory of the administering Power limited its ability to self-government and exposed it to decisions made by the administering Power,

*Recalling* the statement by the representative that, while certain aspects of the form of government of the Territory and its relationship with the administering Power were challenging and in need of improvement, the solutions could be found within the confines of the political and judicial systems of the administering Power and that the territorial Government was pursuing legal actions to counteract the impact of unfavourable federal actions and sought the international community’s tacit support,

*Recalling also* the information provided by the representative that the Government of American Samoa intended to pursue additional funding from the administering Power to maintain and expand the work of the Office of Political Status, Constitutional Review and Federal Relations,

*Recalling further* the decisions of the United States judiciary in which it dismissed a lawsuit seeking a declaratory judgment that would have asserted that the citizenship clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the

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<sup>177</sup> See resolution 75/123.

<sup>178</sup> Available at [www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/c24/regional-seminars/2018](http://www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/c24/regional-seminars/2018).

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Constitution of the United States extended to American Samoa, and taking note of the decision in which the petition for a writ of certiorari was denied,<sup>179</sup>

*Noting* another case before the United States judiciary regarding the citizenship clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States,<sup>180</sup> and the decisions taken on the matter,

*Stressing* the importance of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory,

*Recalling* the creation in February 2022 of the American Samoa Constitutional Review Committee,

*Noting* the holding of the 2022 Constitutional Convention, from 29 August to 2 September 2022, at which 11 amendments were approved by delegates to the Convention,

*Noting also* the holding of the constitutional referendum in November 2022,

*Acknowledging* the outcome of the referendum held on 8 November 2022, in which the proposal to give the Fono, the Territory's legislature, the authority to override the Governor's veto was rejected,

*Noting* the elections held in the Territory in November 2022 to elect 20 members of the American Samoa House of Representatives and the delegate to the United States House of Representatives,<sup>181</sup>

*Recalling* relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in connection with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of American Samoa to self-determination, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

2. *Also reaffirms* that, in the process of decolonization of American Samoa, there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination, which is also a fundamental human right, as recognized under the relevant human rights conventions;

3. *Further reaffirms* that it is ultimately for the people of American Samoa to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in that connection calls upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territory in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination in conformity with the legitimate political status options, based on the principles clearly defined in Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions and decisions;

4. *Takes note* of the work of the territorial Government with respect to moving forward on political status, local autonomy and self-governance issues with a view to making political and economic progress, and recalls the establishment in April 2016 of the Office of Political Status, Constitutional Review and Federal Relations;

5. *Also takes note* of the outcomes of the referendum on proposed amendments to the Constitution of American Samoa held on 8 November 2022, in which voters approved five amendments, and the transmittal of these amendments to the Secretary of the Interior of the United States of America on 14 December 2022;

6. *Recalls* the indication by the territorial Government that American Samoa should remain on the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories, under the purview of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, until such time as its people have exercised their right to self-determination;

7. *Also recalls* the invitation extended in 2015 by the Governor of American Samoa to the Special Committee to send a visiting mission to the Territory, calls upon the administering Power to facilitate such a mission if the

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<sup>179</sup> Decisions of the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, issued on 5 June and 2 October 2015, affirming the judgment of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, and of the Supreme Court of the United States on 13 June 2016, in connection with *Tuaua v. United States*.

<sup>180</sup> *Fitisemanu v. United States*.

<sup>181</sup> See A/AC.109/2023/1, paras. 4 and 7.

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territorial Government so desires, and requests the Chair of the Special Committee to take all the steps necessary to that end;

8. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public educational outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

9. *Stresses* that the Territory should continue to participate in the activities of the Special Committee, including regional seminars, in order to provide the Committee with up-to-date information regarding the decolonization process;

10. *Also stresses* the importance of the Special Committee being apprised of the views and wishes of the people of American Samoa and enhancing its understanding of their conditions, including the nature and scope of the existing political and constitutional arrangements between American Samoa and the administering Power;

11. *Calls upon* the administering Power to participate in and cooperate fully with the work of the Special Committee in order to implement the provisions of Article 73 *e* of the Charter and the Declaration and in order to advise the Committee on the implementation of the provisions under Article 73 *b* of the Charter on efforts to promote self-government in American Samoa, and encourages the administering Power to facilitate visiting and special missions to the Territory;

12. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Power under the Charter to promote the economic and social development and to preserve the cultural identity of the Territory, and requests the administering Power to take steps to enlist and make effective use of all possible assistance, on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis, in the strengthening of the economy of the Territory;

13. *Takes into account* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>182</sup> including the Sustainable Development Goals, stresses the importance of fostering the economic and social sustainable development of the Territory by promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable social development and inclusion and promoting the integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems that supports, inter alia, economic, social and human development, while facilitating ecosystem conservation, regeneration, restoration and resilience in the face of new and emerging challenges, and strongly urges the administering Power to refrain from undertaking any kind of illicit, harmful and unproductive activities, including the use of the Territory as an international financial centre, that are not aligned with the interest of the people of the Territory;

14. *Requests* the Territory and the administering Power to take all measures necessary to protect and conserve the environment of the Territory against any degradation, and once again requests the specialized agencies concerned to monitor environmental conditions in the Territory and to provide assistance to the Territory, consistent with their prevailing rules of procedure;

15. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question of American Samoa and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session and on the implementation of the present resolution.

#### RESOLUTION 78/87

Adopted at the 45th plenary meeting, on 7 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/429, para. 33)<sup>183</sup>

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<sup>182</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>183</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report of the Fourth Committee was submitted by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

**78/87. Question of Anguilla**

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the question of Anguilla and examined the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2023,<sup>184</sup>

*Taking note* of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Anguilla<sup>185</sup> and other relevant information,

*Recognizing* that all available options for self-determination of the Territory are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the people of Anguilla and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly resolutions [1514 \(XV\)](#) of 14 December 1960, [1541 \(XV\)](#) of 15 December 1960 and other resolutions of the Assembly,

*Expressing concern* that, more than 60 years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,<sup>186</sup> there still remain 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories, including Anguilla,

*Conscious* of the importance of continuing the effective implementation of the Declaration, taking into account the target set by the United Nations to eradicate colonialism by 2030 and the plan of action for the International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism,<sup>187</sup>

*Recognizing* that the specific characteristics and the aspirations of the people of Anguilla require flexible, practical and innovative approaches to the options for self-determination, without any prejudice to territorial size, geographical location, size of population or natural resources,

*Convinced* that the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territory should continue to guide the development of their future political status and that referendums, free and fair elections and other forms of popular consultation play an important role in ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the people,

*Concerned* by the use and exploitation of the natural resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories by the administering Powers for their benefit, by the use of the Territories as international financial centres to the detriment of the world economy and by the consequences of any economic activities of the administering Powers that are contrary to the interests of the people of the Territories, as well as to resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#),

*Convinced* that any negotiations to determine the status of the Territory must take place with the active involvement and participation of the people of the Territory, under the auspices of the United Nations, on a case-by-case basis, and that the views of the people of Anguilla in respect of their right to self-determination should be ascertained,

*Noting* the continued cooperation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories at the local and regional levels, including participation in the work of regional organizations,

*Mindful* that, in order for the Special Committee to enhance its understanding of the political status of the people of Anguilla and to fulfil its mandate effectively, it is important for it to be apprised by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as the administering Power and to receive information from other appropriate sources, including the representatives of the Territory, concerning the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territory,

*Aware* of the importance both to Anguilla and to the Special Committee of the participation of elected and appointed representatives of Anguilla in the work of the Committee,

*Recognizing* the need for the Special Committee to ensure that the appropriate bodies of the United Nations actively pursue a public awareness campaign aimed at assisting the people of Anguilla with their inalienable right to self-determination and in gaining a better understanding of the options for self-determination, on a case-by-case basis,

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<sup>184</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/78/23).*

<sup>185</sup> [A/AC.109/2023/2](#).

<sup>186</sup> Resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#).

<sup>187</sup> [A/56/61](#), annex.



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*Mindful*, in that connection, that the holding of regional seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions and at Headquarters, with the active participation of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, provides a helpful means for the Special Committee to fulfil its mandate and that the regional nature of the seminars, which alternate between the Caribbean and the Pacific, is a crucial element in the context of a United Nations programme for ascertaining the political status of the Territories,

*Welcoming* the Pacific regional seminar on the theme “Innovative steps to ensure the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Non-Self-Governing Territories”, held by the Special Committee in Bali, Indonesia, and hosted by the Government of Indonesia from 24 to 26 May 2023, as a significant and forward-looking event, which enabled the participants to assess progress made and address challenges faced in the decolonization process, review the existing working methods of the Committee and renew its commitment to implementing its historic task,

*Recalling* the importance of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the seminar, which are annexed to the report of the Special Committee and which outline the findings of the seminar, including, especially, the way forward for the decolonization process within the context of the proclamation by the General Assembly of the period 2021–2030 as the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,<sup>188</sup>

*Recalling also* the statement made by a representative of the Government of Anguilla at the 2022 Pacific regional seminar,<sup>189</sup>

*Noting with appreciation* the contribution to the development of some Territories by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Food Programme, as well as regional institutions such as the Caribbean Development Bank, the Caribbean Community, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, the Pacific Islands Forum and the agencies of the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific,

*Recalling* that the first regional seminar held in a Non-Self-Governing Territory was the 2003 Caribbean regional seminar in Anguilla, hosted by the territorial Government with the cooperation of the administering Power,

*Recalling also* the re-engagement of the Territory with the Special Committee in 2022,

*Aware* of the follow-up meeting, held after the 2012 Pacific regional seminar, between the Chair of the Special Committee and the Chief Minister of Anguilla, who reiterated the urgent need for a visiting mission,

*Recalling* the decisions taken in 2011 to set up a drafting team to prepare a new constitution and present it for public consultation in the Territory and the recent efforts undertaken in that regard, including the establishment, in September 2015, of a new Constitutional and Electoral Reform Committee to advance constitutional and electoral reform, draft proposals for electoral and constitutional reforms submitted as the draft constitution by the Committee in November 2016, as well as the revised draft Constitution issued in March 2017 and presented to the Executive Council in May 2017, and aware of the proposals made by the territorial Government to the administering Power on amendments to the Constitution of Anguilla and of the Anguilla Constitution (Amendment) Orders 2019 and 2020, which came into force in May 2019 and November 2020, respectively,

*Recalling also* the recommencement of public consultations on the constitutional amendments in 2021,

*Noting* the participation of the Territory as a member in the Caribbean Overseas Countries and Territories Council and an associate member in the Caribbean Community, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

*Recalling with concern* the devastating damage and impact caused in the Territory by Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria in 2017,

*Stressing* the importance of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory,

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<sup>188</sup> See resolution 75/123.

<sup>189</sup> Available at [www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/c24/regional-seminars/2022](http://www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/c24/regional-seminars/2022).



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*Recalling* the general elections that were held in June 2020,<sup>190</sup>

*Recalling also* relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in connection with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of Anguilla to self-determination, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

2. *Also reaffirms* that, in the process of decolonization of Anguilla, there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination, which is also a fundamental human right, as recognized under the relevant human rights conventions;

3. *Further reaffirms* that it is ultimately for the people of Anguilla to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in that connection calls upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territory in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination in conformity with the legitimate political status options, based on the principles clearly defined in Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions and decisions;

4. *Urges* that constitutional discussions with the administering Power, including public consultations, be concluded as soon as possible;

5. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory in its current efforts with regard to advancing the internal constitutional review exercise, if requested;

6. *Calls upon* the administering Power to facilitate a visiting mission by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, if the territorial Government so desires, and requests the Chair of the Special Committee to take all the steps necessary to that end;

7. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public educational outreach efforts consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

8. *Calls upon* the administering Power to assist the territorial Government in strengthening its commitments in the economic domain, including budgetary matters, with regional support as needed and appropriate;

9. *Welcomes* the active participation of the Territory in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

10. *Stresses* that the Territory should continue to participate in the activities of the Special Committee, including regional seminars, in order to provide the Committee with up-to-date information regarding the decolonization process;

11. *Also stresses* the importance of the Special Committee being apprised of the views and wishes of the people of Anguilla and enhancing its understanding of their conditions, including the nature and scope of the existing political and constitutional arrangements between Anguilla and the administering Power;

12. *Calls upon* the administering Power to participate in and cooperate fully with the work of the Special Committee in order to implement the provisions of Article 73 *e* of the Charter and the Declaration and in order to advise the Committee on the implementation of the provisions under Article 73 *b* of the Charter on efforts to promote self-government in Anguilla, and encourages the administering Power to facilitate visiting and special missions to the Territory;

13. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Power under the Charter to promote the economic and social development and to preserve the cultural identity of the Territory, and requests the administering Power to take

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<sup>190</sup> See [A/AC.109/2021/2](#), para. 3.

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steps to enlist and make effective use of all possible assistance, on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis, in the strengthening of the economy of the Territory;

14. *Takes into account* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>191</sup> including the Sustainable Development Goals, stresses the importance of fostering the economic and social sustainable development of the Territory by promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable social development and inclusion and promoting the integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems that supports, inter alia, economic, social and human development, while facilitating ecosystem conservation, regeneration, restoration and resilience in the face of new and emerging challenges, and strongly urges the administering Power to refrain from undertaking any kind of illicit, harmful and unproductive activities, including the use of the Territory as an international financial centre, that are not aligned with the interest of the people of the Territory;

15. *Requests* the Territory and the administering Power to take all measures necessary to protect and conserve the environment of the Territory against any degradation, and once again requests the specialized agencies concerned to monitor environmental conditions in the Territory and to provide assistance to the Territory, consistent with their prevailing rules of procedure;

16. *Reiterates its call upon* the administering Power, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations to provide all the assistance necessary to the Territory, support the recovery and rebuilding efforts and enhance capabilities for emergency preparedness and risk reduction, in particular in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria that impacted the Territory in 2017;

17. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question of Anguilla and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session and on the implementation of the present resolution.

#### RESOLUTION 78/88

Adopted at the 45th plenary meeting, on 7 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/429, para. 33)<sup>192</sup>

#### 78/88. Question of Bermuda

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the question of Bermuda and examined the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2023,<sup>193</sup>

*Taking note* of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Bermuda<sup>194</sup> and other relevant information,

*Recognizing* that all available options for self-determination of the Territory are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the people of Bermuda and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960 and other resolutions of the Assembly,

*Expressing concern* that, more than 60 years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,<sup>195</sup> there still remain 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories, including Bermuda,

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<sup>191</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>192</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report of the Fourth Committee was submitted by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

<sup>193</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/78/23).*

<sup>194</sup> A/AC.109/2023/3.

<sup>195</sup> Resolution 1514 (XV).

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*Conscious* of the importance of continuing the effective implementation of the Declaration, taking into account the target set by the United Nations to eradicate colonialism by 2030 and the plan of action for the International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism,<sup>196</sup>

*Recognizing* that the specific characteristics and the aspirations of the people of Bermuda require flexible, practical and innovative approaches to the options for self-determination, without any prejudice to territorial size, geographical location, size of population or natural resources,

*Convinced* that the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territory should continue to guide the development of their future political status and that referendums, free and fair elections and other forms of popular consultation play an important role in ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the people,

*Concerned* by the use and exploitation of the natural resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories by the administering Powers for their benefit, by the use of the Territories as international financial centres to the detriment of the world economy and by the consequences of any economic activities of the administering Powers that are contrary to the interests of the people of the Territories, as well as to resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#),

*Convinced* that any negotiations to determine the status of the Territory must take place with the active involvement and participation of the people of the Territory, under the auspices of the United Nations, on a case-by-case basis, and that the views of the people of Bermuda in respect of their right to self-determination should be ascertained,

*Noting* the continued cooperation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories at the local and regional levels, including participation in the work of regional organizations,

*Mindful* that, in order for the Special Committee to enhance its understanding of the political status of the people of Bermuda and to fulfil its mandate effectively, it is important for it to be apprised by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as the administering Power and to receive information from other appropriate sources, including the representatives of the Territory, concerning the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territory,

*Aware* of the importance both to Bermuda and to the Special Committee of the participation of elected and appointed representatives of Bermuda in the work of the Committee,

*Recognizing* the need for the Special Committee to ensure that the appropriate bodies of the United Nations actively pursue a public awareness campaign aimed at assisting the people of Bermuda with their inalienable right to self-determination and in gaining a better understanding of the options for self-determination, on a case-by-case basis,

*Mindful*, in that connection, that the holding of regional seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions and at Headquarters, with the active participation of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, provides a helpful means for the Special Committee to fulfil its mandate and that the regional nature of the seminars, which alternate between the Caribbean and the Pacific, is a crucial element in the context of a United Nations programme for ascertaining the political status of the Territories,

*Welcoming* the Pacific regional seminar on the theme “Innovative steps to ensure the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Non-Self-Governing Territories”, held by the Special Committee in Bali, Indonesia, and hosted by the Government of Indonesia from 24 to 26 May 2023, as a significant and forward-looking event, which enabled the participants to assess progress made and address challenges faced in the decolonization process, review the existing working methods of the Committee and renew its commitment to implementing its historic task,

*Recalling* the importance of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the seminar, which are annexed to the report of the Special Committee and which outline the findings of the seminar, including, especially, the way forward for the decolonization process within the context of the proclamation by the General Assembly of the period 2021–2030 as the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,<sup>197</sup>

*Noting with appreciation* the contribution to the development of some Territories by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the Economic Commission for Latin America and

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<sup>196</sup> [A/56/61](#), annex.

<sup>197</sup> See resolution [75/123](#).

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the Caribbean, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Food Programme, as well as regional institutions such as the Caribbean Development Bank, the Caribbean Community, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, the Pacific Islands Forum and the agencies of the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific,

*Recalling* the statement made by a representative of the Government of Bermuda at the 2021 Caribbean regional seminar,<sup>198</sup>

*Recalling also* the dispatch of the United Nations special mission to Bermuda in 2005, at the request of the territorial Government and with the concurrence of the administering Power, which provided information to the people of the Territory on the role of the United Nations in the process of self-determination, on the legitimate political status options as clearly defined in General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) and on the experiences of other small States that have achieved a full measure of self-government,

*Stressing* the importance of good governance, transparency and accountability in the Territory,

*Stressing also* the importance of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory,

*Recalling* the extension by the administering Power to Bermuda of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women<sup>199</sup> in March 2017,

*Recalling also* the general elections that were held in October 2020,<sup>200</sup>

*Recalling further* relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in connection with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of Bermuda to self-determination, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

2. *Also reaffirms* that, in the process of decolonization of Bermuda, there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination, which is also a fundamental human right, as recognized under the relevant human rights conventions;

3. *Further reaffirms* that it is ultimately for the people of Bermuda to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in that connection calls upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territory in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination in conformity with the legitimate political status options, based on the principles clearly defined in Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions and decisions;

4. *Stresses* the importance of the 2005 report of the Bermuda Independence Commission, which provides a thorough examination of the facts surrounding independence, and continues to regret that the plans for public meetings and the presentation of a Green Paper to the House of Assembly followed by a White Paper outlining the policy proposals for an independent Bermuda have so far not materialized;

5. *Underlines* the need further to strengthen good governance, transparency and accountability in government for the benefit of the Territory;

6. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public educational outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

7. *Welcomes* the active participation of the Territory in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

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<sup>198</sup> Available at [www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/c24/regional-seminars/2021](http://www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/c24/regional-seminars/2021).

<sup>199</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

<sup>200</sup> See A/AC.109/2021/3, para. 4.

### III. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

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8. *Stresses* that the Territory should continue to participate in the activities of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, including regional seminars, in order to provide the Committee with up-to-date information regarding the decolonization process;

9. *Also stresses* the importance of the Special Committee being apprised of the views and wishes of the people of Bermuda and enhancing its understanding of their conditions, including the nature and scope of the existing political and constitutional arrangements between Bermuda and the administering Power;

10. *Calls upon* the administering Power to participate in and cooperate fully with the work of the Special Committee in order to implement the provisions of Article 73 *e* of the Charter and the Declaration and in order to advise the Committee on the implementation of the provisions under Article 73 *b* of the Charter on efforts to promote self-government in Bermuda, and encourages the administering Power to facilitate visiting and special missions to the Territory;

11. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Power under the Charter to promote the economic and social development and to preserve the cultural identity of the Territory, and requests the administering Power to take steps to enlist and make effective use of all possible assistance, on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis, in the strengthening of the economy of the Territory;

12. *Takes into account* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>201</sup> including the Sustainable Development Goals, stresses the importance of fostering the economic and social sustainable development of the Territory by promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable social development and inclusion and promoting the integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems that supports, inter alia, economic, social and human development, while facilitating ecosystem conservation, regeneration, restoration and resilience in the face of new and emerging challenges, and strongly urges the administering Power to refrain from undertaking any kind of illicit, harmful and unproductive activities, including the use of the Territory as an international financial centre, that are not aligned with the interest of the people of the Territory;

13. *Requests* the Territory and the administering Power to take all measures necessary to protect and conserve the environment of the Territory against any degradation, and once again requests the specialized agencies concerned to monitor environmental conditions in the Territory and to provide assistance to the Territory, consistent with their prevailing rules of procedure;

14. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question of Bermuda and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session and on the implementation of the present resolution.

#### RESOLUTION 78/89

Adopted at the 45th plenary meeting, on 7 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/429, para. 33)<sup>202</sup>

#### 78/89. Question of the British Virgin Islands

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the question of the British Virgin Islands and examined the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2023,<sup>203</sup>

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<sup>201</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>202</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report of the Fourth Committee was submitted by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

<sup>203</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/78/23).*

### III. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

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*Taking note* of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the British Virgin Islands<sup>204</sup> and other relevant information,

*Recognizing* that all available options for self-determination of the Territory are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the people of the British Virgin Islands and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly resolutions [1514 \(XV\)](#) of 14 December 1960, [1541 \(XV\)](#) of 15 December 1960 and other resolutions of the Assembly,

*Expressing concern* that, more than 60 years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,<sup>205</sup> there still remain 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the British Virgin Islands,

*Conscious* of the importance of continuing the effective implementation of the Declaration, taking into account the target set by the United Nations to eradicate colonialism by 2030 and the plan of action for the International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism,<sup>206</sup>

*Recognizing* that the specific characteristics and the aspirations of the people of the British Virgin Islands require flexible, practical and innovative approaches to the options for self-determination, without any prejudice to territorial size, geographical location, size of population or natural resources,

*Convinced* that the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territory should continue to guide the development of their future political status and that referendums, free and fair elections and other forms of popular consultation play an important role in ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the people,

*Concerned* by the use and exploitation of the natural resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories by the administering Powers for their benefit, by the use of the Territories as international financial centres to the detriment of the world economy and by the consequences of any economic activities of the administering Powers that are contrary to the interests of the people of the Territories, as well as to resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#),

*Convinced* that any negotiations to determine the status of the Territory must take place with the active involvement and participation of the people of the Territory, under the auspices of the United Nations, on a case-by-case basis, and that the views of the people of the British Virgin Islands in respect of their right to self-determination should be ascertained,

*Noting* the continued cooperation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories at the local and regional levels, including participation in the work of regional organizations,

*Mindful* that, in order for the Special Committee to enhance its understanding of the political status of the people of the British Virgin Islands and to fulfil its mandate effectively, it is important for it to be apprised by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as the administering Power and to receive information from other appropriate sources, including the representatives of the Territory, concerning the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territory,

*Aware* of the importance both to the British Virgin Islands and to the Special Committee of the participation of elected and appointed representatives of the British Virgin Islands in the work of the Committee,

*Recognizing* the need for the Special Committee to ensure that the appropriate bodies of the United Nations actively pursue a public awareness campaign aimed at assisting the people of the British Virgin Islands with their inalienable right to self-determination and in gaining a better understanding of the options for self-determination, on a case-by-case basis,

*Mindful*, in that connection, that the holding of regional seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions and at Headquarters, with the active participation of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, provides a helpful means for the Special Committee to fulfil its mandate and that the regional nature of the seminars, which

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<sup>204</sup> [A/AC.109/2023/4](#).

<sup>205</sup> Resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#).

<sup>206</sup> [A/56/61](#), annex.



### III. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

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alternate between the Caribbean and the Pacific, is a crucial element in the context of a United Nations programme for ascertaining the political status of the Territories,

*Welcoming* the Pacific regional seminar on the theme “Innovative steps to ensure the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Non-Self-Governing Territories”, held by the Special Committee in Bali, Indonesia, and hosted by the Government of Indonesia from 24 to 26 May 2023, as a significant and forward-looking event, which enabled the participants to assess progress made and address challenges faced in the decolonization process, review the existing working methods of the Committee and renew its commitment to implementing its historic task,

*Recalling* the importance of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the seminar, which are annexed to the report of the Special Committee and which outline the findings of the seminar, including, especially, the way forward for the decolonization process within the context of the proclamation by the General Assembly of the period 2021–2030 as the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,<sup>207</sup>

*Noting with appreciation* the contribution to the development of some Territories by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Food Programme, as well as regional institutions such as the Caribbean Development Bank, the Caribbean Community, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, the Pacific Islands Forum and the agencies of the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific,

*Noting* the statement made by a representative of the Government of the British Virgin Islands at the 2023 Pacific regional seminar,<sup>208</sup>

*Noting also* the renewed invitation extended by the Premier to the Special Committee to send a visiting mission to the Territory in 2023,

*Stressing* the importance of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory,

*Cognizant* of the Territory’s associate membership in the Caribbean Community, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States and the Association of Caribbean States,

*Recalling with concern* the devastating damage and impact caused in the Territory by Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria in 2017,

*Noting* the general elections that were held in April 2023,<sup>209</sup>

*Recalling* the establishment of the Commission of Inquiry by the Governor on 18 January 2021, and aware of the publication in April 2022 of the report of the Commission of Inquiry,

*Taking note* of the agreement of the administering Power to the proposal by the territorial Government of National Unity on the implementation of the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry without the need for a temporary partial suspension of the Constitution,

*Expressing concern* that the administering Power put an Order in Council on hold to partially suspend the Constitution if the Government of the United Kingdom assesses that the implementation of the recommendations does not proceed satisfactorily,

*Noting* that the Constitutional Review Commission was established in 2022 to conduct a full review of the 2007 Constitution of the British Virgin Islands,

*Recalling* relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in connection with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,

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<sup>207</sup> See resolution 75/123.

<sup>208</sup> Available at [www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/c24/regional-seminars/2023](http://www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/c24/regional-seminars/2023).

<sup>209</sup> See A/AC.109/2023/4, “The Territory at a glance”.



### III. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

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1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of the British Virgin Islands to self-determination, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;
2. *Also reaffirms* that, in the process of decolonization of the British Virgin Islands, there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination, which is also a fundamental human right, as recognized under the relevant human rights conventions;
3. *Further reaffirms* that it is ultimately for the people of the British Virgin Islands to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in that connection calls upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territory in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination in conformity with the legitimate political status options, based on the principles clearly defined in Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions and decisions;
4. *Recalls* the 2007 Constitution of the British Virgin Islands, and stresses the importance of continued discussions on constitutional matters, to accord greater responsibility to the territorial Government for the effective implementation of the Constitution and increased levels of education relating to constitutional matters;
5. *Calls for* full respect of the Constitution and the mutual agreement with respect to the recommendations of the report of the Commission of Inquiry, and calls upon all parties involved to maintain dialogue and work in partnership in the interest of the people of the Territory;
6. *Stresses* the need for continued close monitoring by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples of the situation in the Territory, including the dispatch of a visiting mission, in close consultation with the administering Power and the territorial Government;
7. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public educational outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;
8. *Welcomes* the active participation of the Territory in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;
9. *Stresses* that the Territory should continue to participate in the activities of the Special Committee, including regional seminars, in order to provide the Committee with up-to-date information regarding the decolonization process;
10. *Also stresses* the importance of the Special Committee being apprised of the views and wishes of the people of the British Virgin Islands and enhancing its understanding of their conditions, including the nature and scope of the existing political and constitutional arrangements between the British Virgin Islands and the administering Power;
11. *Calls upon* the administering Power to participate in and cooperate fully with the work of the Special Committee in order to implement the provisions of Article 73 *e* of the Charter and the Declaration and in order to advise the Committee on the implementation of the provisions under Article 73 *b* of the Charter on efforts to promote self-government in the British Virgin Islands, and encourages the administering Power to facilitate visiting and special missions to the Territory;
12. *Also calls upon* the administering Power to facilitate a visiting mission to the Territory, and requests the Chair of the Special Committee to take all the steps necessary to that end;
13. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Power under the Charter to promote the economic and social development and to preserve the cultural identity of the Territory, and requests the administering Power to take steps to enlist and make effective use of all possible assistance, on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis, in the strengthening of the economy of the Territory;

### III. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

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14. *Takes into account* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>210</sup> including the Sustainable Development Goals, stresses the importance of fostering the economic and social sustainable development of the Territory by promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable social development and inclusion and promoting the integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems that supports, inter alia, economic, social and human development, while facilitating ecosystem conservation, regeneration, restoration and resilience in the face of new and emerging challenges, and strongly urges the administering Power to refrain from undertaking any kind of illicit, harmful and unproductive activities, including the use of the Territory as an international financial centre, that are not aligned with the interest of the people of the Territory;

15. *Requests* the Territory and the administering Power to take all measures necessary to protect and conserve the environment of the Territory against any degradation, and once again requests the specialized agencies concerned to monitor environmental conditions in the Territory and to provide assistance to the Territory, consistent with their prevailing rules of procedure;

16. *Reiterates its call upon* the administering Power, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations to provide all the necessary assistance to the Territory, support the recovery and rebuilding efforts and enhance capabilities for emergency preparedness and risk reduction, in particular in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria that impacted the Territory in 2017;

17. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question of the British Virgin Islands and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session and on the implementation of the present resolution.

#### RESOLUTION 78/90

Adopted at the 45th plenary meeting, on 7 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/429, para. 33)<sup>211</sup>

#### 78/90. Question of the Cayman Islands

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the question of the Cayman Islands and examined the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2023,<sup>212</sup>

*Taking note* of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the Cayman Islands<sup>213</sup> and other relevant information,

*Recognizing* that all available options for self-determination of the Territory are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the people of the Cayman Islands and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960 and other resolutions of the Assembly,

*Expressing concern* that, more than 60 years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,<sup>214</sup> there still remain 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the Cayman Islands,

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<sup>210</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>211</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report of the Fourth Committee was submitted by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

<sup>212</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/78/23).*

<sup>213</sup> A/AC.109/2023/5.

<sup>214</sup> Resolution 1514 (XV).

### III. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

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*Conscious* of the importance of continuing the effective implementation of the Declaration, taking into account the target set by the United Nations to eradicate colonialism by 2030 and the plan of action for the International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism,<sup>215</sup>

*Recognizing* that the specific characteristics and the aspirations of the people of the Cayman Islands require flexible, practical and innovative approaches to the options for self-determination, without any prejudice to territorial size, geographical location, size of population or natural resources,

*Convinced* that the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territory should continue to guide the development of their future political status and that referendums, free and fair elections and other forms of popular consultation play an important role in ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the people,

*Concerned* by the use and exploitation of the natural resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories by the administering Powers for their benefit, by the use of the Territories as international financial centres to the detriment of the world economy and by the consequences of any economic activities of the administering Powers that are contrary to the interests of the people of the Territories, as well as to resolution 1514 (XV),

*Convinced* that any negotiations to determine the status of the Territory must take place with the active involvement and participation of the people of the Territory, under the auspices of the United Nations, on a case-by-case basis, and that the views of the people of the Cayman Islands in respect of their right to self-determination should be ascertained,

*Noting* the continued cooperation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories at the local and regional levels, including participation in the work of regional organizations,

*Mindful* that, in order for the Special Committee to enhance its understanding of the political status of the people of the Cayman Islands and to fulfil its mandate effectively, it is important for it to be apprised by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as the administering Power and to receive information from other appropriate sources, including the representatives of the Territory, concerning the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territory,

*Aware* of the importance both to the Cayman Islands and to the Special Committee of the participation of elected and appointed representatives of the Cayman Islands in the work of the Committee,

*Recognizing* the need for the Special Committee to ensure that the appropriate bodies of the United Nations actively pursue a public awareness campaign aimed at assisting the people of the Cayman Islands with their inalienable right to self-determination and in gaining a better understanding of the options for self-determination, on a case-by-case basis,

*Mindful*, in that connection, that the holding of regional seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions and at Headquarters, with the active participation of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, provides a helpful means for the Special Committee to fulfil its mandate and that the regional nature of the seminars, which alternate between the Caribbean and the Pacific, is a crucial element in the context of a United Nations programme for ascertaining the political status of the Territories,

*Welcoming* the Pacific regional seminar on the theme “Innovative steps to ensure the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Non-Self-Governing Territories”, held by the Special Committee in Bali, Indonesia, and hosted by the Government of Indonesia from 24 to 26 May 2023, as a significant and forward-looking event, which enabled the participants to assess progress made and address challenges faced in the decolonization process, review the existing working methods of the Committee and renew its commitment to implementing its historic task,

*Recalling* the importance of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the seminar, which are annexed to the report of the Special Committee and which outline the findings of the seminar, including, especially, the way forward for the decolonization process within the context of the proclamation by the General Assembly of the period 2021–2030 as the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,<sup>216</sup>

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<sup>215</sup> A/56/61, annex.

<sup>216</sup> See resolution 75/123.

### III. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

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*Noting with appreciation* the contribution to the development of some Territories by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Food Programme, as well as regional institutions such as the Caribbean Development Bank, the Caribbean Community, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, the Pacific Islands Forum and the agencies of the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific,

*Recalling* the statement made by the honorary representative of the territorial Government at the 2010 Pacific regional seminar held in Nouméa,<sup>217</sup>

*Noting with serious concern* that the Territory last participated in the activities of the Special Committee in 2010,

*Aware* of the work, in accordance with the 2009 Constitution, of the Constitutional Commission, which serves as an advisory body on constitutional matters,

*Aware also* that the territorial Government proposed constitutional changes to the administering Power and that subsequently the Cayman Islands Constitution (Amendment) Order 2020 came into force in December 2020,

*Stressing* the importance of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory,

*Cognizant* of the Territory's membership in the Caribbean Overseas Countries and Territories Council,

*Recalling* the general election that was held in April 2021,<sup>218</sup>

*Recalling also* relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in connection with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of the Cayman Islands to self-determination, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

2. *Also reaffirms* that, in the process of decolonization of the Cayman Islands, there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination, which is also a fundamental human right, as recognized under the relevant human rights conventions;

3. *Further reaffirms* that it is ultimately for the people of the Cayman Islands to determine freely their future political status, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in that connection calls upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territory in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination in conformity with the legitimate political status options, based on the principles clearly defined in Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions and decisions;

4. *Recalls* the 2009 Constitution of the Cayman Islands, and stresses the importance of the work of the Constitutional Commission, including its work on human rights education;

5. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public educational outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 b of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

6. *Welcomes* the active participation of the Territory in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

7. *Stresses* that the Territory should continue to participate in the activities of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, including regional seminars, in order to provide the Committee with up-to-date information regarding the decolonization process;

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<sup>217</sup> Available at [www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/c24/regional-seminars/2010](http://www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/c24/regional-seminars/2010).

<sup>218</sup> See A/AC.109/2021/5, "The Territory at a glance".

### III. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

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8. *Also stresses* the importance of the Special Committee being apprised of the views and wishes of the people of the Cayman Islands and enhancing its understanding of their conditions, including the nature and scope of the existing political and constitutional arrangements between the Cayman Islands and the administering Power;

9. *Calls upon* the administering Power to participate in and cooperate fully with the work of the Special Committee in order to implement the provisions of Article 73 *e* of the Charter and the Declaration and in order to advise the Committee on the implementation of the provisions under Article 73 *b* of the Charter on efforts to promote self-government in the Cayman Islands, and encourages the administering Power to facilitate visiting and special missions to the Territory;

10. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Power under the Charter to promote the economic and social development and to preserve the cultural identity of the Territory, and requests the administering Power to take steps to enlist and make effective use of all possible assistance, on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis, in the strengthening of the economy of the Territory;

11. *Takes into account* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>219</sup> including the Sustainable Development Goals, stresses the importance of fostering the economic and social sustainable development of the Territory by promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable social development and inclusion and promoting the integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems that supports, inter alia, economic, social and human development, while facilitating ecosystem conservation, regeneration, restoration and resilience in the face of new and emerging challenges, and strongly urges the administering Power to refrain from undertaking any kind of illicit, harmful and unproductive activities, including the use of the Territory as an international financial centre, that are not aligned with the interest of the people of the Territory;

12. *Requests* the Territory and the administering Power to take all measures necessary to protect and conserve the environment of the Territory against any degradation, and once again requests the specialized agencies concerned to monitor environmental conditions in the Territory and to provide assistance to the Territory, consistent with their prevailing rules of procedure;

13. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question of the Cayman Islands and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session and on the implementation of the present resolution.

#### RESOLUTION 78/91

Adopted at the 45th plenary meeting, on 7 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/429, para. 33)<sup>220</sup>

#### 78/91. Question of French Polynesia

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the question of French Polynesia,

*Having examined* the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2023,<sup>221</sup>

*Taking note* of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on French Polynesia<sup>222</sup> and other relevant information,

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<sup>219</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>220</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report of the Fourth Committee was submitted by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

<sup>221</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/78/23).*

<sup>222</sup> A/AC.109/2023/7.

### III. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

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*Reaffirming* the right of peoples to self-determination, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and in accordance with all relevant resolutions, including General Assembly resolutions [1514 \(XV\)](#) of 14 December 1960 and [1541 \(XV\)](#) of 15 December 1960,

*Recalling* its resolution [67/265](#) of 17 May 2013, entitled “Self-determination of French Polynesia”, in which it affirmed the inalienable right of the people of French Polynesia to self-determination and independence in accordance with Chapter XI of the Charter and its resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#), recognized that French Polynesia remains a Non-Self-Governing Territory within the meaning of the Charter and declared that an obligation exists under Article 73 *e* of the Charter on the part of the Government of France, as the administering Power of the Territory, to transmit information on French Polynesia,

*Recalling also* the section related to French Polynesia of the Final Document of the Eighteenth Summit of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Baku on 25 and 26 October 2019,<sup>223</sup>

*Expressing concern* that, more than 60 years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,<sup>224</sup> there still remain 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories, including French Polynesia,

*Recognizing* that all available options for self-determination of the Territories are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned, on a case-by-case basis and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly resolutions [1514 \(XV\)](#), [1541 \(XV\)](#) and other relevant resolutions of the Assembly,

*Recognizing also* that the specific characteristics and the aspirations of the people of French Polynesia require flexible, practical and innovative approaches to the options for self-determination, without any prejudice to territorial size, geographical location, size of population or natural resources,

*Reaffirming* the inalienable rights of the people of French Polynesia to the ownership, control and disposal of their natural resources, including marine resources and undersea minerals,

*Conscious* of the responsibility of the administering Power to ensure the full and speedy implementation of the Declaration in respect of French Polynesia,

*Mindful* that, in order for the Special Committee to enhance its understanding of the political status of the people of the Territories and to fulfil its mandate effectively, on a case-by-case basis, it is important for it to be apprised by the administering Powers and to receive information from other appropriate sources, including the representatives of the Territories, concerning the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territories,

*Recognizing* the significant health and environmental impacts of nuclear testing conducted by the administering Power in the Territory over a 30-year period, and recognizing also the concerns in the Territory related to the consequences of those activities for the lives and health of the people, especially children and vulnerable groups, as well as the environment of the region, and bearing in mind General Assembly resolution [77/119](#) of 12 December 2022, entitled “Effects of atomic radiation”,

*Recalling* the report of the Secretary-General on the environmental, ecological, health and other impacts of the 30-year period of nuclear testing in French Polynesia,<sup>225</sup> prepared pursuant to paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution [71/120](#) of 6 December 2016,

*Recalling also* that, in February 2017, the administering Power amended the Act concerning the recognition and compensating of victims of nuclear tests<sup>226</sup> in order to allow for the compensation of a larger number of victims, and that further amendments have been adopted,

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<sup>223</sup> See [A/74/548](#), annex.

<sup>224</sup> Resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#).

<sup>225</sup> [A/72/74](#).

<sup>226</sup> Act No. 2010-2 of 5 January 2010 concerning the recognition and compensating of victims of nuclear tests.



### III. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

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*Recognizing* the need for the Special Committee to ensure that the appropriate bodies of the United Nations actively pursue a public awareness campaign aimed at assisting the people of the Territories in gaining a better understanding of the options for self-determination,

*Recalling* the admission of French Polynesia as a full member of the Pacific Islands Forum at the forty-seventh Pacific Islands Forum, convened in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, from 8 to 10 September 2016,

*Taking note* of the statement made by the representative of the President of French Polynesia in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), at the seventy-seventh session of the General Assembly, in October 2022,<sup>227</sup> and of the statement made by the representative of the new President of French Polynesia in the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in June 2023,

*Recalling* the invitation extended by the President of French Polynesia to the Special Committee to send a visiting mission to the Territory, as reiterated in the Fourth Committee at the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly,<sup>228</sup>

*Stressing* the importance of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory,

*Noting* the legislative elections held in June 2022, and the territorial elections that were held in April 2023,

*Recalling* relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in connection with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of French Polynesia to self-determination, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

2. *Also reaffirms* that it is ultimately for the people of French Polynesia to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in that connection calls upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territory in order to foster an awareness among the people of French Polynesia of their right to self-determination in conformity with the legitimate political status options, based on the principles clearly defined in Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions and decisions;

3. *Recalls* the previously made calls for the delisting of the Territory, and takes note of the statement made by the representative of the President of the Territory in June 2023 that the Territorial government fully supports a proper decolonization process and self-determination process under the scrutiny of the United Nations;

4. *Reaffirms*, in this regard, General Assembly resolution 67/265, which provided for the reinscription of French Polynesia on the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories, and takes careful note of an independent self-governance assessment of the Territory, presented to the Fourth Committee on 4 October 2016,<sup>229</sup> that the Territory did not meet the full measure of self-government;

5. *Calls upon* the administering Power to participate in and cooperate fully with the work of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in order to implement the provisions of Article 73 *e* of the Charter and the Declaration and in order to advise the Special Committee on the implementation of the provisions under Article 73 *b* of the Charter on efforts to promote self-government in French Polynesia, and encourages the administering Power to facilitate visiting and special missions to the Territory;

6. *Also calls upon* the administering Power to facilitate a visiting mission to the Territory, and requests the Chair of the Special Committee to take all the steps necessary to that end;

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<sup>227</sup> See A/C.4/77/SR.3, paras. 2–6.

<sup>228</sup> See A/C.4/76/SR.3, para. 15.

<sup>229</sup> See A/C.4/71/SR.3, paras. 71 and 72.



### III. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

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7. *Regrets* that the administering Power has not responded to the request to submit information on French Polynesia under Article 73 *e* of the Charter since the reinscription of the Territory by the General Assembly in 2013;
8. *Reaffirms* that an obligation exists on the part of the administering Power to transmit information under Chapter XI of the Charter, and requests the administering Power to transmit to the Secretary-General such information on French Polynesia as called for under the Charter;
9. *Urges* the administering Power to ensure the permanent sovereignty of the people of French Polynesia over their natural resources, including marine resources and undersea minerals, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;
10. *Takes note* of the efforts made by the administering Power concerning the recognition and compensation of victims of nuclear tests, and in that regard encourages the administering Power to take steps to this effect;
11. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to provide continuous updates on the environmental, ecological, health and other impacts of the 30-year period of nuclear testing in French Polynesia, in follow-up to the report of the Secretary-General on the matter, prepared pursuant to paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution [71/120](#);
12. *Calls upon* the administering Power to initiate a dialogue with the new Government of French Polynesia in order to facilitate rapid progress towards a fair and effective self-determination process, under which the terms and timelines for an act of self-determination would be agreed;
13. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question of the Non-Self-Governing Territory of French Polynesia and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session.

#### RESOLUTION 78/92

Adopted at the 45th plenary meeting, on 7 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee ([A/78/429](#), para. 33)<sup>230</sup>

#### 78/92. Question of Guam

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the question of Guam and examined the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2023,<sup>231</sup>

*Taking note* of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Guam,<sup>232</sup> which contained the information requested by the General Assembly in resolution [77/140](#) of 12 December 2022, and other relevant information,

*Recognizing* that all available options for self-determination of the Territory are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the people of Guam and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly resolutions [1514 \(XV\)](#) of 14 December 1960, [1541 \(XV\)](#) of 15 December 1960 and other resolutions of the Assembly,

*Expressing concern* that, more than 60 years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,<sup>233</sup> there still remain 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories, including Guam,

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<sup>230</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report of the Fourth Committee was submitted by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

<sup>231</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/78/23).*

<sup>232</sup> [A/AC.109/2023/9](#).

<sup>233</sup> Resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#).

### III. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

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*Conscious* of the importance of continuing the effective implementation of the Declaration, taking into account the target set by the United Nations to eradicate colonialism by 2030 and the plan of action for the International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism,<sup>234</sup>

*Recognizing* that the specific characteristics and the aspirations of the people of Guam require flexible, practical and innovative approaches to the options for self-determination, without any prejudice to territorial size, geographical location, size of population or natural resources,

*Convinced* that the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territory should continue to guide the development of their future political status and that referendums, free and fair elections and other forms of popular consultation play an important role in ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the people,

*Concerned* by the use and exploitation of the natural resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories by the administering Powers for their benefit, by the use of the Territories as international financial centres to the detriment of the world economy and by the consequences of any economic activities of the administering Powers that are contrary to the interests of the people of the Territories, as well as to resolution 1514 (XV),

*Recalling* the joint letter dated 29 January 2021 addressed to the administering Power from the Special Rapporteurs on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, on the rights of Indigenous Peoples and on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes,

*Convinced* that any negotiations to determine the status of the Territory must take place with the active involvement and participation of the people of the Territory, under the auspices of the United Nations, on a case-by-case basis, and that the views of the people of Guam in respect of their right to self-determination should be ascertained,

*Noting* the continued cooperation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories at the local and regional levels, including participation in the work of regional organizations,

*Mindful* that, in order for the Special Committee to enhance its understanding of the political status of the people of Guam and to fulfil its mandate effectively, it is important for it to be apprised by the United States of America as the administering Power and to receive information from other appropriate sources, including the representatives of the Territory, concerning the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territory,

*Aware* of the importance both to Guam and to the Special Committee of the participation of elected and appointed representatives of Guam in the work of the Committee,

*Recognizing* the need for the Special Committee to ensure that the appropriate bodies of the United Nations actively pursue a public awareness campaign aimed at assisting the people of Guam with their inalienable right to self-determination and in gaining a better understanding of the options for self-determination, on a case-by-case basis,

*Mindful*, in that connection, that the holding of regional seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions and at Headquarters, with the active participation of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, provides a helpful means for the Special Committee to fulfil its mandate and that the regional nature of the seminars, which alternate between the Caribbean and the Pacific, is a crucial element in the context of a United Nations programme for ascertaining the political status of the Territories,

*Welcoming* the Pacific regional seminar on the theme “Innovative steps to ensure the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Non-Self-Governing Territories”, held by the Special Committee in Bali, Indonesia, and hosted by the Government of Indonesia from 24 to 26 May 2023, as a significant and forward-looking event, which enabled the participants to assess progress made and address challenges faced in the decolonization process, review the existing working methods of the Committee and renew its commitment to implementing its historic task,

*Recalling* the importance of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the seminar, which are annexed to the report of the Special Committee and which outline the findings of the seminar, including, especially, the way

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<sup>234</sup> A/56/61, annex.

### III. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

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forward for the decolonization process within the context of the proclamation by the General Assembly of the period 2021–2030 as the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,<sup>235</sup>

*Noting with appreciation* the contribution to the development of some Territories by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Food Programme, as well as regional institutions such as the Caribbean Development Bank, the Caribbean Community, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, the Pacific Islands Forum and the agencies of the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific,

*Noting with concern* that a plebiscite on self-determination has been brought to a halt, which followed the ruling<sup>236</sup> of a federal court in the United States, the administering Power, holding that the plebiscite could not be limited to native inhabitants,

*Recalling*, in this regard, the statement made by a representative of the Governor of Guam at the 2019 Caribbean regional seminar concerning the implications of the judicial case in the light of the nature and essence of the Charter of the United Nations and resolution 1514 (XV),<sup>237</sup>

*Cognizant* of the efforts made by the Guam Commission on Decolonization for the Implementation and Exercise of CHamoru Self-Determination to promote in the Territory the holding of a plebiscite on self-determination and to advance its education campaign on each of the three political status options, and recalling that more than 11,000 native inhabitants had been registered in the Guam decolonization registry to vote in the plebiscite,

*Recalling* that the administering Power approved a grant to support the self-determination education campaign in the Territory in March 2016,

*Recalling also* that, in a referendum held in 1987, the registered and eligible voters of Guam endorsed a draft Guam Commonwealth Act that would establish a new framework for relations between the Territory and the administering Power, providing for a greater measure of internal self-government for Guam and recognition of the right of the CHamoru people of Guam to self-determination for the Territory,

*Aware* that negotiations between the administering Power and the territorial Government on the draft Guam Commonwealth Act ended in 1997 and that Guam has subsequently established a non-binding plebiscite process for a self-determination vote by the eligible CHamoru voters,

*Cognizant* of the importance of the administering Power's implementing its programme of transferring surplus federal land to the Government of Guam,

*Noting* a call for reform in the programme of the administering Power with respect to the thorough, unconditional and expeditious transfer of land property to the people of Guam,

*Aware* that the federal lawsuit by the administering Power over the CHamoru Land Trust programme was filed in September 2017, and noting the ruling<sup>238</sup> issued on 21 December 2018,

*Recalling* the expressed desire of the territorial Government for a visiting mission by the Special Committee, as renewed during the 2022 Pacific regional seminar,

*Aware* of the existing concerns of the Territory regarding the potential social, cultural, economic and environmental impacts of the planned transfer of additional military personnel of the administering Power to the Territory,

*Noting* the concerns most recently expressed by the Territory on this subject before the Special Committee at its 2022 session and the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) at the seventy-seventh session of the General Assembly,

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<sup>235</sup> See resolution 75/123.

<sup>236</sup> District Court of Guam, *Davis v. Guam et al.*, decision of 8 March 2017, upheld by the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit on 29 July 2019 and the Supreme Court of the United States on 4 May 2020.

<sup>237</sup> Available at [www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/c24/regional-seminars/2019](http://www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/c24/regional-seminars/2019).

<sup>238</sup> District Court of Guam, *United States v. Guam et al.*, decision of 21 December 2018.

### III. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

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*Recalling* the statement made by the Speaker of the thirty-third Guam legislature before the Fourth Committee at the seventieth session of the General Assembly that the most acute threat to the legitimate exercise of the decolonization of Guam was the incessant militarization of the island by its administering Power, and noting the concern expressed regarding the effect of the escalating military activities and installations of the administering Power on Guam,

*Recalling also* its resolution [57/140](#) of 11 December 2002, in which it reiterated that military activities and arrangements by administering Powers in the Non-Self-Governing Territories under their administration should not run counter to the rights and interests of the peoples of the Territories concerned, especially their right to self-determination, including independence, and called upon the administering Powers concerned to terminate such activities and to eliminate the remaining military bases in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly,

*Recalling further* its resolution [35/118](#) of 11 December 1980 and the territorial Government's concern that immigration into Guam has resulted in the Indigenous CHamorus becoming a minority in their homeland,

*Stressing* the importance of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory,

*Noting* the general elections in the Territory that were held in November 2022,<sup>239</sup>

*Expressing its concern* at the devastating damage and impact caused in the Territory by Typhoon Mawar in 2023,

*Recalling* relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in connection with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of Guam to self-determination, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

2. *Also reaffirms* that, in the process of decolonization of Guam, there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination, which is also a fundamental human right, as recognized under the relevant human rights conventions;

3. *Further reaffirms* that it is ultimately for the people of Guam to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in that connection calls upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territory in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination in conformity with the legitimate political status options, based on the principles clearly defined in Assembly resolution [1541 \(XV\)](#) and other relevant resolutions and decisions;

4. *Welcomes* the ongoing work of the Guam Commission on Decolonization for the Implementation and Exercise of CHamoru Self-Determination, as well as its public education efforts;

5. *Stresses* that the decolonization process in Guam should be compatible with the Charter, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;<sup>240</sup>

6. *Calls once again upon* the administering Power to take into consideration the expressed will of the CHamoru people as supported by Guam voters in the referendum of 1987 and as subsequently provided for in Guam law regarding CHamoru self-determination efforts, encourages the administering Power and the territorial Government to enter into negotiations on the matter, and stresses the need for continued close monitoring of the overall situation in the Territory;

7. *Requests* the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government, to continue to transfer land to the original landowners of the Territory, to continue to recognize and to respect the political rights and the

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<sup>239</sup> See [A/AC.109/2023/9](#), paras. 2–4.

<sup>240</sup> Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

### III. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

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cultural and ethnic identity of the CHamoru people of Guam and to take all measures necessary to address the concerns of the territorial Government with regard to the question of immigration;

8. *Also requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public educational outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested, and welcomes the recent outreach work by the territorial Government;

9. *Further requests* the administering Power to cooperate in establishing programmes for the sustainable development of the economic activities and enterprises of the Territory, noting the special role of the CHamoru people in the development of Guam;

10. *Stresses* the importance of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples being apprised of the views and wishes of the people of Guam and enhancing its understanding of their conditions, including the nature and scope of the existing political and constitutional arrangements between Guam and the administering Power;

11. *Also stresses* that the Territory should continue to participate in the activities of the Special Committee, including regional seminars, in order to provide the Committee with up-to-date information regarding the decolonization process;

12. *Calls upon* the administering Power to participate in and cooperate fully with the work of the Special Committee in order to implement the provisions of Article 73 *e* of the Charter and the Declaration and in order to advise the Committee on the implementation of the provisions under Article 73 *b* of the Charter on efforts to promote self-government in Guam, and encourages the administering Power to facilitate visiting and special missions to the Territory;

13. *Also calls upon* the administering Power to facilitate a visiting mission to the Territory, and requests the Chair of the Special Committee to take all the steps necessary to that end;

14. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Power under the Charter to promote the economic and social development and to preserve the cultural identity of the Territory, and requests the administering Power to take steps to enlist and make effective use of all possible assistance, on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis, in the strengthening of the economy of the Territory;

15. *Takes into account* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>241</sup> including the Sustainable Development Goals, stresses the importance of fostering the economic and social sustainable development of the Territory by promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable social development and inclusion and promoting the integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems that supports, inter alia, economic, social and human development, while facilitating ecosystem conservation, regeneration, restoration and resilience in the face of new and emerging challenges, and strongly urges the administering Power to refrain from undertaking any kind of illicit, harmful and unproductive activities, including the use of the Territory as an international financial centre, that are not aligned with the interest of the people of the Territory;

16. *Requests* the Territory and the administering Power to take all measures necessary to protect and conserve the environment of the Territory against any degradation and the impact of militarization on the environment, and once again requests the specialized agencies concerned to monitor environmental conditions in the Territory and to provide assistance to the Territory, consistent with their prevailing rules of procedure;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to report on the environmental impact of the military activities of the administering Power in the Territory, as relevant information becomes available;

18. *Calls upon* the administering Power, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations to provide all the assistance necessary to the Territory, support the recovery and rebuilding efforts and enhance capabilities for emergency preparedness and risk reduction, in particular in the aftermath of Typhoon Mawar that impacted the Territory in 2023;

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<sup>241</sup> Resolution 70/1.

### III. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

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19. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question of Guam and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session and on the implementation of the present resolution.

#### RESOLUTION 78/93

Adopted at the 45th plenary meeting, on 7 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/429, para. 33)<sup>242</sup>

#### 78/93. Question of Montserrat

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the question of Montserrat and examined the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2023,<sup>243</sup>

*Taking note* of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Montserrat<sup>244</sup> and other relevant information,

*Recognizing* that all available options for self-determination of the Territory are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the people of Montserrat and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960 and other resolutions of the Assembly,

*Expressing concern* that, more than 60 years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,<sup>245</sup> there still remain 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories, including Montserrat,

*Conscious* of the importance of continuing the effective implementation of the Declaration, taking into account the target set by the United Nations to eradicate colonialism by 2030 and the plan of action for the International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism,<sup>246</sup>

*Recognizing* that the specific characteristics and the aspirations of the people of Montserrat require flexible, practical and innovative approaches to the options for self-determination, without any prejudice to territorial size, geographical location, size of population or natural resources,

*Convinced* that the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territory should continue to guide the development of their future political status and that referendums, free and fair elections and other forms of popular consultation play an important role in ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the people,

*Concerned* by the use and exploitation of the natural resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories by the administering Powers for their benefit, by the use of the Territories as international financial centres to the detriment of the world economy and by the consequences of any economic activities of the administering Powers that are contrary to the interests of the people of the Territories, as well as to resolution 1514 (XV),

*Convinced* that any negotiations to determine the status of the Territory must take place with the active involvement and participation of the people of the Territory, under the auspices of the United Nations, on a case-by-case basis, and that the views of the people of Montserrat in respect of their right to self-determination should be ascertained,

*Noting* the continued cooperation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories at the local and regional levels, including participation in the work of regional organizations,

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<sup>242</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report of the Fourth Committee was submitted by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

<sup>243</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/78/23).*

<sup>244</sup> A/AC.109/2023/10.

<sup>245</sup> Resolution 1514 (XV).

<sup>246</sup> A/56/61, annex.



### III. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

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*Mindful* that, in order for the Special Committee to enhance its understanding of the political status of the people of Montserrat and to fulfil its mandate effectively, it is important for it to be apprised by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as the administering Power and to receive information from other appropriate sources, including the representatives of the Territory, concerning the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territory,

*Aware* of the importance both to Montserrat and to the Special Committee of the participation of elected and appointed representatives of Montserrat in the work of the Committee,

*Recognizing* the need for the Special Committee to ensure that the appropriate bodies of the United Nations actively pursue a public awareness campaign aimed at assisting the people of Montserrat with their inalienable right to self-determination and in gaining a better understanding of the options for self-determination, on a case-by-case basis,

*Mindful*, in that connection, that the holding of regional seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions and at Headquarters, with the active participation of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, provides a helpful means for the Special Committee to fulfil its mandate and that the regional nature of the seminars, which alternate between the Caribbean and the Pacific, is a crucial element in the context of a United Nations programme for ascertaining the political status of the Territories,

*Welcoming* the Pacific regional seminar on the theme “Innovative steps to ensure the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Non-Self-Governing Territories”, held by the Special Committee in Bali, Indonesia, and hosted by the Government of Indonesia from 24 to 26 May 2023, as a significant and forward-looking event, which enabled the participants to assess progress made and address challenges faced in the decolonization process, review the existing working methods of the Committee and renew its commitment to implementing its historic task,

*Recalling* the importance of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the seminar, which are annexed to the report of the Special Committee and which outline the findings of the seminar, including, especially, the way forward for the decolonization process within the context of the proclamation by the General Assembly of the period 2021–2030 as the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,<sup>247</sup>

*Recalling also* the statements made by the Premier of Montserrat before the Special Committee in June 2018 and at the 2018 Pacific regional seminar, in which he expressed the view that the previous request made for the removal of Montserrat from the agenda of the Special Committee should be reversed,

*Recalling further* the information provided by the Premier that Montserrat could not achieve its development goals if its economic dependency continued, compounded by ongoing financial challenges, and that securing funding for rebuilding key infrastructure lost and helping evacuees from the 1995 volcanic crisis required an intervention from the Special Committee as a neutral partner,

*Noting with appreciation* the contribution to the development of some Territories by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Food Programme, as well as regional institutions such as the Caribbean Development Bank, the Caribbean Community, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, the Pacific Islands Forum and the agencies of the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific,

*Noting with concern* the continuing consequences of the 1995 volcanic eruption, which led to the evacuation of three quarters of the population of the Territory to safe areas of the island and to areas outside the Territory and which continues to have enduring consequences for the economy of the island,

*Acknowledging* the continuing assistance provided to the Territory by States members of the Caribbean Community, in particular Antigua and Barbuda, which has offered safe refuge and access to educational and health facilities, as well as employment for thousands who have left the Territory,

*Noting* the continuing efforts of the administering Power and the territorial Government to deal with the consequences of the volcanic eruption,

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<sup>247</sup> See resolution [75/123](#).



### III. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

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*Recalling* the importance of improving the infrastructure and accessibility of Montserrat, as conveyed by the Premier of Montserrat to the Chair of the Special Committee in their meeting on 11 May 2015,

*Stressing* the importance of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory,

*Cognizant* of the Territory's membership in the Caribbean Overseas Countries and Territories Council,

*Recalling* the elections in the Territory that were held in November 2019,<sup>248</sup>

*Recalling also* the dispatch of a United Nations visiting mission to Montserrat in December 2019,

*Reiterating its appreciation* to the administering Power and to the Government and people of Montserrat for the cooperation and assistance extended to the visiting mission,

*Reiterating its endorsement* of the report, conclusions and recommendations of the visiting mission,<sup>249</sup>

*Recalling* relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in connection with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of Montserrat to self-determination, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

2. *Also reaffirms* that, in the process of decolonization of Montserrat, there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination, which is also a fundamental human right, as recognized under the relevant human rights conventions;

3. *Further reaffirms* that it is ultimately for the people of Montserrat to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in that connection calls upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territory in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination in conformity with the legitimate political status options, based on the principles clearly defined in Assembly resolution [1541 \(XV\)](#) and other relevant resolutions and decisions;

4. *Recalls* the 2010 Constitution of Montserrat and the work of the territorial Government with respect to moving forward to consolidate the gains provided for in the Constitution;

5. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public educational outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

6. *Welcomes* the participation of the Territory in the work of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

7. *Stresses* that the Territory should continue to participate in the activities of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, including regional seminars, in order to provide the Committee with up-to-date information regarding the decolonization process;

8. *Calls upon* the administering Power, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as regional and other organizations, to continue to provide assistance to the Territory in alleviating the consequences of the volcanic eruption;

9. *Stresses* the importance of the Special Committee being apprised of the views and wishes of the people of Montserrat and enhancing its understanding of their conditions, including the nature and scope of the existing political and constitutional arrangements between Montserrat and the administering Power;

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<sup>248</sup> See [A/AC.109/2020/10](#), para. 3.

<sup>249</sup> [A/AC.109/2020/20](#).

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10. *Calls upon* the administering Power to participate in and cooperate fully with the work of the Special Committee in order to implement the provisions of Article 73 *e* of the Charter and the Declaration and in order to advise the Committee on the implementation of the provisions under Article 73 *b* of the Charter on efforts to promote self-government in Montserrat, and encourages the administering Power to facilitate visiting and special missions to the Territory;

11. *Commends* the conclusions and recommendations of the visiting mission to the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as the administering Power, and to the Government of Montserrat for appropriate action;

12. *Requests* the administering Power to continue to report to the Secretary-General on the steps taken and progress made with regard to the recommendations contained in the report of the visiting mission;

13. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Power under the Charter to promote the economic and social development and to preserve the cultural identity of the Territory, and requests the administering Power to take steps to enlist and make effective use of all possible assistance, on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis, in the strengthening of the economy of the Territory;

14. *Takes into account* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>250</sup> including the Sustainable Development Goals, stresses the importance of fostering the economic and social sustainable development of the Territory by promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable social development and inclusion and promoting the integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems that supports, inter alia, economic, social and human development, while facilitating ecosystem conservation, regeneration, restoration and resilience in the face of new and emerging challenges, and strongly urges the administering Power to refrain from undertaking any kind of illicit, harmful and unproductive activities, including the use of the Territory as an international financial centre, that are not aligned with the interest of the people of the Territory;

15. *Requests* the Territory and the administering Power to take all measures necessary to protect and conserve the environment of the Territory against any degradation, and once again requests the specialized agencies concerned to monitor environmental conditions in the Territory and to provide assistance to the Territory, consistent with their prevailing rules of procedure;

16. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question of Montserrat and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session and on the implementation of the present resolution.

#### RESOLUTION 78/94

Adopted at the 45th plenary meeting, on 7 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/429, para. 33)<sup>251</sup>

#### 78/94. Question of New Caledonia

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the question of New Caledonia,

*Having examined* the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2023,<sup>252</sup>

*Reaffirming* the right of peoples to self-determination as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

*Recalling* its resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960, and stressing principle VI of the annex to resolution 1541 (XV),

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<sup>250</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>251</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report of the Fourth Committee was submitted by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

<sup>252</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/78/23).*

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*Recalling also* the provisions of the Nouméa Accord,<sup>253</sup> which, inter alia, underscores the importance of the transfer of powers and skills in a timely manner from the administering Power to the people of New Caledonia,

*Reaffirming* that the natural resources are the heritage of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the Indigenous populations,

*Concerned* about any activities aimed at exploiting the natural and human resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to the detriment of the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories,

*Noting* the importance of the positive measures being pursued in New Caledonia by the French authorities, in cooperation with all sectors of the population, to promote equitable political, economic and social development in the Territory, including measures in the area of environmental protection, in order to provide a framework for its peaceful progress to self-determination,

*Recalling* the peaceful conduct of the first and second self-determination referendums in New Caledonia on 4 November 2018 and 4 October 2020, respectively, in which the question “Do you want New Caledonia to accede to full sovereignty and become independent?” was asked, in accordance with the Nouméa Accord and the respective decisions of the Committee of Signatories to the Nouméa Accord of March 2018 and November 2019,

*Recalling also* the meetings held in Paris from 26 May to 1 June 2021 between the administering Power and political parties in New Caledonia,

*Taking note* of the holding on 12 December 2021 of the third self-determination referendum in New Caledonia subsequent to the decision taken in June 2021 by the administering Power and the challenges involved and the concerns expressed over the results,

*Recalling* the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples on the situation of Kanak people in New Caledonia, submitted to the Human Rights Council at its eighteenth session, held from 12 to 30 September and on 21 October 2011,<sup>254</sup> following his visit to the Territory in February 2011, and stressing the importance of addressing concerns related to the human rights of Indigenous Kanak People, including in eliminating the existing inequalities between the three provinces of the Territory,

*Noting with satisfaction* the intensification of contacts between New Caledonia and neighbouring countries of the South Pacific region, including through the hosting of New Caledonian delegates in the French diplomatic and consular missions in the region,

*Recalling* the conclusions of the nineteenth Melanesian Spearhead Group Leaders Summit, under the historic inaugural chairmanship of the Front de libération nationale kanak et socialiste, held in Nouméa from 19 to 21 June 2013, including the Leaders Declaration of the Group reaffirming the strong commitment to and support, including technical assistance, for the self-determination of New Caledonia, in accordance with the Charter and the Nouméa Accord,

*Recalling also* the admission of New Caledonia as a full member of the Pacific Islands Forum at the forty-seventh Pacific Islands Forum, convened in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, from 8 to 10 September 2016,

*Recalling further* the exchange of letters between the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat and the Melanesian Spearhead Group secretariat on the sharing of information on New Caledonia,

*Mindful* that New Caledonia has entered the most critical phase of its political development, following the holding of the third self-determination referendum on 12 December 2021, a period that requires continued close monitoring by the United Nations of the situation in the Territory in order to help the people of New Caledonia to exercise their right to self-determination, including attainment of a full measure of self-government in accordance with the objectives set out in the Charter and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,<sup>255</sup>

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<sup>253</sup> [A/AC.109/2114](#), annex.

<sup>254</sup> [A/HRC/18/35/Add.6](#), annex.

<sup>255</sup> Resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#).

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*Taking note* of the commitment of all stakeholders in New Caledonia and the administering Power, going forward, to transparent and inclusive dialogue on the future status of the Territory, and noting in this regard the meetings convened in Paris on 28 October 2022 and from 11 to 14 April 2023, as well as the ministerial visits to New Caledonia from 12 to 15 September and 28 November to 4 December 2022 and 2 to 8 March and 1 to 5 June 2023,

*Recalling* the Charter of the Kanak people, common base of the fundamental values and principles of the Kanak civilization, which was proclaimed in April 2014 by the customary authorities, Great Chiefs, Chiefs, Presidents of District Councils and Presidents of the Clan Chiefs Councils, as the sole traditional custodians of the Kanak people of New Caledonia, and noting the concern of the Customary Senate that their interests should be adequately heard by the administering Power and territorial Government on matters of importance to the Indigenous People of New Caledonia,

*Recalling also* the dispatch of two United Nations visiting missions to New Caledonia in 2014 and 2018, which included visits to Paris, as well as the release of the respective reports of the visiting missions of the Special Committee,<sup>256</sup>

*Noting* the strengthened cooperation of the administering Power with regard to the work of the Special Committee relating to New Caledonia, including its facilitation of the 2014 and 2018 visiting missions, and the agreement for the next visiting mission, as well as the conduct of self-determination referendums in New Caledonia on 4 November 2018, 4 October 2020 and 12 December 2021, in accordance with the Nouméa Accord,

*Recalling* the successful conduct by New Caledonia of provincial elections on 12 May 2019,

*Recalling also* the information presented to the Pacific and the Caribbean regional seminars on the implementation of the Third and Fourth International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism since 2014, including the Pacific regional seminar held in Bali, Indonesia, from 24 to 26 May 2023, and the relevant recommendations adopted by the Special Committee,

*Taking note* of the information provided by the administering Power at the Pacific regional seminars in 2022 and 2023 and at the Caribbean regional seminars held in the Parish of Saint John, Dominica, from 25 to 27 August 2021, in Grand Anse, Grenada, from 2 to 4 May 2019, and in Kingstown from 16 to 18 May 2017, respectively, as well as by New Caledonian parties at the seminars in 2017, 2022 and 2023, on developments in the Territory, including on the first referendum on self-determination, and the recommendations adopted by the seminar in 2017, which are annexed to the report of the Special Committee for 2017,<sup>257</sup>

*Aware* of the challenges encountered in the 2014 provincial electoral process, particularly with regard to the work of the special administrative commissions in updating the special electoral roll, the non-existence of the supplementary electoral roll from 1998 and the unavailability of the 1998 general electoral roll prior to 2014, and their potential impact on the referendum on self-determination, and taking note of the positive progress made since 2014 on the electoral process for the self-determination referendum,

*Recalling* the invitations from the administering Power to the Electoral Assistance Division of the former Department of Political Affairs and the current Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs of the Secretariat to dispatch electoral expert missions to New Caledonia in May 2016 and in subsequent years to observe the work of the special administrative commissions and the advisory committee of experts for the establishment and revision of the special electoral list, including, in particular, for the self-determination referendums in New Caledonia on 4 November 2018, 4 October 2020 and 12 December 2021, consistent with the Nouméa Accord,

*Recalling also* the transmission by the administering Power to the Special Committee of the final report of the electoral expert mission to New Caledonia conducted in 2016, as well as of the list of measures implemented by the administering Power to follow up on the recommendations of the mission,

*Noting* the concerns of the people of New Caledonia regarding the importance of and need for clarity through an educational campaign by the administering Power concerning the potential referendum outcomes, and the relevant measures to this end taken since 2018 by the administering Power,

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<sup>256</sup> [A/AC.109/2014/20/Rev.1](#) and [A/AC.109/2018/20](#).

<sup>257</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/72/23)*.

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*Noting also* the request of the Committee of Signatories to the Nouméa Accord for an audit of the decolonization process and the outcome of the Nouméa Accord in New Caledonia,

*Recognizing* the need for the Special Committee to ensure that the appropriate bodies of the United Nations actively pursue a public awareness campaign aimed at assisting the people of the Territory in gaining a better understanding of the options for self-determination,

*Taking note* of the welcome engagement of the administering Power, at the ministerial level, for consultations with the Bureau of the Special Committee in New York on 7 February 2022 and 19 May 2023 on the evolving developments in New Caledonia,

*Recalling* relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in connection with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,

1. *Reaffirms its approval* of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2023;

2. *Reiterates its endorsement* of the reports, observations, conclusions and recommendations of the United Nations visiting missions to New Caledonia conducted in 2014 and 2018;

3. *Reiterates its appreciation* to the administering Power and the Government of New Caledonia for the close cooperation and assistance extended to the visiting missions;

4. *Reaffirms* that it is ultimately for the people of New Caledonia to determine freely and fairly their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in that connection calls upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territory in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination in conformity with the legitimate political status options, based on the principles clearly defined in Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions and decisions;

5. *Notes* the continuing concerns expressed regarding the challenges encountered in the provincial elections process with respect to the persistent varying interpretations of the restricted electorate provisions and the voter registration appeal process, and encourages efforts by the administering Power and the people of New Caledonia to address in an amicable and peaceful manner the concerns of all stakeholders under the existing relevant laws in the Territory and in France, while also respecting and upholding the spirit and letter of the Nouméa Accord;

6. *Recalls* the peaceful conduct of the self-determination referendums, in accordance with the Nouméa Accord, on 4 November 2018 and on 4 October 2020, resulting in 56.67 per cent against full sovereignty and independence and 43.33 per cent in favour in the first referendum and 53.26 per cent against full sovereignty and independence and 46.74 per cent in favour in the second referendum, and recalls the holding of the third self-determination referendum on 12 December 2021 amid challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic and the boycott of the referendum by sectors of New Caledonia's eligible referendum voters, resulting in 96.50 per cent against full sovereignty and independence and 3.50 per cent in favour, with a voter turnout of 43.87 per cent;

7. *Also recalls* the decision taken by the administering Power to hold the third self-determination referendum in New Caledonia on 12 December 2021, and reiterates the call upon the administering Power and all relevant stakeholders in New Caledonia to ensure the peaceful, fair, just and transparent conduct of the next steps of the self-determination process, in accordance with the Nouméa Accord;

8. *Expresses the view* that adequate measures are important for the attainment of a full measure of self-government during the upcoming consultations between all stakeholders in the Territory;

9. *Welcomes*, in that respect, the continuous high-level political dialogue and commitment in good faith undertaken by the parties to the Nouméa Accord to find a pathway forward for the attainment of a full measure of self-government, post-Nouméa Accord, as provided in the Accord;

10. *Recalls* the outcome of the twelfth meeting of the Committee of Signatories to the Nouméa Accord, held on 3 October 2014, which, inter alia, stressed the commitment of the administering Power to enable the people of

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New Caledonia to decide their future status in a fair, credible, democratic and transparent self-determination process consistent with the Nouméa Accord;

11. *Recalls with interest* the convening of the extraordinary meetings of the Committee of Signatories held in Paris on 5 June 2015, 2 November 2017, 27 March 2018, 14 December 2018 and 10 October 2019, regarding the New Caledonia self-determination process, including, in particular, the electoral roll for the referendum and related issues;

12. *Calls upon* France, the administering Power, in the light of the observations, conclusions and recommendations of the visiting missions, to consider further strengthening the education programme to inform the people of New Caledonia about the nature of self-determination so that they may be better prepared to face a future decision on the matter, and requests the Special Committee to provide all available assistance in that regard;

13. *Commends* the observations, conclusions and recommendations of the visiting missions to the Government of France, as the administering Power, and the Government of New Caledonia for appropriate action;

14. *Welcomes with appreciation* the willingness reiterated by the administering Power to the Special Committee to facilitate a new visiting mission to New Caledonia;

15. *Urges* all the parties involved, in the interest of the people of New Caledonia and within the framework of the Nouméa Accord, to maintain their dialogue in a spirit of harmony and mutual respect in order to continue to promote a framework for the peaceful progress of the Territory towards an act of self-determination, including attaining a full measure of self-government in accordance with the Charter and relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV), which would safeguard the rights of all sectors of the population, based on the principle that it is for the people of New Caledonia to choose how to determine their destiny;

16. *Reaffirms* its resolutions 68/87 of 11 December 2013 and 69/97 of 5 December 2014, in which the General Assembly, inter alia, reaffirmed that in the absence of a decision by the Assembly itself that a Non-Self-Governing Territory has attained a full measure of self-government in terms of Chapter XI of the Charter, the administering Power concerned should continue to transmit information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter with respect to that Territory;

17. *Welcomes* the actions taken by the administering Power to continue to transmit to the Secretary-General information as required under Article 73 *e* of the Charter, particularly the submission on 2 December 2022 on the most recent developments in New Caledonia;

18. *Notes* the continuing concerns expressed by the Kanak people regarding their underrepresentation in governmental and social structures, incessant migratory flows, the impact of mining on the environment, and the relevance of taking into account the interests of local ownership and equity in natural resources development, and the importance of addressing them in a timely manner;

19. *Urges* the administering Power to maintain effective measures that safeguard and guarantee the inalienable right of the people of New Caledonia to their natural resources and to establish and maintain control over the future development of those resources, and requests the administering Power to take all steps necessary to protect the property rights of the people of New Caledonia;

20. *Commends* the “Cadres for the future” programme, and encourages further enhancement of the training and capacity-building of high-level executives in the public and private sectors in the Territory, particularly in view of the ongoing transfer of powers from the Government of France to New Caledonia, while ensuring that the transfer of powers is undertaken in a manner consistent with the Nouméa Accord;

21. *Recalls* the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the rights of Indigenous Peoples on the situation of Kanak people in New Caledonia, made in the light of relevant international standards, to assist with ongoing efforts to advance the rights of the Kanak people in the context of the implementation of the Nouméa Accord and the United Nations-supported decolonization process;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to continue to provide economic, social and other assistance to New Caledonia subsequent to the exercise of the right to self-determination by the Territory;



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23. *Welcomes* the strengthening of the economic and social rebalancing initiatives undertaken by the administering Power, and urges its continuation in all areas and communities of the Territory, especially for the well-being of the Kanak Indigenous People;

24. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring the timely transfer of competencies from the administering Power to New Caledonia, provided under the Nouméa Accord;

25. *Encourages* the administering Power, with the cooperation of the Government of New Caledonia, to maintain and enhance safeguards for and guarantees of the inalienable right of the people of the Territory to own, access, use and manage their natural resources, including proprietary rights for their future development;

26. *Recalls* the provisions of the Nouméa Accord to the effect that New Caledonia may become a member or associate member of certain international organizations, and notes the continuing strengthening of ties between New Caledonia and both the European Union and the European Development Fund;

27. *Also recalls* the accession of the Front de libération nationale kanak et socialiste to the Chair of the Melanesian Spearhead Group, the hosting, for the first time in New Caledonia, in June 2013, of the meetings of officials and leaders of the Group, the successful completion of the chairmanship of the Group by the Front libération nationale kanak et socialiste, in June 2015, and the opening, in February 2013, of the Front de libération nationale kanak et socialiste unit at the headquarters of the Group secretariat in Port Vila;

28. *Acknowledges* the contribution of the Jean-Marie Tjibaou Cultural Centre to the protection of the Indigenous Kanak culture of New Caledonia;

29. *Welcomes* the cooperative attitude of other States and Territories in the region towards New Caledonia, its economic and political aspirations and its increasing participation in regional and international affairs;

30. *Takes note* of the information shared by participants from New Caledonia at the Pacific and the Caribbean regional seminars on the implementation of the Third and Fourth International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism held since May 2014, including on measured progress made in the social, economic, political and environmental spheres and more focused efforts, particularly on the rebalancing initiatives and electoral roll concerns, necessary for the long-term shared mutual benefit of all New Caledonians, and urges the administering Power and the Government of New Caledonia to devote appropriate attention to addressing these issues;

31. *Acknowledges* the peaceful conduct of provincial elections in New Caledonia on 12 May 2019, the preceding municipal elections and the subsequent efforts to form a new Government of New Caledonia, and encourages constructive engagement by all stakeholders in further developing New Caledonia for all, including by respecting and upholding the Nouméa Accord;

32. *Welcomes* the renewed decision of the administering Power to invite the Electoral Assistance Division of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs of the Secretariat to conduct a mission in order to observe the work of the special administrative commissions and the advisory committee of experts for the establishment and revision of the special electoral list, and looks forward to examining its recommendations, and further encourages the administering Power to facilitate the work undertaken in this regard;

33. *Reiterates* the importance of the agreement between the signatories to the Nouméa Accord that the progress made in the emancipation process shall be brought to the attention of the United Nations, and in this regard notes the 1 June 2023 report by the administering Power on its efforts related to the audit of the decolonization process and the outcome of the Nouméa Accord in New Caledonia, as requested by the Committee of Signatories to the Nouméa Accord;

34. *Notes* the socioeconomic, health and related challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic to New Caledonia since 2020 and the commendable efforts by the Government of New Caledonia and the administering Power to prevent and stop the spread of the virus in the Territory, and encourages the international community, including the United Nations, to support the provision of timely access to COVID-19 vaccines for the people of New Caledonia;

35. *Decides* to keep under continuous review the process unfolding in New Caledonia as a result of the signing of the Nouméa Accord;



36. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue the examination of the question of the Non-Self-Governing Territory of New Caledonia and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session.

### RESOLUTION 78/95

Adopted at the 45th plenary meeting, on 7 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/429, para. 33)<sup>258</sup>

#### 78/95. Question of Pitcairn

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the question of Pitcairn and examined the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2023,<sup>259</sup>

*Taking note* of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Pitcairn<sup>260</sup> and other relevant information,

*Recognizing* that all available options for self-determination of the Territory are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the people of Pitcairn and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960 and other resolutions of the Assembly,

*Expressing concern* that, more than 60 years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,<sup>261</sup> there still remain 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories, including Pitcairn,

*Conscious* of the importance of continuing the effective implementation of the Declaration, taking into account the target set by the United Nations to eradicate colonialism by 2030 and the plan of action for the International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism,<sup>262</sup>

*Recognizing* that the specific characteristics and the aspirations of the people of Pitcairn require flexible, practical and innovative approaches to the options for self-determination, without any prejudice to territorial size, geographical location, size of population or natural resources,

*Convinced* that the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territory should continue to guide the development of their future political status and that referendums, free and fair elections and other forms of popular consultation play an important role in ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the people,

*Concerned* by the use and exploitation of the natural resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories by the administering Powers for their benefit, by the use of the Territories as international financial centres to the detriment of the world economy and by the consequences of any economic activities of the administering Powers that are contrary to the interests of the people of the Territories, as well as to resolution 1514 (XV),

*Convinced* that any negotiations to determine the status of the Territory must take place with the active involvement and participation of the people of the Territory, under the auspices of the United Nations, on a case-by-case basis, and that the views of the people of Pitcairn in respect of their right to self-determination should be ascertained,

*Noting* the continued cooperation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories at the local and regional levels, including participation in the work of regional organizations,

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<sup>258</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report of the Fourth Committee was submitted by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

<sup>259</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/78/23).*

<sup>260</sup> A/AC.109/2023/12.

<sup>261</sup> Resolution 1514 (XV).

<sup>262</sup> A/56/61, annex.

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*Mindful* that, in order for the Special Committee to enhance its understanding of the political status of the people of Pitcairn and to fulfil its mandate effectively, it is important for it to be apprised by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as the administering Power and to receive information from other appropriate sources, including the representatives of the Territory, concerning the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territory,

*Aware* of the importance both to Pitcairn and to the Special Committee of the participation of elected and appointed representatives of Pitcairn in the work of the Committee,

*Recognizing* the need for the Special Committee to ensure that the appropriate bodies of the United Nations actively pursue a public awareness campaign aimed at assisting the people of Pitcairn with their inalienable right to self-determination and in gaining a better understanding of the options for self-determination, on a case-by-case basis,

*Mindful*, in that connection, that the holding of regional seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions and at Headquarters, with the active participation of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, provides a helpful means for the Special Committee to fulfil its mandate and that the regional nature of the seminars, which alternate between the Caribbean and the Pacific, is a crucial element in the context of a United Nations programme for ascertaining the political status of the Territories,

*Welcoming* the Pacific regional seminar on the theme “Innovative steps to ensure the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Non-Self-Governing Territories”, held by the Special Committee in Bali, Indonesia, and hosted by the Government of Indonesia from 24 to 26 May 2023, as a significant and forward-looking event, which enabled the participants to assess progress made and address challenges faced in the decolonization process, review the existing working methods of the Committee and renew its commitment to implementing its historic task,

*Recalling* the importance of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the seminar, which are annexed to the report of the Special Committee and which outline the findings of the seminar, including, especially, the way forward for the decolonization process within the context of the proclamation by the General Assembly of the period 2021–2030 as the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,<sup>263</sup>

*Noting with appreciation* the contribution to the development of some Territories by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Food Programme, as well as regional institutions such as the Caribbean Development Bank, the Caribbean Community, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, the Pacific Islands Forum and the agencies of the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific,

*Noting with serious concern* that the Territory last participated in the activities of the Special Committee in 2004,

*Taking into account* the unique character of Pitcairn in terms of population, area and access,

*Aware* that the administering Power and the territorial Government have implemented a governance structure to strengthen administrative capacity in the Territory, based on consultations with the people of the Territory,

*Noting* that the administering Power and the territorial Government have developed a five-year strategic development plan, covering the period from 2019 to 2024, that sets out the views and aspirations of the people of the Territory for the socioeconomic development of the Territory,

*Recalling with concern* the findings contained in the final report on the survey commissioned by the Pitcairn Island Council to ascertain whether members of the diaspora had any interest in returning to the Territory and the factors conditioning a decision,<sup>264</sup>

*Noting* the main challenges to socioeconomic development in the Territory, including the legacy of the child sexual abuse history and the continuing need to maintain stringent child protection procedures, the ageing population and its declining economic activity, with little or no migration to the island, and limited access to and from the island,

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<sup>263</sup> See resolution 75/123.

<sup>264</sup> See A/AC.109/2015/5, para. 14.

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*Recalling* that a marine protected area was established around Pitcairn in September 2016, and noting the Pitcairn Islands marine protected area management plan for the period 2021–2026,<sup>265</sup>

*Welcoming* the measures taken by the administering Power to improve accessibility to the Territory with the introduction of enhanced transport and shipping services,

*Stressing* the importance of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory,

*Noting* the elections that were held in November 2022,<sup>266</sup>

*Recalling* relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in connection with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of Pitcairn to self-determination, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

2. *Also reaffirms* that, in the process of decolonization of Pitcairn, there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination, which is also a fundamental human right, as recognized under the relevant human rights conventions;

3. *Further reaffirms* that it is ultimately for the people of Pitcairn to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in that connection calls upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territory in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination in conformity with the legitimate political status options, based on the principles clearly defined in Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions and decisions;

4. *Welcomes* all efforts by the administering Power and the territorial Government that would further devolve operational responsibilities to the Territory, with a view to gradually expanding self-government, including through the training of local personnel;

5. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public educational outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

6. *Also requests* the administering Power to continue its assistance for the improvement of the economic, social, educational and other conditions of the population of the Territory and to continue its discussions with the territorial Government on how best to support socioeconomic and environmental security in Pitcairn, including as regards demographic matters;

7. *Stresses* that the Territory should continue to participate in the activities of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, including regional seminars, in order to provide the Committee with up-to-date information regarding the decolonization process;

8. *Notes* the development of a new strategy for repopulation and the creation of a child safeguarding framework in place in Pitcairn;

9. *Stresses* the importance of the Special Committee being apprised of the views and wishes of the people of Pitcairn and enhancing its understanding of their conditions, including the nature and scope of the existing political and constitutional arrangements between Pitcairn and the administering Power;

10. *Calls upon* the administering Power to participate in and cooperate fully with the work of the Special Committee in order to implement the provisions of Article 73 *e* of the Charter and the Declaration and in order to advise the Committee on the implementation of the provisions under Article 73 *b* of the Charter on efforts to promote

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<sup>265</sup> See A/AC.109/2022/12, para. 41.

<sup>266</sup> See A/AC.109/2023/12, “The Territory at a glance”.

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self-government in Pitcairn, and encourages the administering Power to facilitate visiting and special missions to the Territory;

11. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Power under the Charter to promote the economic and social development and to preserve the cultural identity of the Territory, and requests the administering Power to take steps to enlist and make effective use of all possible assistance, on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis, in the strengthening of the economy of the Territory;

12. *Takes into account* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>267</sup> including the Sustainable Development Goals, stresses the importance of fostering the economic and social sustainable development of the Territory by promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable social development and inclusion and promoting the integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems that supports, inter alia, economic, social and human development, while facilitating ecosystem conservation, regeneration, restoration and resilience in the face of new and emerging challenges, and strongly urges the administering Power to refrain from undertaking any kind of illicit, harmful and unproductive activities, including the use of the Territory as an international financial centre, that are not aligned with the interest of the people of the Territory;

13. *Requests* the Territory and the administering Power to take all measures necessary to protect and conserve the environment of the Territory against any degradation, and once again requests the specialized agencies concerned to monitor environmental conditions in the Territory and to provide assistance to the Territory, consistent with their prevailing rules of procedure;

14. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question of Pitcairn and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session and on the implementation of the present resolution.

#### RESOLUTION 78/96

Adopted at the 45th plenary meeting, on 7 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/429, para. 33)<sup>268</sup>

#### 78/96. Question of Saint Helena

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the question of Saint Helena and examined the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2023,<sup>269</sup>

*Taking note* of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Saint Helena<sup>270</sup> and other relevant information,

*Recognizing* that all available options for self-determination of the Territory are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the people of Saint Helena and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960 and other resolutions of the Assembly,

*Expressing concern* that, more than 60 years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,<sup>271</sup> there still remain 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories, including Saint Helena,

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<sup>267</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>268</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report of the Fourth Committee was submitted by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

<sup>269</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/78/23).*

<sup>270</sup> A/AC.109/2023/13.

<sup>271</sup> Resolution 1514 (XV).

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*Conscious* of the importance of continuing the effective implementation of the Declaration, taking into account the target set by the United Nations to eradicate colonialism by 2030 and the plan of action for the International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism,<sup>272</sup>

*Recognizing* that the specific characteristics and the aspirations of the people of Saint Helena require flexible, practical and innovative approaches to the options for self-determination, without any prejudice to territorial size, geographical location, size of population or natural resources,

*Convinced* that the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territory should continue to guide the development of their future political status and that referendums, free and fair elections and other forms of popular consultation play an important role in ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the people,

*Concerned* by the use and exploitation of the natural resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories by the administering Powers for their benefit, by the use of the Territories as international financial centres to the detriment of the world economy and by the consequences of any economic activities of the administering Powers that are contrary to the interests of the people of the Territories, as well as to resolution 1514 (XV),

*Convinced* that any negotiations to determine the status of the Territory must take place with the active involvement and participation of the people of the Territory, under the auspices of the United Nations, on a case-by-case basis, and that the views of the people of Saint Helena in respect of their right to self-determination should be ascertained,

*Noting* the continued cooperation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories at the local and regional levels, including participation in the work of regional organizations,

*Mindful* that, in order for the Special Committee to enhance its understanding of the political status of the people of Saint Helena and to fulfil its mandate effectively, it is important for it to be apprised by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as the administering Power and to receive information from other appropriate sources, including the representatives of the Territory, concerning the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territory,

*Aware* of the importance both to Saint Helena and to the Special Committee of the participation of elected and appointed representatives of Saint Helena in the work of the Committee,

*Recognizing* the need for the Special Committee to ensure that the appropriate bodies of the United Nations actively pursue a public awareness campaign aimed at assisting the people of Saint Helena with their inalienable right to self-determination and in gaining a better understanding of the options for self-determination, on a case-by-case basis,

*Mindful*, in that connection, that the holding of regional seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions and at Headquarters, with the active participation of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, provides a helpful means for the Special Committee to fulfil its mandate and that the regional nature of the seminars, which alternate between the Caribbean and the Pacific, is a crucial element in the context of a United Nations programme for ascertaining the political status of the Territories,

*Welcoming* the Pacific regional seminar on the theme “Innovative steps to ensure the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Non-Self-Governing Territories”, held by the Special Committee in Bali, Indonesia, and hosted by the Government of Indonesia from 24 to 26 May 2023, as a significant and forward-looking event, which enabled the participants to assess progress made and address challenges faced in the decolonization process, review the existing working methods of the Committee and renew its commitment to implementing its historic task,

*Recalling* the importance of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the seminar, which are annexed to the report of the Special Committee and which outline the findings of the seminar, including, especially, the way forward for the decolonization process within the context of the proclamation by the General Assembly of the period 2021–2030 as the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,<sup>273</sup>

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<sup>272</sup> A/56/61, annex.

<sup>273</sup> See resolution 75/123.

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*Noting with appreciation* the contribution to the development of some Territories by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Food Programme, as well as regional institutions such as the Caribbean Development Bank, the Caribbean Community, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, the Pacific Islands Forum and the agencies of the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific,

*Noting* the statement made by a representative of the Legislative Council of Saint Helena at the Pacific regional seminar held in Bali, Indonesia, from 24 to 26 May 2023,<sup>274</sup>

*Recalling* the extension by the administering Power to Saint Helena of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women<sup>275</sup> in March 2017,

*Recalling also* the re-engagement of the Territory with the Special Committee in 2022,

*Taking into account* the unique character of Saint Helena in terms of its population, geography and natural resources,

*Aware* of the efforts of the administering Power and the territorial Government to improve the socioeconomic conditions of the population of Saint Helena, in particular in the areas of employment, transport and communications infrastructure, and of the adoption of the Sustainable Economic Development Plan 2018–2028,

*Stressing* the importance of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory,

*Noting* the general election that was held in October 2021,<sup>276</sup>

*Recalling* the introduction of a ministerial system of government on the basis of the Constitutional Amendment Order that came into effect in October 2021,

*Recalling also* relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in connection with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of Saint Helena to self-determination, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

2. *Also reaffirms* that, in the process of decolonization of Saint Helena, there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination, which is also a fundamental human right, as recognized under the relevant human rights conventions;

3. *Further reaffirms* that it is ultimately for the people of Saint Helena to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in that connection calls upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territory in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination in conformity with the legitimate political status options, based on the principles clearly defined in Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions and decisions;

4. *Stresses* the importance of the 2009 Constitution of the Territory and the further development of democratic and good governance, including the governance reform process;

5. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public educational outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

6. *Requests* the administering Power and relevant international organizations to continue to support the efforts of the territorial Government to address the socioeconomic development challenges of the Territory;

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<sup>274</sup> Available at [www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/c24/regional-seminars/2023](http://www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/c24/regional-seminars/2023).

<sup>275</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

<sup>276</sup> See A/AC.109/2023/13, “The Territory at a glance”.



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7. *Stresses* that the Territory should continue to participate in the activities of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, including regional seminars, in order to provide the Committee with up-to-date information regarding the decolonization process;

8. *Also stresses* the importance of the Special Committee being apprised of the views and wishes of the people of Saint Helena and enhancing its understanding of their conditions, including the nature and scope of the existing political and constitutional arrangements between Saint Helena and the administering Power;

9. *Calls upon* the administering Power to participate in and cooperate fully with the work of the Special Committee in order to implement the provisions of Article 73 *e* of the Charter and the Declaration and in order to advise the Committee on the implementation of the provisions under Article 73 *b* of the Charter on efforts to promote self-government in Saint Helena, and encourages the administering Power to facilitate visiting and special missions to the Territory;

10. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Power under the Charter to promote the economic and social development and to preserve the cultural identity of the Territory, and requests the administering Power to take steps to enlist and make effective use of all possible assistance, on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis, in the strengthening of the economy of the Territory;

11. *Takes into account* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>277</sup> including the Sustainable Development Goals, stresses the importance of fostering the economic and social sustainable development of the Territory by promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable social development and inclusion and promoting the integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems that supports, inter alia, economic, social and human development, while facilitating ecosystem conservation, regeneration, restoration and resilience in the face of new and emerging challenges, and strongly urges the administering Power to refrain from undertaking any kind of illicit, harmful and unproductive activities, including the use of the Territory as an international financial centre, that are not aligned with the interest of the people of the Territory;

12. *Requests* the Territory and the administering Power to take all measures necessary to protect and conserve the environment of the Territory against any degradation, and once again requests the specialized agencies concerned to monitor environmental conditions in the Territory and to provide assistance to the Territory, consistent with their prevailing rules of procedure;

13. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question of Saint Helena and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session and on the implementation of the present resolution.

#### RESOLUTION 78/97

Adopted at the 45th plenary meeting, on 7 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/429, para. 33)<sup>278</sup>

#### 78/97. Question of Tokelau

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the question of Tokelau,

*Taking note* of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2023,<sup>279</sup>

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<sup>277</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>278</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report of the Fourth Committee was submitted by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

<sup>279</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/78/23).*



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*Recalling* its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to Non-Self-Governing Territories, in particular General Assembly resolution 77/145 of 12 December 2022,

*Noting with appreciation* the continuing exemplary cooperation of New Zealand as the administering Power with regard to the work of the Special Committee relating to Tokelau and its readiness to permit access by United Nations visiting missions to the Territory,

*Noting with appreciation also* the collaborative contribution to the development of Tokelau by New Zealand and the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,

*Bearing in mind* that, as a small island Territory, Tokelau exemplifies the situation of most remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories and that, as a case study pointing to successful cooperation for decolonization, Tokelau has wider significance for the United Nations as it seeks to complete its work in decolonization,

*Recalling* the status of Tokelau as an associate member of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and of the Pacific Islands Forum,

*Acknowledging* the World No Tobacco Day Award for the western Pacific region granted to Tokelau in 2017 by the World Health Organization for its policy entitled “Tobacco-Free Tokelau by 2020”, and expressing hope that this could contribute to the health and well-being of the Territory and its peoples,

*Cognizant* that New Zealand and Tokelau signed, on 21 November 2003, a document entitled “Joint statement of the principles of partnership”, which sets out the rights and responsibilities of the two partners, including in relation to the question of self-determination for Tokelau,

*Bearing in mind* the decision of the General Fono at its meeting in November 2003, following extensive consultations undertaken in all three villages, to explore formally with New Zealand the option of self-government in free association, its decision in August 2005 to hold in February 2006 a referendum on self-determination on the basis of a draft constitution for Tokelau and a draft treaty of free association with New Zealand, and its subsequent decision to hold a further referendum in October 2007, and bearing in mind also that the two referendums did not produce the two-thirds majority of valid votes cast required by the General Fono to change the status of Tokelau from that of a Non-Self-Governing Territory under the administration of New Zealand,

*Recalling* the decision of the General Fono on 23 May 2022 to revive dialogue on self-determination for Tokelau in the lead-up to the centenary of New Zealand administration of Tokelau in February 2026, which was supported by New Zealand, as the administering Power,

*Recalling also* the holding of free and fair elections in the Territory on 23 January 2020, and noting also the change of the Ulu-o-Tokelau during the General Fono, on 19 May 2022, and further noting the democratic election of the General Fono on 26 January 2023,

*Recalling further* the 2013 constitutional consultations, to be further considered by the Constitution Committee, which were driven by the people of Tokelau and which aimed at developing a model of government structure that is culturally appropriate and sensitive to their current situation, culminating in the approval and ratification of the national symbol of the Territory, along with the constitution, national anthem and national flag,

*Cognizant* of the statement made by the Ulu-o-Tokelau at the Pacific regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, held in Nadi, Fiji, from 21 to 23 May 2014, and also of the written statement for the Pacific regional seminar held in Saint George’s from 9 to 11 May 2018, as well as the statement made on 12 June 2023 to the resumed session of the Special Committee, that the self-determination process of the Territory could not be addressed in isolation from the threat of climate change, the rise in sea level and the challenges to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>280</sup> and bearing in mind the development aspirations of Tokelau as expressed in its revised National Strategic Plan 2021–2026, with a shared vision of “Thriving communities with opportunities for all”, including an ambition to confidently declare that Tokelau has made

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<sup>280</sup> Resolution 70/1.

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significant progress in its development journey and that it is ready and capable of proceeding to be a self-governing nation,

*Recalling* the official launch in April 2017 of the climate change strategy of Tokelau, entitled “Living with change: an integrated national strategy for enhancing the resilience of Tokelau to climate change and related hazards, 2017–2030”, and the implementation plan for the first five years of the strategy, from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2022, and recalling the launch of the Tokelau national greenhouse gas inventory report on 11 April 2019,

*Recalling also* the announcement of the administering Power that, as requested by the Government of Tokelau, it had submitted a formal declaration to the United Nations to extend the territorial application of both the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change<sup>281</sup> and the Paris Agreement<sup>282</sup> to Tokelau,

*Recalling further* the statements made by the representatives of the Government of New Zealand, as the administering Power, on 17 June 2019, at a session of the Special Committee, and at the Caribbean regional seminar held in Grand Anse, Grenada, in May 2019, which underlined the shared vision with Tokelau of building a stronger partnership, including on the governance and more effective management of public services, finances and infrastructure assets, with emphasis on quality health care and education, gender empowerment, disaster risk mitigation and resilience-building, and enhancing inter-atoll connectivity, including the vessel to support search and rescue missions, medical evacuations and general transport between the atolls, which entered into service in April 2019, as well as at the 9th meeting of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), on 14 October 2022, and on 12 June 2023 at the resumed session of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, where it further reaffirmed the strengthened partnership between New Zealand and Tokelau, including in combating the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and commitment to work in trilateral cooperation with the United Nations to deliver on the self-determination outcome as desired by the people of Tokelau,

*Recalling* relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic,

*Recalling also* the landmark first-ever international submarine fibre-optic cable connecting to Tokelau on 20 September 2021 for strengthening information and communications technology for the sustainable development of Tokelau,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the decision of the General Fono on 23 May 2022 to revisit the views of the people of Tokelau and revive the dialogue on the question of self-determination for Tokelau in the lead-up to the centenary of New Zealand administration of Tokelau in February 2026;

2. *Welcomes* the progress made towards the devolution of power to the three taupulega (village councils) since 2004, and notes that further discussion is planned on the recommendations in the report on the devolution review, compiled in 2012, and the additional recent efforts in Tokelau in addressing a future governance model that accounts for, inter alia, the Territory’s religious faith, culture and identity;

3. *Recalls with satisfaction* the democratic elections in Tokelau held on 23 January 2020 for the tenth General Fono and the subsequent swearing-in of the Ulu-o-Tokelau on 8 March 2021, and notes the subsequent change of the Ulu-o-Tokelau on 19 May 2022 at the General Fono, and the most recent election of the General Fono on 26 January 2023 and the subsequent instalment of the Ulu-o-Tokelau in March 2023;

4. *Recognizes* the ongoing socioeconomic development challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic to Tokelau, including the first recorded cases of community transmission in May 2023, and the close cooperation with the administering Power, New Zealand, neighbouring countries and the World Health Organization in successfully addressing the pandemic in Tokelau;

5. *Notes with appreciation* that Tokelau and New Zealand remain firmly committed to the ongoing development of Tokelau for the long-term benefit of the people of Tokelau, with particular emphasis on the further development of facilities on each atoll that meet their current requirements, including investment that has enabled Tokelau to be directly connected by an undersea fibre-optic cable on 20 September 2021 for faster and more reliable

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<sup>281</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

<sup>282</sup> See [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21, annex.

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Internet services, improved maritime transport infrastructure and services, quality health care and education and support for the fisheries sector;

6. *Takes note* of the National Strategic Plan 2021–2026 of Tokelau, which further prioritizes good governance, human and infrastructure development, telecommunication, transportation, sustainability and climate change adaptation, as an important framework for the Territory’s sustainable future, with a shared vision of “Thriving communities with opportunities for all”;

7. *Acknowledges* the ongoing and consistent commitment of New Zealand to meeting the social and economic requirements of the people of Tokelau, including through new shipping service assets and shipping infrastructure development, and budget support for the delivery of education services ranging from early childhood education to foundation courses for tertiary study, as well as the support and cooperation of the United Nations Development Programme and the World Health Organization;

8. *Recalls* the completion by Tokelau in 2013 of the Tokelau Renewable Energy Project with the support of the administering Power and the receipt by the Government of the Renewable Energy Award granted by the New Zealand Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority;

9. *Also recalls* measures taken by Tokelau to safeguard the health of its peoples through its “Tobacco-Free Tokelau by 2020” policy, launched in 2017, and encourages the necessary support for its implementation from the administering Power, the United Nations system and relevant stakeholders;

10. *Acknowledges* the need of Tokelau for continued support from the international community and its desire to become part of the discussions on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the impacts of climate change and the protection of the environment and oceans, and in this regard encourages, as appropriate, assistance towards the implementation of the climate change strategy of Tokelau, entitled “Living with change: an integrated national strategy for enhancing the resilience of Tokelau to climate change and related hazards, 2017–2030”;

11. *Appreciates* the efforts of the administering Power to include in its national reporting to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change the climate mitigation action taken by Tokelau, and also recalls the milestone achievement of Tokelau in the launch of its national greenhouse gas inventory report on 11 April 2019;

12. *Recalls with satisfaction* the establishment and operation of the Tokelau International Trust Fund to support the ongoing needs of Tokelau, and calls upon Member States and international and regional agencies to contribute to the Fund and thereby lend practical support to Tokelau in overcoming the problems of smallness, isolation and lack of resources;

13. *Welcomes* the ongoing cooperative attitude of the other States and territories in the Pacific region towards Tokelau and their support for its economic and political aspirations and its increasing participation in regional and international affairs, including at the fiftieth Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting, held in Tuvalu in August 2019, as an associate member, represented by the Ulu-o-Tokelau;

14. *Calls upon* the administering Power and United Nations agencies to continue to provide assistance to Tokelau as it further develops;

15. *Recognizes* the positive actions taken by the administering Power to transmit to the Secretary-General under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations information regarding the political, economic and social situation of Tokelau;

16. *Commends* the renewed strong commitment of both Tokelau and New Zealand to continuing to work together in the interests of Tokelau and its people;

17. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to examine the question of the Non-Self-Governing Territory of Tokelau and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session.

## RESOLUTION 78/98

Adopted at the 45th plenary meeting, on 7 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/429, para. 33)<sup>283</sup>

### 78/98. Question of the Turks and Caicos Islands

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the question of the Turks and Caicos Islands and examined the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2023,<sup>284</sup>

*Taking note* of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the Turks and Caicos Islands<sup>285</sup> and other relevant information,

*Recognizing* that all available options for self-determination of the Territory are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960 and other resolutions of the Assembly,

*Expressing concern* that, more than 60 years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,<sup>286</sup> there still remain 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the Turks and Caicos Islands,

*Conscious* of the importance of continuing the effective implementation of the Declaration, taking into account the target set by the United Nations to eradicate colonialism by 2030 and the plan of action for the International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism,<sup>287</sup>

*Recognizing* that the specific characteristics and the aspirations of the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands require flexible, practical and innovative approaches to the options for self-determination, without any prejudice to territorial size, geographical location, size of population or natural resources,

*Convinced* that the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territory should continue to guide the development of their future political status and that referendums, free and fair elections and other forms of popular consultation play an important role in ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the people,

*Concerned* by the use and exploitation of the natural resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories by the administering Powers for their benefit, by the use of the Territories as international financial centres to the detriment of the world economy and by the consequences of any economic activities of the administering Powers that are contrary to the interests of the people of the Territories, as well as to resolution 1514 (XV),

*Convinced* that any negotiations to determine the status of the Territory must take place with the active involvement and participation of the people of the Territory, under the auspices of the United Nations, on a case-by-case basis, and that the views of the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands in respect of their right to self-determination should be ascertained,

*Noting* the continued cooperation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories at the local and regional levels, including participation in the work of regional organizations,

*Mindful* that, in order for the Special Committee to enhance its understanding of the political status of the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands and to fulfil its mandate effectively, it is important for it to be apprised by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as the administering Power and to receive information from other

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<sup>283</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report of the Fourth Committee was submitted by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

<sup>284</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/78/23).*

<sup>285</sup> A/AC.109/2023/15.

<sup>286</sup> Resolution 1514 (XV).

<sup>287</sup> A/56/61, annex.

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appropriate sources, including the representatives of the Territory, concerning the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territory,

*Aware* of the importance both to the Turks and Caicos Islands and to the Special Committee of the participation of elected and appointed representatives of the Turks and Caicos Islands in the work of the Committee,

*Recognizing* the need for the Special Committee to ensure that the appropriate bodies of the United Nations actively pursue a public awareness campaign aimed at assisting the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands with their inalienable right to self-determination and in gaining a better understanding of the options for self-determination, on a case-by-case basis,

*Mindful*, in that connection, that the holding of regional seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions and at Headquarters, with the active participation of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, provides a helpful means for the Special Committee to fulfil its mandate and that the regional nature of the seminars, which alternate between the Caribbean and the Pacific, is a crucial element in the context of a United Nations programme for ascertaining the political status of the Territories,

*Welcoming* the Pacific regional seminar on the theme “Innovative steps to ensure the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Non-Self-Governing Territories”, held by the Special Committee in Bali, Indonesia, and hosted by the Government of Indonesia from 24 to 26 May 2023, as a significant and forward-looking event, which enabled the participants to assess progress made and address challenges faced in the decolonization process, review the existing working methods of the Committee and renew its commitment to implementing its historic task,

*Recalling* the importance of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the seminar, which are annexed to the report of the Special Committee and which outline the findings of the seminar, including, especially, the way forward for the decolonization process within the context of the proclamation by the General Assembly of the period 2021–2030 as the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,<sup>288</sup>

*Noting with appreciation* the contribution to the development of some Territories by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Food Programme, as well as regional institutions such as the Caribbean Development Bank, the Caribbean Community, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, the Pacific Islands Forum and the agencies of the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific,

*Recalling* the statement made by a representative of the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands at the 2022 Pacific regional seminar,<sup>289</sup>

*Recalling also* the re-engagement of the Territory with the Special Committee in 2022,

*Recalling further* the dispatch of the United Nations special mission to the Turks and Caicos Islands in 2006 at the request of the territorial Government and with the concurrence of the administering Power,

*Recalling* the endorsement by the Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community of the report of the Community’s fact-finding mission to the Turks and Caicos Islands in 2013, which called for, inter alia, a referendum on self-determination and a mechanism for amending the Constitution,

*Recalling also* that, in March 2014, the Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community received an update on the situation in the Turks and Caicos Islands, which they will continue to monitor, and that they expressed their support for the full restoration of democracy in the Territory on terms driven by its people,

*Recalling with concern* the devastating damage and impact caused in the Territory by Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria in 2017,

*Stressing* the importance of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory,

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<sup>288</sup> See resolution 75/123.

<sup>289</sup> Available at [www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/c24/regional-seminars/2022](http://www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/c24/regional-seminars/2022).

### III. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

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*Recalling* the general election that was held in February 2021,<sup>290</sup>

*Recalling also* relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in connection with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands to self-determination, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

2. *Also reaffirms* that, in the process of decolonization of the Turks and Caicos Islands, there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination, which is also a fundamental human right, as recognized under the relevant human rights conventions;

3. *Further reaffirms* that it is ultimately for the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in that connection calls upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territory in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination in conformity with the legitimate political status options, based on the principles clearly defined in Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions and decisions;

4. *Takes note* of the positions and repeated calls of the Caribbean Community and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries in support of a democratically elected territorial Government and of the full restoration of democracy in the Territory as decided by its people;

5. *Notes* the continuing debate on constitutional reform within the Territory, and stresses the importance of participation by all groups and interested parties in the consultation process;

6. *Stresses* the importance of having in place in the Territory a constitution that reflects the aspirations and wishes of its people, based on the mechanisms for popular consultation;

7. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public educational outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

8. *Welcomes* the active participation of the Territory in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

9. *Stresses* that the Territory should continue to participate in the activities of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, including regional seminars, in order to provide the Committee with up-to-date information regarding the decolonization process;

10. *Welcomes* the continuing efforts made by the territorial Government addressing the need for attention to be paid to the enhancement of socioeconomic development across the Territory;

11. *Stresses* the importance of the Special Committee being apprised of the views and wishes of the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands and enhancing its understanding of their conditions, including the nature and scope of the existing political and constitutional arrangements between the Turks and Caicos Islands and the administering Power;

12. *Calls upon* the administering Power to participate in and cooperate fully with the work of the Special Committee in order to implement the provisions of Article 73 *e* of the Charter and the Declaration and in order to advise the Committee on the implementation of the provisions under Article 73 *b* of the Charter on efforts to promote self-government in the Turks and Caicos Islands, and encourages the administering Power to facilitate visiting and special missions to the Territory;

13. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Power under the Charter to promote the economic and social development and to preserve the cultural identity of the Territory, and requests the administering Power to take

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<sup>290</sup> See A/AC.109/2023/15, para. 18.



### III. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

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steps to enlist and make effective use of all possible assistance, on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis, in the strengthening of the economy of the Territory;

14. *Takes into account* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>291</sup> including the Sustainable Development Goals, stresses the importance of fostering the economic and social sustainable development of the Territory by promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable social development and inclusion and promoting the integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems that supports, inter alia, economic, social and human development, while facilitating ecosystem conservation, regeneration, restoration and resilience in the face of new and emerging challenges, and strongly urges the administering Power to refrain from undertaking any kind of illicit, harmful and unproductive activities, including the use of the Territory as an international financial centre, that are not aligned with the interest of the people of the Territory;

15. *Requests* the Territory and the administering Power to take all measures necessary to protect and conserve the environment of the Territory against any degradation, and once again requests the specialized agencies concerned to monitor environmental conditions in the Territory and to provide assistance to the Territory, consistent with their prevailing rules of procedure;

16. *Reiterates its call upon* the administering Power, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations to provide all the assistance necessary to the Territory, support the recovery and rebuilding efforts and enhance capabilities for emergency preparedness and risk reduction, in particular in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria that impacted the Territory in 2017;

17. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question of the Turks and Caicos Islands and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session and on the implementation of the present resolution.

#### RESOLUTION 78/99

Adopted at the 45th plenary meeting, on 7 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/429, para. 33)<sup>292</sup>

#### 78/99. Question of the United States Virgin Islands

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the question of the United States Virgin Islands and examined the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2023,<sup>293</sup>

*Taking note* of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the United States Virgin Islands<sup>294</sup> and other relevant information,

*Recognizing* that all available options for self-determination of the Territory are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the people of the United States Virgin Islands and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960 and other resolutions of the Assembly,

*Expressing concern* that, more than 60 years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,<sup>295</sup> there still remain 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the United States Virgin Islands,

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<sup>291</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>292</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report of the Fourth Committee was submitted by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

<sup>293</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/78/23).*

<sup>294</sup> A/AC.109/2023/16.

<sup>295</sup> Resolution 1514 (XV).



### III. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

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*Conscious* of the importance of continuing the effective implementation of the Declaration, taking into account the target set by the United Nations to eradicate colonialism by 2030 and the plan of action for the International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism,<sup>296</sup>

*Recognizing* that the specific characteristics and the aspirations of the people of the United States Virgin Islands require flexible, practical and innovative approaches to the options for self-determination, without any prejudice to territorial size, geographical location, size of population or natural resources,

*Convinced* that the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territory should continue to guide the development of their future political status and that referendums, free and fair elections and other forms of popular consultation play an important role in ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the people,

*Concerned* by the use and exploitation of the natural resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories by the administering Powers for their benefit, by the use of the Territories as international financial centres to the detriment of the world economy and by the consequences of any economic activities of the administering Powers that are contrary to the interests of the people of the Territories, as well as to resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#),

*Convinced* that any negotiations to determine the status of the Territory must take place with the active involvement and participation of the people of the Territory, under the auspices of the United Nations, on a case-by-case basis, and that the views of the people of the United States Virgin Islands in respect of their right to self-determination should be ascertained,

*Noting* the continued cooperation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories at the local and regional levels, including participation in the work of regional organizations,

*Mindful* that, in order for the Special Committee to enhance its understanding of the political status of the people of the United States Virgin Islands and to fulfil its mandate effectively, it is important for it to be apprised by the United States of America as the administering Power and to receive information from other appropriate sources, including the representatives of the Territory, concerning the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territory,

*Aware* of the importance both to the United States Virgin Islands and to the Special Committee of the participation of elected and appointed representatives of the United States Virgin Islands in the work of the Committee,

*Recognizing* the need for the Special Committee to ensure that the appropriate bodies of the United Nations actively pursue a public awareness campaign aimed at assisting the people of the United States Virgin Islands with their inalienable right to self-determination and in gaining a better understanding of the options for self-determination, on a case-by-case basis,

*Mindful*, in that connection, that the holding of regional seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions and at Headquarters, with the active participation of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, provides a helpful means for the Special Committee to fulfil its mandate and that the regional nature of the seminars, which alternate between the Caribbean and the Pacific, is a crucial element in the context of a United Nations programme for ascertaining the political status of the Territories,

*Welcoming* the Pacific regional seminar on the theme “Innovative steps to ensure the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Non-Self-Governing Territories”, held by the Special Committee in Bali, Indonesia, and hosted by the Government of Indonesia from 24 to 26 May 2023, as a significant and forward-looking event, which enabled the participants to assess progress made and address challenges faced in the decolonization process, review the existing working methods of the Committee and renew its commitment to implementing its historic task,

*Recalling* the importance of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the seminar, which are annexed to the report of the Special Committee and which outline the findings of the seminar, including, especially, the way forward for the decolonization process within the context of the proclamation by the General Assembly of the period 2021–2030 as the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,<sup>297</sup>

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<sup>296</sup> [A/56/61](#), annex.

<sup>297</sup> See resolution [75/123](#).

### III. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

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*Recalling also* the statement made by the Lieutenant Governor, as a representative of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands, at the 2019 Caribbean regional seminar,<sup>298</sup>

*Noting with appreciation* the contribution to the development of some Territories by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Food Programme, as well as regional institutions such as the Caribbean Development Bank, the Caribbean Community, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, the Pacific Islands Forum and the agencies of the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific,

*Aware* of the fifth attempt of the Territory to review the existing Revised Organic Act, which organizes its internal governance arrangements, as well as its requests to the administering Power and the United Nations system for assistance to its public education programme,

*Cognizant* that a draft constitution was proposed in 2009 and subsequently forwarded to the administering Power, which in 2010 requested the Territory to consider its objections to the draft constitution,

*Cognizant also* that the Fifth Revision Convention, established and convened in 2012, was mandated to ratify and approve the final revised draft constitution,

*Expressing its concern* about the extended time spent on the constitutional review process, and stressing the importance of the Special Committee receiving updated information in due time regarding the status of the drafting of the constitution,

*Recalling* the referendum held on 3 November 2020 on convening a constitutional convention to consider adopting the Revised Organic Act of the United States Virgin Islands, or portions of it, as the Constitution of the Territory,

*Stressing* the importance of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory,

*Recalling with concern* the devastating damage and impact caused in the Territory by Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria in 2017,

*Noting* the election that was held in November 2022,<sup>299</sup>

*Recalling* relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in connection with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of the United States Virgin Islands to self-determination, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

2. *Also reaffirms* that, in the process of decolonization of the United States Virgin Islands, there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination, which is also a fundamental human right, as recognized under the relevant human rights conventions;

3. *Further reaffirms* that it is ultimately for the people of the United States Virgin Islands to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in that connection calls upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territory in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination in conformity with the legitimate political status options, based on the principles clearly defined in Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions and decisions;

4. *Welcomes* the proposal of a draft constitution emanating from the Territory in 2009, as a result of the work of the United States Virgin Islands Fifth Constitutional Convention, for review by the administering Power, and

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<sup>298</sup> Available at [www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/c24/regional-seminars/2019](http://www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/c24/regional-seminars/2019).

<sup>299</sup> See A/AC.109/2023/16, para. 2.

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requests the administering Power to assist the territorial Government in achieving its political, economic and social goals, in particular the successful conclusion of the internal Constitutional Convention exercise;

5. *Requests* the administering Power to facilitate the process for approval of the proposed constitution and its implementation, once agreed upon in the Territory, and to regularly provide the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples with relevant updates in this regard, including on the process for convening a constitutional convention following the referendum held in November 2020;

6. *Also requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public educational outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

7. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Office of Self-Determination and Constitutional Development in the University of the Virgin Islands, with funding from the administering Power, to address the issue of self-determination, including political status and constitutional education;

8. *Reiterates its call* for the inclusion of the Territory in regional programmes of the United Nations Development Programme, consistent with the participation of other Non-Self-Governing Territories;

9. *Welcomes* the active participation of the Territory in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

10. *Stresses* that the Territory should continue to participate in the activities of the Special Committee, including regional seminars, in order to provide the Committee with up-to-date information regarding the decolonization process;

11. *Also stresses* the importance of the Special Committee being apprised of the views and wishes of the people of the United States Virgin Islands and enhancing its understanding of their conditions, including the nature and scope of the existing political and constitutional arrangements between the United States Virgin Islands and the administering Power;

12. *Calls upon* the administering Power to participate in and cooperate fully with the work of the Special Committee in order to implement the provisions of Article 73 *e* of the Charter and the Declaration and in order to advise the Committee on the implementation of the provisions under Article 73 *b* of the Charter on efforts to promote self-government in the United States Virgin Islands, and encourages the administering Power to facilitate visiting and special missions to the Territory;

13. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Power under the Charter to promote the economic and social development and to preserve the cultural identity of the Territory, and requests the administering Power to take steps to enlist and make effective use of all possible assistance, on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis, in the strengthening of the economy of the Territory;

14. *Takes into account* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>300</sup> including the Sustainable Development Goals, stresses the importance of fostering the economic and social sustainable development of the Territory by promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable social development and inclusion and promoting the integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems that supports, inter alia, economic, social and human development, while facilitating ecosystem conservation, regeneration, restoration and resilience in the face of new and emerging challenges, and strongly urges the administering Power to refrain from undertaking any kind of illicit, harmful and unproductive activities, including the use of the Territory as an international financial centre, that are not aligned with the interest of the people of the Territory;

15. *Requests* the Territory and the administering Power to take all measures necessary to protect and conserve the environment of the Territory against any degradation, and once again requests the specialized agencies concerned to monitor environmental conditions in the Territory and to provide assistance to the Territory, consistent with their prevailing rules of procedure;

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<sup>300</sup> Resolution 70/1.

16. *Reiterates its call upon* the administering Power, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations to provide all the assistance necessary to the Territory, support the recovery and rebuilding efforts and enhance capabilities for emergency preparedness and risk reduction, in particular in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria that impacted the Territory in 2017;

17. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question of the United States Virgin Islands and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session and on the implementation of the present resolution.

### RESOLUTION 78/100

Adopted at the 45th plenary meeting, on 7 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 173 to 3, with 1 abstention,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/429, para. 33)<sup>301</sup>

\* *In favour:* Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against:* Israel, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Abstaining:* France

#### 78/100. Dissemination of information on decolonization

*The General Assembly,*

*Having examined* the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2023,<sup>302</sup>

*Recalling* its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and other resolutions and decisions of the United Nations concerning the dissemination of information on decolonization, in particular General Assembly resolution 77/148 of 12 December 2022,

*Recognizing* the need for flexible, practical and innovative approaches towards reviewing the options for self-determination for the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, with a view to implementing the plan of action for the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,

*Reiterating* the importance of dissemination of information as an instrument for furthering the aims of the Declaration, and mindful of the role of world public opinion in effectively assisting the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to achieve self-determination,

*Recognizing* the role played by the administering Powers in transmitting information to the Secretary-General, in accordance with the terms of Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations,

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<sup>301</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report of the Fourth Committee was submitted by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

<sup>302</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/78/23).*

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*Stressing* the importance of the visiting missions of the Special Committee in contributing substantially to the dissemination of information on decolonization,

*Recognizing* that the Department of Global Communications of the Secretariat, through the United Nations information centres, must play a bigger role, in accordance with resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, in the dissemination of information at the regional level on the activities of the United Nations,

*Recalling* the issuance by the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, in consultation with the United Nations Development Programme, the specialized agencies and the Special Committee, of an information leaflet on assistance programmes available to the Non-Self-Governing Territories,

*Aware* of the role of non-governmental organizations in the dissemination of information on decolonization,

1. *Approves* the activities in the field of dissemination of information on decolonization undertaken by the Department of Global Communications and the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs of the Secretariat, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization, and encourages the continued updating and wide dissemination of the information leaflet on what the United Nations can do to assist Non-Self-Governing Territories, published in accordance with General Assembly resolution 61/129 of 14 December 2006, and updated for the United Nations website on decolonization;

2. *Considers it important* to continue and expand its efforts to ensure the widest possible dissemination of information on decolonization, with particular emphasis on the options for self-determination available for the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, and to this end requests the Department of Global Communications, through the United Nations information centres in the relevant regions, to actively engage and seek new and innovative ways to disseminate material to the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to further enhance the information provided on the United Nations decolonization website and to continue to include the full series of reports of the regional seminars on decolonization, the statements and scholarly papers presented at those seminars and links to the full series of reports of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and stresses that the Department of Global Communications and the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs continue to be jointly responsible for maintaining and enhancing the United Nations decolonization website;

4. *Requests* the Department of Global Communications to continue its efforts to update web-based information on the assistance programmes available to the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

5. *Requests* the Department of Global Communications and the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs to implement the recommendations of the Special Committee and to continue their efforts to take measures through all of the media available, including publications, radio, television, the Internet and social media, to give publicity to the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization and, inter alia:

(a) To develop procedures to collect, prepare and disseminate, particularly to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, basic material on the issue of self-determination of the peoples of the Territories;

(b) To seek the full cooperation of the administering Powers in the discharge of the tasks referred to above;

(c) To explore further the idea of a programme of collaboration with the decolonization focal points of territorial Governments, particularly in the Pacific and Caribbean regions, to help to improve the exchange of information;

(d) To encourage the involvement of non-governmental organizations in the dissemination of information on decolonization;

(e) To encourage the involvement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the dissemination of information on decolonization;

(f) To report to the Special Committee on measures taken in the implementation of the present resolution;

6. *Requests* the Department of Global Communications to webcast the formal meetings of the Special Committee;

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7. *Requests* all States, including the administering Powers, to accelerate the dissemination of information referred to in paragraph 2 above;

8. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine this question and to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

#### RESOLUTION 78/101

Adopted at the 45th plenary meeting, on 7 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 133 to 3, with 42 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/429, para. 33)<sup>303</sup>

\* *In favour:* Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against:* Israel, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Abstaining:* Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine

#### 78/101. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

*The General Assembly,*

*Having examined* the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2023,<sup>304</sup>

*Recalling* its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all its subsequent resolutions concerning the implementation of the Declaration, the most recent of which was resolution 77/149 of 12 December 2022, as well as the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

*Bearing in mind* its resolution 75/123 of 10 December 2020, by which it declared the period 2021–2030 the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and the need to examine ways and means to ascertain the wishes of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories on the basis of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization,

*Recognizing* that the eradication of colonialism has been one of the priorities of the United Nations and continues to be one of its priorities for the Fourth International Decade,

*Regretting* that measures to eliminate colonialism by 2020, as called for in its resolution 65/119 of 10 December 2010, have not been successful,

*Reiterating its conviction* of the need for the eradication of colonialism, as well as racial discrimination and violations of basic human rights,

<sup>303</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report of the Fourth Committee was submitted by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

<sup>304</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/78/23).*



### III. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

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*Noting with satisfaction* the continued efforts of the Special Committee in contributing to the effective and complete implementation of the Declaration and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization,

*Stressing* the importance of the formal participation of all administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee with regard to the relevant Territories under their administration in accordance with Article 73 of the Charter of the United Nations,

*Noting with satisfaction* the cooperation and active participation of certain administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee, and encouraging the others also to do so,

*Noting* that the Pacific regional seminar was held in Bali, Indonesia, from 24 to 26 May 2023,

1. *Reaffirms* its resolution 1514 (XV) and all other resolutions and decisions on decolonization, including its resolution 75/123, by which it declared the period 2021–2030 the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and calls upon the administering Powers, in accordance with those resolutions, to take all steps necessary to enable the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to exercise fully as soon as possible their right to self-determination, including independence, on a case-by-case basis;

2. *Reaffirms once again* that the existence of colonialism in any form or manifestation, including economic exploitation, is incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples<sup>305</sup> and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;<sup>306</sup>

3. *Reaffirms its determination* to continue to take all steps necessary to bring about the complete and speedy eradication of colonialism and the faithful observance by all States of the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

4. *Affirms its support once again* for the aspirations of the peoples under colonial rule to exercise their right to self-determination, including independence, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

5. *Calls upon* the administering Power of each Territory on the agenda of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to cooperate fully in the work of the Special Committee and to participate formally in its future sessions and seminars;

6. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to cooperate fully with the Special Committee to develop and finalize, as soon as possible, a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee and the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

7. *Recalls with satisfaction* the professional, open and transparent conduct of both the February 2006 and the October 2007 referendums to determine the future status of Tokelau, monitored by the United Nations;

8. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration and to carry out the actions approved by the General Assembly regarding the International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism in all Territories that have not yet exercised their right to self-determination, including independence, and in particular:

(a) To formulate specific proposals to bring about an end to colonialism and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session;

(b) To continue to examine the implementation by Member States of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization;

(c) To continue to examine the political, economic and social situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and to recommend to the General Assembly, as appropriate, the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the

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<sup>305</sup> Resolution 1514 (XV).

<sup>306</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).



### III. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

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populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination, including independence, in accordance with the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(d) To develop and finalize, as soon as possible and in cooperation with the administering Power and the Territory in question, a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories, to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee and the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(e) To continue to dispatch visiting and special missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories in accordance with the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(f) To conduct seminars, as appropriate, for the purpose of receiving and disseminating information on the work of the Special Committee, and to facilitate participation by the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in those seminars;

(g) To take all steps necessary to enlist worldwide support among Governments, as well as national and international organizations, for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration and the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

(h) To observe annually the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

9. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and, inter alia, to facilitate visiting missions of the Committee to the Territories on a case-by-case basis and in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions on specific Territories;

10. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations visiting missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, where applicable, are an effective means of ascertaining the situation of the peoples of the Territories, in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions on specific Territories, and therefore requests the Special Committee to undertake at least one visiting mission a year;

11. *Recalls* that the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,<sup>307</sup> updated as necessary, represents an important legislative authority for the attainment of self-government by the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and that the case-by-case assessment of the attainment of self-government in each Territory can make an important contribution to this process;

12. *Calls upon* all States, in particular the administering Powers, as well as the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, to give effect within their respective spheres of competence to the recommendations of the Special Committee for the implementation of the Declaration and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

13. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to ensure that economic and other activities in the Non-Self-Governing Territories under their administration do not adversely affect the interests of the peoples but instead promote development, and to assist them in the exercise of their right to self-determination;

14. *Calls upon* the administering Powers concerned to terminate military activities and eliminate military bases in the Non-Self-Governing Territories under their administration in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

15. *Urges* the administering Powers to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable rights of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to their natural resources and to establish and maintain control over the future development of those resources, and requests the relevant administering Powers to take all steps necessary to protect the property rights of the peoples of those Territories;

16. *Urges* all States, directly and through their action in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, to provide moral and material assistance, as needed, to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and requests the administering Powers to take steps to enlist and make effective use of all possible assistance, on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis, in the strengthening of the economies of those Territories;

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<sup>307</sup> A/56/61, annex.

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17. *Requests* the Secretary-General, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to provide economic, social and other assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to continue to do so, as appropriate, after they exercise their right to self-determination, including independence;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General, President pro tempore of the Special Committee, to meet informally at least once a year with the Chair and the Bureau of the Committee during the intersessional period, in order to explore innovative ways of using his good offices to help to advance the decolonization agenda on a case-by-case basis;

19. *Approves* the report of the Special Committee covering its work during 2023, in which the programme of work for 2024 is outlined, in particular the Caribbean regional seminar and a visiting mission to one of the Territories on its agenda, in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions on specific Territories;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to review the resources at the disposal of the Special Committee in order to ensure that the Committee has the funding, facilities and services commensurate with its envisioned yearly programmes, as mandated in relevant General Assembly resolutions, including, especially, in paragraph 8 of the present resolution.

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## RESOLUTION 78/132

Adopted at the 49th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/458, para. 11)<sup>1</sup>

### 78/132. Information and communications technologies for sustainable development

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 77/150 of 14 December 2022 on information and communications technologies for sustainable development, as well as previous resolutions on the issue,<sup>2</sup>

*Recalling also* Economic and Social Council resolution 2023/3 of 7 June 2023 on the assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, as well as previous resolutions on the issue,<sup>3</sup>

*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 New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito, Ecuador, from 17 to 20 October 2016,<sup>4</sup>

*Recognizing* the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development as the United Nations focal point for science, technology and innovation for development and as a forum in the examination of science and technology questions and the role of science and technology as enablers for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, the advancement of understanding of science and technology policies, particularly in respect of developing countries, and the formulation of recommendations and guidelines on science and technology matters for development within the United Nations system,

*Recognizing also* the Commission on Science and Technology for Development as the United Nations focal point in the system-wide follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society,

*Recognizing further* the role of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, which includes the multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, the inter-agency task team on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals and the online platform, as a tool to facilitate multi-stakeholder collaboration and partnerships among Member States, civil society, the private sector, the scientific community, United Nations entities and other stakeholders in order to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, including through forging partnerships, such as the Partnership in Action on STI for SDGs Road Maps,

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<sup>1</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee.

<sup>2</sup> Resolutions 56/183, 57/238, 59/220, 60/252, 62/182, 63/202, 64/187, 65/141, 66/184, 67/195, 68/198, 69/204, 70/184, 71/212, 72/200, 73/218, 74/197, 75/202 and 76/189.

<sup>3</sup> Economic and Social Council resolutions 2006/46, 2008/3, 2009/7, 2010/2, 2011/16, 2012/5, 2013/9, 2014/27, 2015/26, 2016/22, 2017/21, 2018/28, 2019/24, 2020/12, 2021/28 and 2022/15.

<sup>4</sup> Resolution 71/256, annex.

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*Recalling* the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society at its first phase, held in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003,<sup>5</sup> and endorsed by the General Assembly,<sup>6</sup> and the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society adopted by the Summit at its second phase, held in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005,<sup>7</sup> and endorsed by the Assembly,<sup>8</sup>

*Recalling also* the references to information and communications technologies contained in the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and reiterating calls for close alignment between the World Summit on the Information Society process and the 2030 Agenda, as well as other relevant intergovernmental outcomes,

*Recalling further* the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society,<sup>9</sup> held in New York on 15 and 16 December 2015, in which it took stock of the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit, addressed potential information and communications technology gaps and identified areas for continued focus,

*Recalling* its resolution [76/307](#) of 8 September 2022 on the modalities for the Summit of the Future and its decision 77/568 of 1 September 2023 on the scope of the Summit, to be held on 22 and 23 September 2024, mandating a concise, action-oriented outcome document entitled “A Pact for the Future”, including a chapter on science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation,

*Reaffirming* its common desire and commitment to the World Summit on the Information Society vision as laid out in the Geneva Declaration of Principles,

*Reaffirming also* the outcome of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, which provides an overview of implementation action lines, challenges, vision and priority areas, and recognizing the need for all people to have media and information literacy skills, which are important in order to fully participate in an inclusive information society,

*Recognizing* that information and communications technologies present new opportunities and challenges and that there is a pressing need to address the major impediments that developing countries face in accessing new technologies, stressing the need to close the digital divides, both between and within countries and including the rural-urban, youth-older persons and gender digital divides, and to harness information and communications technologies for development, and recalling the need to emphasize quality of access to bridge digital and knowledge divides, using a multidimensional approach that includes speed, stability, affordability, language, training, capacity-building, local content and accessibility for persons with disabilities,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels,<sup>10</sup>

*Taking note also* of the report on the economic impact of broadband in the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, jointly prepared by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and the International Telecommunication Union, as well as the United Nations E-Government Survey prepared by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat,

*Noting* the call for the continuation of annual reports on the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, through the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, to the Economic and Social Council, and reaffirming the role of the Commission, as set forth in Council resolution 2006/46 of 28 July 2006, in assisting the Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up, in particular the review and assessment of progress made in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit,

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<sup>5</sup> See [A/C.2/59/3](#), annex.

<sup>6</sup> See resolution [59/220](#).

<sup>7</sup> See [A/60/687](#).

<sup>8</sup> See resolution [60/252](#).

<sup>9</sup> Resolution [70/125](#).

<sup>10</sup> [A/78/62-E/2023/49](#).

#### IV. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Second Committee

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*Noting also* the holding of the twenty-sixth session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development from 27 to 31 March 2023, and looking forward to the twenty-seventh session, which will have as priority themes “Data for development” and “Global cooperation in science, technology and innovation for development”, thus providing a platform for all stakeholders to share experiences and pursue partnerships for capacity-building,

*Taking note* of the report of the High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation, entitled “The age of digital interdependence”, submitted to the Secretary-General on 10 June 2019, also taking note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Road map for digital cooperation”, presented on 11 June 2020,<sup>11</sup> as well as the establishment of the Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Technology, and further taking note of the recommendations of the Secretary-General, in his report entitled “Our Common Agenda”,<sup>12</sup> to improve digital cooperation, with a view to bridging digital divides and accelerating the positive contribution that digital technologies can play in society, including towards achieving the 2030 Agenda,

*Noting* the holding of the World Summit on the Information Society Forum, jointly organized annually by the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Development Programme, and noting also the virtual holding of the World Summit on the Information Society Forum from 13 to 17 March 2023,

*Taking note* of the United Nations Development Programme Digital Strategy 2022–2025, which seeks to assist countries, upon their request, in their efforts towards digital transformation through the creation of inclusive and resilient digital ecosystems,

*Taking note also* of the report of the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development entitled *The State of Broadband Report 2023: Digital Connectivity – A Transformative Opportunity*, which provides an evaluation of the progress made towards achieving the Broadband Commission’s advocacy targets for broadband and the state of broadband development worldwide,

*Recognizing* the fact that information and communications technologies are critical enablers of economic development and investment, with consequential benefits for employment and social welfare, by lowering barriers to economic participation, and that the increasing pervasiveness of information and communications technologies within society has had profound impacts on the ways in which Governments deliver services, businesses relate to consumers and citizens participate in public and private life,

*Noting* the outcome and agreed policy recommendations of the sixth report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy on its sixth session,<sup>13</sup> which was held from 10 to 12 May 2023,

*Noting also* the holding of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development eWeek 2023, under the theme “Shaping the future of the digital economy”, from 4 to 8 December 2023 in Geneva,

*Taking note* of the *Digital Economy Report 2021* of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, which examines the role of cross-border data flows for development in maximizing equitable development gains, while minimizing risks and impacts of a potential fragmentation in the digital space, and recognizing the need to continue discussions on the connection between data and sustainable development, including data governance, while taking into account the multiple dimensions of data,

*Noting* the tax challenges arising from digitalization of the economy and the importance of ensuring that tax is paid where value is created, and noting also international efforts to address this issue,

*Stressing*, however, that recent progress notwithstanding, important and growing digital divides remain between and within developed and developing countries in terms of the availability, affordability and use of information and communications technologies and access to broadband, stressing also the urgent need to close digital divides, including with regard to such issues as the affordability of the Internet, and to ensure that the benefits of information and communications technologies, including new technologies, are available to all, in this regard reaffirming its commitment to significantly increasing access to information and communications technologies and striving to

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<sup>11</sup> [A/74/821](#).

<sup>12</sup> [A/75/982](#).

<sup>13</sup> [TD/B/EDE/6/4](#).



provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in the least developed countries by 2020, and noting the many efforts to help to bridge digital divides and expand access, including the Connect 2030 Agenda for Global Telecommunication/Information and Communication Technology, including Broadband, for Sustainable Development,

*Recalling* the vision of a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society, where everyone can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge, enabling individuals, communities and peoples to achieve their full potential in promoting their sustainable development and improving their quality of life, premised on the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and respecting fully and upholding the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>14</sup>

*Stressing* the necessity for all forms of development cooperation, including aid flows, to promote digital transformation,

*Recalling* the Working Group on the Digital Gender Divide of the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development and the recommendations for action in bridging the gender digital divide contained in its progress report, and taking note of the report of the Working Group on Education of the Broadband Commission entitled “Digital skills for life and work”,

*Recognizing* that realizing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress across all of the Sustainable Development Goals, and emphasizing the need to target science, technology and innovation strategies to address the empowerment of women and girls and to reduce inequalities, including the gender digital divide,

*Noting with great concern* the fact that a gender digital divide persists in women’s access to and use of information and communications technologies, including in education, employment and other areas of economic and social development, and in this regard welcoming the many initiatives that focus on access, skills and leadership to promote the equal participation of women and girls in the digital age, such as the International Girls in ICT Day of the International Telecommunication Union and the Global Partnership for Gender Equality in the Digital Age, known as the Equals Partnership,

*Noting with great concern also* that many developing countries lack meaningful and affordable access to information and communications technologies and that, for the majority of the poor, the promise of science and technology, including information and communications technologies, remains unfulfilled, and emphasizing the need to effectively harness technology, including information and communications technologies, data management, and promote inclusive digital literacy to bridge the digital and knowledge divides,

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

*Recognizing also* that harnessing the benefits of digital technologies for inclusive, equitable and quality education and lifelong learning opportunities requires the advancement of connectivity, capacities and content, and electricity coverage, and acknowledging the need for access to broadband Internet and technology devices, digital inclusion and literacy, and to incorporate digital competencies into the education system for the capacity-building of educators and students,

*Noting* that a range of topics continues to emerge on issues related to the access to and use and applications of information and communications technologies and their effects on economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development,

*Recognizing* the important role that information and communications technologies can play in protecting the environment and addressing climate change,

*Reaffirming* that the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online, and emphasizing that progress towards the vision of the World Summit on the Information Society should be considered not only as a

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<sup>14</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).

function of economic development and the spreading of information and communications technologies but also as a function of progress with respect to the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

*Reaffirming also* that Internet governance, including the process towards enhanced cooperation and the convening of the Internet Governance Forum, should continue to follow the provisions set forth in the outcomes of the summits held in Geneva and Tunis,

*Taking note* of the “WSIS+20 Forum High-level Event” to be held in Geneva in 2024, co-hosted by Switzerland and the International Telecommunication Union,

*Recalling* the efforts undertaken by the host countries in organizing the meetings of the Internet Governance Forum, most recently held in Kyoto, Japan, in 2023, and taking note of the meeting to be held in Saudi Arabia in 2024,

*Recalling also* the convening of the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation on Public Policy Issues Pertaining to the Internet, based on the proposal by the Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development regarding the structure and composition of the Working Group, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/125 of 16 December 2015 and endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2017/21, and taking note of its work,

*Noting* that information and communications technologies can help to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and noting also that, inter alia, the International Telecommunication Union has an important role in supporting Member States in the implementation of the Goals,

*Noting also* the convening of the World Telecommunication Development Conference by the International Telecommunication Union in Kigali from 6 to 16 June 2022, under the theme “Connecting the unconnected to achieve sustainable development”,

*Noting further* the holding of the fourth United Nations World Data Forum in Hangzhou, China, 24 to 27 April 2023,

*Noting* that technological change includes new and powerful tools for development, and mindful of its impacts, opportunities and challenges and that Governments, the private sector, international organizations, civil society and the technical and academic communities should take into account the social, economic, ethical, cultural and technical issues related to rapid technological advancements in order to deepen their understanding of how to harness their potential to support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda,

*Reaffirming* the value and principles of multi-stakeholder cooperation and engagement that have characterized the World Summit on the Information Society process since its inception, and recognizing that the effective participation, partnership and cooperation of Governments, the private sector, civil society, international organizations, the technical and academic communities and all other relevant stakeholders, within their respective roles and responsibilities, especially with balanced representation from developing countries, have been and continue to be vital in developing the information society,

*Recognizing* the important contributions and full participation of all stakeholders to help bridge, in their roles and responsibilities, the digital divides,

*Acknowledging* that differences in individual stakeholders’ capabilities to both use and create information and communications technologies represent a knowledge divide that perpetuates inequality,

*Conscious* of the challenges faced by States in preventing and combating the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes, including by terrorists, and emphasizing the need to continue international cooperation in this regard and to reinforce technical assistance and capacity-building activities, at their request, for the prevention, prosecution and punishment of such use in accordance with national and international law,

*Reiterating* the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, and the wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

*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,

*Noting with grave concern* that approximately a third of the world's population, especially women and girls, the elderly and people in vulnerable situations, as well as approximately two thirds of people in the least developed countries, do not have access to the Internet, and noting that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbates inequalities caused by the digital divides, since the poorest and the most vulnerable who are the hardest hit are also those who lag behind the most in access to information and communications technologies,

*Taking note* of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization *Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence*,

1. *Recognizes* that information and communications technologies have the potential to provide new solutions to development challenges, particularly in the context of globalization, and can foster sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, competitiveness, access to information and knowledge, trade and development, poverty eradication, gender equality and social inclusion that will help to expedite the integration of all countries, especially developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, into the global economy;

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

3. *Recognizes* the potential of information and communications technologies and digital transformation to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>15</sup> and other internationally agreed development goals, noting that they can accelerate progress across all 17 Sustainable Development Goals, accordingly urges all Governments, the private sector, civil society, international organizations, the technical and academic communities and all other relevant stakeholders to integrate information and communications technologies and digital solutions into their approaches to implementing the Goals, and requests United Nations system entities facilitating the World Summit on the Information Society action lines to review their reporting and workplans to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

4. *Reaffirms its commitment* to bridging digital and knowledge divides, recognizes that its approach must be multidimensional and include an evolving understanding of what constitutes access, emphasizing the quality of that access, and acknowledges that speed, stability, affordability, language, local content and accessibility for persons with disabilities are now core elements of quality and that high-speed broadband is already an essential enabler of sustainable development;

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

6. *Stresses* the important role played by the private sector, civil society and technical communities in information and communications technologies;

7. *Encourages* strengthened and continuing cooperation between and among stakeholders from both developed and developing countries, within their respective roles and responsibilities, to ensure the effective implementation of the outcomes of the Geneva and Tunis phases of the World Summit on the Information Society, through, inter alia, the promotion of national, regional and international multi-stakeholder partnerships, including public-private partnerships, and the promotion of national and regional multi-stakeholder thematic platforms in a joint

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<sup>15</sup> Resolution 70/1.

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effort and dialogue with developing countries, including the least developed countries, development partners and actors in the information and communications technologies sector;

8. *Welcomes* the operationalization of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries, invites Member States, as well as international organizations, foundations and the private sector, to provide voluntary financial contributions and technical assistance to ensure its full and effective implementation;

9. *Reiterates* the call for support for the full operationalization of all components of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and to explore a voluntary funding model in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and relevant United Nations entities;

10. *Notes* the progress that has been made by United Nations system entities in cooperation with national Governments, regional commissions and other stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, in the implementation of the action lines contained in the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society, and encourages the use of those action lines for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

11. *Also notes* that the digital economy is an important and growing part of the global economy and that connectivity is correlated with increases in gross domestic product, recognizes the critical importance of expanding the participation of all countries, in particular developing countries, in the digital economy, and further notes that the Commission on Science and Technology for Development will explore the connection between data and sustainable development at its twenty-seventh session, in 2024;

12. *Encourages* countries to take advantage of capacity-building mechanisms and opportunities from the entire United Nations system in this regard;

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

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

15. *Looks forward* to the holding of the fourth meeting of the Working Group on Measuring E-commerce and the Digital Economy, on 30 November and 1 December 2023, and the seventh session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy, from 6 to 8 May 2024, which will focus on “Building digital readiness: from assessments to implementation”;

16. *Recognizes* the need for international cooperation to examine and address the opportunities, risks and challenges associated with dealing with data, and the need for urgent action aimed at reducing digital divides and inequalities in data generation, accessibility and infrastructure, within and among countries and regions, and encourages strengthening of international collaboration on inclusive governance of data and greater interoperability in this regard, building on contributions from international organizations, including the United Nations system, and to find common ground on these issues, ensuring no one is left behind;

17. *Further calls upon* the international community to enhance its support to developing countries, including by increasing resources available, to build their capacities to equally and meaningfully benefit from data and participate in the digital economy;

18. *Emphasizes* that efforts to close all digital divides and ensure that no one is left behind in the digital economy must be expanded;

19. *Notes* the holding of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development eWeek 2023, under the theme “Shaping the future of the digital economy”, from 4 to 8 December 2023;

20. *Welcomes* the work of the Information for All Programme of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which aims to assist Member States in formulating policies to bridge digital divides and

ensure equitable knowledge societies, and also welcomes the holding of Global Media and Information Literacy Week from 23 to 25 October 2023;

21. *Recognizes* that, despite recent progress and significant gains, there is still uneven growth in access to and the use of information and communications technologies, and expresses concern over the substantial continued digital and broadband divides between and within developed and developing countries, including the fact that while 90 per cent of people use the Internet in developed countries, only 57 per cent of the population of developing countries is online, and that the cost of access is higher in developing countries in relation to average household income, resulting in a lack of affordable access to information and communications technologies;

22. *Stresses* the need to provide universal, meaningful and affordable access to the Internet by 2030, particularly in all developing countries, welcomes efforts by the United Nations to assist countries, upon their request, in achieving this, and calls upon all stakeholders, including the international community, to support further actions, including investment, to improve broadband access and connectivity in developing countries;

23. *Recognizes* the importance of broadband connectivity to users in rural and remote areas, and in this regard notes that small and non-profit community operators, including community networks and other affordable, scalable and inclusive technology and business models that provide last-mile connectivity solutions, as appropriate and among others, can provide these services through, inter alia, appropriate regulatory measures that allow them to gain access to basic infrastructure;

24. *Stresses* the importance of rapid technological change in ensuring food security and nutrition by 2030, and information technology in agriculture systems with due regard for sustainability;

25. *Encourages* research and development, and the development of viable strategies that could result in further competitiveness, investment and rapid reductions in the cost of information and communications technologies, and urges all relevant stakeholders to address the growing digital divides between and within countries through, inter alia, strengthened enabling policy environments at all levels, legal and regulatory frameworks conducive to increased investment and innovation, public-private partnerships, universal access strategies and international cooperation to improve affordability, education, capacity-building, multilingualism, cultural preservation, investment and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms;

26. *Acknowledges* the importance of more inclusive and equitable access to the benefits of the emerging digital economy, and recognizes that collective efforts are needed towards new rule-setting that not only favours large digital enterprises, but also provides for an open, fair and non-discriminatory business environment, including support for the access of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, including those owned or operated by women, to finance, information and markets, while protecting and empowering consumers;

27. *Recognizes* that a gender digital divide persists and that, worldwide, 69 per cent of men use the Internet compared with 63 per cent of women, notes that in the least developed countries only 30 per cent of women use the Internet, compared with 43 per cent of men, and calls upon all stakeholders to close the gender digital divide, ensure the full, equal, effective and meaningful participation of all women in the information society and women's access to information and communications technologies for development, including women's and girls' access to new technologies, in this respect reiterates its request for relevant United Nations system entities, including the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), to support the implementation and monitoring of the action lines contained in the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society by enhancing the emphasis on gender equality and all women's empowerment, and reaffirms the commitment to ensuring women's full and meaningful participation in decision-making processes related to information and communications technologies, including policies and approaches to promote women's online safety to facilitate their participation in the digital world, and to address any potential negative impacts of digital technologies on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and committing to eliminating, preventing and responding to all forms of violence against women and girls;

28. *Notes* the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional level, facilitated by the regional commissions, as observed in the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional and international levels;

29. *Encourages* the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, within their respective mandates and strategic plans, to contribute to the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, and emphasizes the importance of allocating adequate resources in this regard;

30. *Acknowledges* the extension of the mandate of the Internet Governance Forum through 2025, as set out in the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society;

31. *Recognizes* the importance of the Internet Governance Forum and its mandate as a forum for multi-stakeholder dialogue on various matters, as reflected in paragraph 72 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, including discussion of public policy issues related to key elements of Internet governance, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to submit, as part of his annual reporting on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels, information on the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum,<sup>16</sup> in particular those on enhancing the participation of developing countries;

32. *Stresses* the need for the enhanced participation of Governments and stakeholders from all developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, in all meetings of the Internet Governance Forum, and in this regard invites Member States, as well as other relevant stakeholders, to support the participation of Governments and all other stakeholders from developing countries in the Forum itself, as well as in the preparatory meetings;

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

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

35. *Recalls* the report of the Chair of the Working Group,<sup>17</sup> which includes references to the full texts of all proposals and contributions, and expresses its gratitude to the Chair and all participants who submitted inputs and contributed to the work of the Working Group;

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

37. *Recognizes* the importance of enhanced cooperation in the future, to enable Governments, on an equal footing, to carry out their roles and responsibilities in international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, and notes the need for continued dialogue and work on the implementation of enhanced cooperation as envisioned in the Tunis Agenda;

38. *Encourages* the use of and engagement with forums and expertise available within relevant United Nations bodies, such as the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, by all relevant stakeholders to promote global digital cooperation;

39. *Recognizes* that a lack of access to affordable and reliable technologies and services remains a critical challenge in many developing countries, in particular African countries, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States, middle-income countries, countries in situations of conflict, post-conflict countries and countries affected by natural disasters, and that all efforts should be deployed to reduce the price of information and communications technologies and broadband access, bearing in mind that deliberate interventions, including through research and development and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, may be necessary to spur the development of lower-cost connectivity options;

40. *Also recognizes* that information and communications technologies present new opportunities and challenges and that there is a pressing need to address the major impediments that developing countries face in

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<sup>16</sup> [A/67/65-E/2012/48](#) and [A/67/65/Corr.1-E/2012/48/Corr.1](#).

<sup>17</sup> See [E/CN.16/2018/CRP.3](#).



engaging with and accessing new technologies, such as an appropriate enabling environment, sufficient resources, infrastructure, education and literacy, capacity, investment and connectivity, as well as issues related to technology ownership, setting standards and technology flows, and in this regard urges all stakeholders to consider ensuring adequate means of implementation, including appropriate financing for digital development and strengthened capacity-building of developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, towards a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy, and in this regard welcomes efforts by United Nations entities in providing such capacity-building support to countries, upon their request;

41. *Further recognizes* the need to harness the potential of information and communications technologies as critical enablers of sustainable development and to overcome digital divides, and stresses that capacity-building for the productive use of such technologies should be given due consideration in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development;<sup>18</sup>

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

43. *Recognizes* the importance of assisting developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, to address the challenges and opportunities in relation to the use of the Internet and e-commerce to develop their international trade capacities, among other things;

44. *Also recognizes* the importance of the free flow of information and knowledge, and the need to reduce disparities in information flows at all levels, as the amount of information distributed worldwide grows and the role of communication becomes all the more important, and acknowledges that the mainstreaming of information and communications technologies in school curricula, open access to data, the fostering of competition, the creation of transparent, predictable, independent and non-discriminatory regulatory and legal systems, proportionate taxation and licensing fees, access to finance, the facilitation of public-private partnerships, multi-stakeholder cooperation, national and regional broadband strategies, efficient allocation of the radio frequency spectrum, infrastructure-sharing models, community-based approaches and public access facilities have in many countries facilitated significant gains in connectivity and sustainable development;

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

46. *Calls for* the promotion of new research, the development and transfer of the technologies on mutually agreed terms, including in the areas of food and nutrition, health, water and sanitation, and energy, in order to contribute to the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions and the achievement of sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, human well-being and sustainable development;

47. *Notes* the commitments made in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and recognizes that official development assistance and other concessional financial flows for information and communications technologies can make significant contributions to development outcomes, in particular where they can reduce the risk of public and private investment, and increase the use of information and communications technologies to strengthen good governance and tax collection;

48. *Invites* all relevant stakeholders to support more comprehensively those countries that are trailing in the digital economy in order to reduce the digital divides, strengthen the international enabling environment for value creation and build capacities in both the private and public sectors;

49. *Recognizes* the critical importance of private sector investment in information and communications technology infrastructure, content and services, encourages Governments to create legal and regulatory frameworks

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<sup>18</sup> Resolution [69/313](#), annex.



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conducive to increased investment and innovation, and also recognizes the importance of public-private partnerships, universal access strategies and other approaches to that end;

50. *Encourages* the promotion of digital solutions through access to and use of digital public goods, which may include open-source software, open data, open artificial intelligence models, open standards and open content that adhere to international and domestic laws, in unlocking the full potential of rapid technological change to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals;

51. *Welcomes* the holding of the eighth annual Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up, takes note of its intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations,<sup>19</sup> looks forward to further advancement in the follow-up process, and welcomes the work of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development, the progress made in operationalizing the three components of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and the holding of the eighth annual multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals;

52. *Reaffirms* the commitment at the very heart of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind and commit to taking more tangible steps to support people in vulnerable situations and the most vulnerable countries and to reach the furthest behind first;

53. *Recognizes* the important role of information and communications technologies for attaining the Sustainable Development Goals and for a sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and calls upon all stakeholders in the information and communications technologies sector, including Governments and the United Nations system, to fully consider the health and socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic as they strengthen their efforts to bridge the digital divides within and between developed and developing countries, with particular attention to the poorest and most vulnerable, as well as women and girls, and to ensuring affordable and reliable connectivity, the promotion of digital access and digital inclusion, and the expansion of accessible and inclusive distance-learning solutions and digital health services;

54. *Notes* that, as requested by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution [2023/3](#), the Commission on Science and Technology for Development will collect inputs from member States, all facilitators and other relevant stakeholders and will organize, during its twenty-seventh session, in 2024, and its twenty-eighth session, in 2025, substantive discussions on the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit during the past 20 years, and will report thereon, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly;

55. *Looks forward* to the comprehensive review by the General Assembly, in 2025, of the progress made since the World Summit on the Information Society;

56. *Stresses* the need to better realize the benefits and address the challenges of artificial intelligence, taking note of the ongoing efforts by the United Nations in undertaking analysis and advancing options;

57. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session, through the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the Economic and Social Council, an action-oriented report on the status of the implementation of and follow-up to the present resolution, taking into account the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the review process of the World Summit on the Information Society, the summary by the Co-Chairs of the multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals<sup>20</sup> and other relevant processes, as part of his annual report on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels;

58. *Invites* the Co-Chairs of the multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals in 2024 to include an update on the midterm reviews of science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals in the Co-Chairs' summary;

59. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session the item entitled "Information and communications technologies for sustainable development", unless otherwise agreed.

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<sup>19</sup> See [E/FFDF/2023/3](#).

<sup>20</sup> [E/HLPF/2023/6](#).

RESOLUTION 78/133

Adopted at the 49th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/459, para. 9)<sup>21</sup>

**78/133. Promoting creative economy for sustainable development**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, reaffirming its commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, and recognizing that stronger partnerships and cooperation are needed,

*Affirming* the importance of the creative economy in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, given that the sector not only generates income and decent jobs, but also supports the acceleration of socioeconomic development and promotes inclusion, economic diversification, innovation and multiculturalism,

*Underlining* the importance of unlocking the benefits of the creative economy, which makes a significant contribution to the global economy, comprising 3.1 per cent of total global gross domestic product in 2020, generates 50 million jobs worldwide and accounted for 3 per cent of the global trade in goods and 21 per cent of the global trade in services in 2020,

*Recognizing* that the creative economy involves, inter alia, knowledge-based economic activities and the interplay between human creativity and ideas, knowledge and technology, as well as cultural values or artistic, cultural heritage and other individual or collective creative expressions,<sup>22</sup>

*Recalling* its resolution 74/198 of 19 December 2019, entitled “International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development, 2021”, and appreciating the efforts by Governments of Member States, the United Nations and its various entities, international organizations, regional organizations, communities and individuals working in the creative economy, and other relevant stakeholders to observe the International Year and promote the creative economy for sustainable development,

*Welcoming* the work of United Nations entities on creative economy issues, such as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development report entitled *Creative Economy Outlook 2022* and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization report entitled *Re-Shaping Policies for Creativity: Addressing Culture as a Global Public Good*, which assist in strategically understanding the current state of the creative economy and the cultural sector, respectively, and map out the way forward to further develop the cultural and creative industries for sustainable development gains,

*Recognizing* the updated United Nations Conference on Trade and Development database on the trade in creative goods and services and the work carried out by the Statistical Commission and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Institute for Statistics to clarify conceptual issues relating to cultural products resulting from cultural and creative industries,

*Noting with appreciation* the promotion of the creative economy through various international and regional efforts, including the first World Conference on Creative Economy, held in Bali, Indonesia, in 2018, the Global Summit on the Orange Economy, held in Medellín, Colombia, in 2019, the second World Conference on Creative Economy, held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in 2021, and the third World Conference on Creative Economy, held in Bali in 2022, as well as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization World Conference on

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<sup>21</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Barbados, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Suriname, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam.

<sup>22</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2440, No. 43977.

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Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development, held in Mexico City in 2022, and looking forward to the convening of the fourth World Conference on Creative Economy, in Uzbekistan in 2024,

*Expressing its appreciation* for cooperation and partnership on capacity-building, research, experience-sharing and technical assistance and other related activities at the national, bilateral, regional and global levels that are intended to foster the creative economy,

*Acknowledging* the immense role of digital technologies and infrastructure and its connectivity in advancing and accelerating the development of the creative economy, including by opening new avenues and approaches, including through the digital economy, to produce, distribute and benefit from creative products,

*Underlining* the importance of promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all in the creative economy,

*Highlighting* the severe impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on the creative economy, among others, estimating that the pandemic resulted in a 750 billion United States dollar contraction of the gross value added by cultural and creative industries and more than 10 million job losses across the globe, and emphasizing that the creative economy has strategic potential to contribute to global economic recovery and growth,

*Reaffirming* the importance of the link between the creative economy and development for all countries, particularly for developing countries, and of supporting actions undertaken nationally and internationally to secure the recognition of the true value of this link,

*Recalling*, for States parties thereto, article 16, on preferential treatment for developing countries, of the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions,<sup>23</sup>

*Convinced* of the need to take the creative economy to the next level in catalysing its contribution to sustainable development by strengthening institutions and regulations, strengthening competitiveness, developing credible support schemes, pursuing effective policies and integrating policymaking and implementation at the local, national and international levels,

1. *Invites* all relevant stakeholders to scale efforts to promote the creative economy, address challenges faced by the sector and create an enabling environment for the creative economy at all levels;

2. *Encourages* Member States to:

(a) Promote the inclusion and mainstreaming of the creative economy into economic policy, as well as in national and international development plans and strategies, with an emphasis on enhancing the operational relationship between the creative economy and the Sustainable Development Goals across different policy areas;

(b) Create and enhance enabling environments that ensure that the creative economy is equally accessible and inclusive for all, at the national and local levels, including for women, young people, persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples, local communities and people in vulnerable situations, reinforces the status of artists, creators, cultural practitioners and professionals, including by promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all, progressive formalization of the labour market and fair remuneration, and improves access for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, including cultural enterprises, in the creative economy to participate in national, regional and global value chains;

(c) Strengthen and support the contribution of the creative economy to promoting sustainable development in its social, economic and environmental dimensions, including to a sustainable and diversified economy and sustainable consumption and production patterns;

(d) Facilitate open, inclusive, equitable, participatory and transparent cooperation among relevant stakeholders, and conduct research among those relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, creative economy actors and entrepreneurs, communities and civil society, and academia, on how to promote international cooperation on the creative economy;

(e) Support data collection on the creative economy, including disaggregated data, by discussing statistical harmonization and through capacity-building, with a view to monitoring the sector's economic importance, including

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<sup>23</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2440, No. 43977.

its contribution to gross domestic product, employment, trade and well-being, as well as to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;

(f) Share best practices and information regarding innovative policies and actions to promote long-term development strategies for the creative economy;

(g) Establish and deliver research, capacity-building, creative and cultural education, and schemes to support innovation for the creative economy of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises;

(h) Enhance access to and the utilization of digital technologies in the creative economy, the digital skills and digital literacy of creators, as well as policy and regulatory frameworks that ensure that the social and economic rights of creators, artists and cultural professionals are guaranteed and protected in the digital era;

(i) Develop knowledge, skills and talents to cope with the dynamically changing landscape of creative economy jobs through, among others, a stronger integration of creativity, culture and the arts into education, more investment in technical and vocational skills, quality apprenticeships, and a recognition of prior learning, including through the certification of competencies;

(j) Provide support to creative economy actors and entrepreneurs, especially during economic slowdowns and other disruptions, including with regard to access to finance, health and social protection, healthy and safe working conditions, education and training, while building up their resilience to future disruptions;

(k) Enhance the competitiveness of creators, creative economy actors and entrepreneurs by enhancing their capacities to better manage, commercialize and promote the effective and adequate protection of intellectual property rights, inter alia, by raising awareness of intellectual property, providing financial and legal support and advocacy on the intellectual property registration process and intellectual property management, and implementing intellectual property-backed financing processes;

(l) Promote cultural and linguistic diversity and equal access to cultural expressions in the digital environment, and reinforce more balanced global flows of cultural goods and services, by guaranteeing the social and economic rights of artists and cultural professionals and better regulating digital platforms;

(m) Assess, examine and explore the opportunities for new and emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, to promote sustainable development in its three dimensions in and through the creative economy, as well as address their risks and challenges;

(n) Support cooperation and partnership on capacity-building, research, experience-sharing and technical assistance, including from developed countries to developing countries, at the national, bilateral, regional and global levels that are intended to foster the creative economy, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;<sup>24</sup>

(o) Share experiences and best practices, including through North-South and South-South and triangular cooperation, regarding the creative economy, with a view to promoting longer-term economic, social and environmental benefits;

3. *Invites* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Labour Organization and other relevant United Nations entities, within their respective mandates and existing resources, and through voluntary contributions, as appropriate, to:

(a) Scale up and support international efforts and coordination to promote the creative economy, including by building synergies within the United Nations system and with other stakeholders;

(b) Facilitate open, inclusive, equitable, participatory and transparent cooperation on issues relating to the creative economy, such as measuring the creative economy, statistics on creative goods and services, employment creation potential and decent work in the creative economy;

(c) Examine trends and flows of creative goods and services to improve their value-added contribution to exports of countries for trade and development gains;

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<sup>24</sup> Resolution 70/1.

(d) Consider and promote the role of the creative economy in supporting livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples and local communities around the world, as well as their contribution to the creative economy as a whole;

(e) Advocate for the importance of the creative economy for developing countries;

4. *Requests* the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and in consultation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Labour Organization and relevant entities of the United Nations system, to inform the General Assembly at its eighty-first session of the implementation of the present resolution, through a dedicated section of the *Creative Economy Outlook*, to be introduced to the Second Committee by the Secretariat, elaborating in particular on how the resolution is aligned with and advances the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including recommendations on concrete actions for reinforcing the role and contribution of the creative economy in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its eighty-first session, and to consider thereafter on a biennial basis, under the item entitled “Macroeconomic policy questions”, the sub-item entitled “Creative economy and sustainable development”.

#### RESOLUTION 78/134

Adopted at the 49th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/459/Add.1, para. 25)<sup>25</sup>

##### 78/134. International trade and development

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 56/178 of 21 December 2001, 57/235 of 20 December 2002, 58/197 of 23 December 2003, 59/221 of 22 December 2004, 60/184 of 22 December 2005, 61/186 of 20 December 2006, 62/184 of 19 December 2007, 63/203 of 19 December 2008, 64/188 of 21 December 2009, 65/142 of 20 December 2010, 66/185 of 22 December 2011, 67/196 of 21 December 2012, 68/199 of 20 December 2013, 69/205 of 19 December 2014, 70/187 of 22 December 2015, 71/214 of 21 December 2016, 72/202 of 20 December 2017, 73/219 of 20 December 2018, 74/201 of 19 December 2019, 75/203 of 21 December 2020, 76/190 of 17 December 2021 and 77/151 of 14 December 2022,

*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,

*Recognizing* the need to ensure that the benefits of trade are more widely shared,

*Reaffirming* World Trade Organization decision WT/MIN(15)/48-WT/L/982 of 19 December 2015 on the implementation of preferential treatment in favour of services and service suppliers of the least developed countries and increasing their participation in services trade and decision WT/L/508/Add.1 of 25 July 2012 on accession by the

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<sup>25</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by Cuba (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China).

least developed countries, encouraging progress on the implementation of the World Trade Organization work programme on small economies, which supports their efforts towards sustainable development, as also reflected in the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,<sup>26</sup> and stressing that Aid for Trade and targeted trade-related capacity-building are essential to integrating developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, into the international trading system,

*Recognizing* the critical role of women as producers and traders and the need to address their specific challenges in order to facilitate their full, equal and meaningful participation in domestic, regional and international trade,

*Recognizing also* that multilateral rules and disciplines are the best guarantee against protectionism and are fundamental to the transparency, predictability and stability of international trade,

*Noting* the commitments to working to ensure that bilateral, regional and plurilateral trade agreements complement the multilateral trading system, recognizing that they can play an important role in complementing global liberalization initiatives, and in this regard recalling, inter alia, the entry into force of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area, on 30 May 2019, and welcoming ongoing efforts to fully operationalize the Agreement, including the commencement of actual trading under the Agreement aimed at doubling intra-African trade to deliver economic transformation and strengthen Africa's resilience, including food security and nutrition, COVID-19 recovery and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

*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,

*Noting with concern* the fragile and highly uncertain global socioeconomic outlook, persisting negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, geopolitical tensions and conflicts and current multiple crises, which increased pressure on food, energy and finance, affecting many countries around the world and their ability to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Deeply concerned* that the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted trade, transport, tourism, cross-border travel, commodity markets, investment, debt service and financial flows, including remittances, with significant impacts on the poorest and the most vulnerable and the operation of global value chains, affecting all sectors of the economy, including micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises and people's lives, especially in developing and least developed countries, compounding the challenges posed by climate change, which have had a devastating impact on sustainable development and humanitarian needs, including on poverty eradication, reduction of inequalities, including gender inequality, livelihoods, ending hunger, food security and nutrition, education, environmentally sound waste management and access to health care, particularly in developing countries, including countries in special situations, as well as countries facing specific challenges and those most affected by the pandemic and its socioeconomic consequences, and that restrictive trade measures and the lack of transparency and cooperation within the multilateral trading system have affected access for all to safe, quality, effective and affordable COVID-19 vaccines, other essential goods and basic and nutritious foodstuffs,

*Reiterating* the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, and the wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

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<sup>26</sup> Resolution 69/15, annex.



#### IV. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Second Committee

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1. *Takes note* of the report of the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development<sup>27</sup> and the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>28</sup>
2. *Reaffirms* that international trade is an engine for inclusive growth and poverty eradication and that it contributes to the promotion of sustainable development, structural transformation and industrialization, particularly in developing countries;
3. *Underscores* that a universal, rules-based, open, transparent, predictable, inclusive, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system should contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, providing policy space for national development objectives, poverty eradication and sustainable development, consistent with relevant international rules and countries' commitments, and promote export-led growth in the developing countries through, inter alia, preferential trade access for developing countries, targeted special and differential treatment that responds to the development needs of individual countries, and the elimination of trade barriers that are inconsistent with World Trade Organization agreements;
4. *Recalls* the ministerial decision of 7 December 2013 on duty-free and quota-free market access for least developed countries,<sup>29</sup> recognizes that nearly all developed country members of the World Trade Organization provide either full or nearly full duty-free and quota-free market access to least developed country products and that a number of developing country members of the World Trade Organization also grant a significant degree of duty-free and quota-free market access to least developed country products, and takes note of the adoption of trading arrangements that further extend preferential market access for the benefit of other developing States;
5. *Welcomes* the commitment of World Trade Organization members to work towards the necessary reform of the Organization, with the aim of improving all its functions, while reaffirming the foundational principles of the Organization, and to conduct discussions with a view to having a fully and well-functioning dispute settlement system accessible to all members by 2024, while taking advantage of the available opportunities, addressing the challenges that the Organization is facing and ensuring the Organization's proper functioning; the work shall be member-driven, open, transparent, inclusive and must address the interests of all members, including development issues; and notes the contribution of the multilateral trading system to promote the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>30</sup> and its Sustainable Development Goals;
6. *Reaffirms* that maintaining stable trade flows is essential to urgently addressing the multiple global crises, inter alia, of food, energy and finance faced by developing countries, as well as enhancing food security and nutrition in these countries;
7. *Underscores* the urgent need to keep markets, including for food, fertilizer and agriculture, open, equitable, transparent, non-discriminatory and predictable by eliminating trade-restrictive measures and distortions, speculations and hoarding through the reform of the multilateral trade rules on agriculture, according to World Trade Organization mandates, and to ensure sustained food security and nutrition of countries, particularly the least developed and net food-importing developing countries;
8. *Encourages* cooperation among countries to improve agricultural productivity and trade with a view to increasing the availability, accessibility and affordability of food to help address global food security;
9. *Notes with concern* that certain forms of support for agricultural producers are either trade-distorting or harmful to nature and health, and reaffirms its commitment to correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, highlights the need to address trade-distorting domestic support in agriculture, and looks forward to continuing the World Trade Organization negotiations consistent with existing mandates to further reform agricultural trade rules, with a view to achieving concrete and positive results at the thirteenth Ministerial Conference;

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<sup>27</sup> [A/78/15 \(Part I\)](#) and [A/78/15 \(Part II\)](#).

<sup>28</sup> [A/78/230](#).

<sup>29</sup> World Trade Organization, document WT/MIN(13)/44.

<sup>30</sup> Resolution [70/1](#).



10. *Stresses* the continuing importance of the provision and mobilization of new and additional means of implementation, such as climate finance, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and capacity-building to developing countries, for expanding trade in renewable energy, that can contribute to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy and in line with their national development priorities, including through making clean and renewable energy technologies available for all;

11. *Recognizes* the role of services to global economic output and employment and in supporting global and regional connectivity and business continuity in times of crises and post-crisis recovery, in this respect underlines the critical role of services, digital technology and creative economy, and notes that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on services trade and services sectors, particularly for developing countries, including the least developed countries;

12. *Underscores* the continuing need for international support to increase economic resilience and diversification of commodity-dependent developing countries in such a way that their structural transformation is sustainable and economically meaningful;

13. *Calls upon* Member States to take complementary actions at the national level to strengthen domestic enabling environments and implement sound domestic policies and reforms conducive to realizing the potential of trade for inclusive growth and sustainable development;

14. *Reaffirms* the importance of promoting regional economic integration of developing countries to foster trade recovery and development, and in this regard welcomes ongoing efforts to fully operationalize the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area, including the commencement of actual trading under the Agreement aimed at doubling intra-African trade to deliver economic transformation and strengthen Africa's resilience, including food security and nutrition, COVID-19 recovery and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and notes the progress made in the implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement;

15. *Reiterates* that States will not be able to achieve the ambitious Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development without a revitalized and enhanced global partnership and comparably ambitious means of implementation and that a revitalized global partnership will facilitate an intensive global engagement in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, bringing together Governments, civil society, the private sector, the United Nations system and other actors and mobilizing all available resources;

16. *Reaffirms* the commitments made through the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development<sup>31</sup> in, inter alia, international trade as an important action area for sustainable development, and looks forward to the convening of a fourth international conference on financing for development;

17. *Recommits firmly* to promoting a rules-based, non-discriminatory, open, fair, inclusive, equitable and transparent multilateral trading system, with the World Trade Organization at its core, as well as meaningful trade liberalization, and with a strong development dimension in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, while preserving the fundamental principles of the World Trade Organization;

18. *Encourages* the development and the implementation of inclusive trade policies that can contribute to advancing gender equality and women's economic empowerment, which has a positive impact on economic growth and helps to reduce poverty;

19. *Welcomes* the successful conclusion of the twelfth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Geneva from 12 to 17 June 2022, under the presidency of the Government of Kazakhstan, and looks forward to the convening of the thirteenth Ministerial Conference, to be held from 26 to 29 February 2024 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates;

20. *Emphasizes* the need to continue combating protectionism in all its forms and to rectify any trade-distorting measures, including trade barriers, that are inconsistent with World Trade Organization rules, recognizing the right of countries, in particular developing countries, to fully utilize flexibilities consistent with their World Trade Organization commitments and obligations, and emphasizes that the work of the World Trade Organization shall

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<sup>31</sup> Resolution [69/313](#), annex.

continue to promote sustainable economic development with provisions for special and differential treatment remaining integral;

21. *Takes note with appreciation* of the ministerial decision on the TRIPS Agreement that was adopted at the twelfth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization to authorize the use of the subject matter of a patent required for the production and supply of COVID-19 vaccines without the consent of the right holder to the extent necessary to address the COVID-19 pandemic, in accordance with the provisions of article 31 of the TRIPS Agreement,<sup>32</sup> and recognizes that paragraph 8 of the ministerial decision on the TRIPS Agreement (WT/MIN(22)/30) states that members of the World Trade Organization will decide on the extension of the ministerial decision to cover the production and supply of COVID-19 diagnostics and therapeutics;

22. *Calls for* enhancing the capacity of the multilateral trading system to increase pandemic and disaster preparedness and resilience through a multifaceted response, including by strengthening the resilience of global supply chains, including short-term measures such as trade facilitation, transparency and restraint in relation to export restrictions on vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics supplies, as well as the rapid scaling up and expansion of vaccine production globally, including in developing countries, and welcomes the ministerial declaration on the World Trade Organization response to the COVID-19 pandemic and preparedness for future pandemics, adopted on 17 June 2022,<sup>33</sup>

23. *Recalls* the decision at the twelfth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization not to impose export restrictions on foodstuffs purchased for non-commercial humanitarian purposes by the World Food Programme;<sup>34</sup>

24. *Urges* the members of the World Trade Organization to start the effective implementation and monitoring of the Marrakesh Ministerial Decision on Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Programme on Least Developed and Net Food-Importing Developing Countries,<sup>35</sup> and notes the importance of having a dedicated work programme to operationalize it, according to World Trade Organization mandates, to ensure sustained food security and nutrition, including in the least developed and net food-importing developing countries;

25. *Underlines* that any emergency measures introduced to address food security concerns shall minimize trade distortions as far as possible, be temporary, targeted, transparent and be notified and implemented in accordance with World Trade Organization rules, and underscores that particular regard should be given to the effect that such measures have on developing countries, including the least developed and net food-importing developing countries;

26. *Welcomes* the adoption of the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies<sup>36</sup> at the twelfth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization regarding Sustainable Development Goal target 14.6, and urges the members of the World Trade Organization to promptly ratify or accept this agreement according to their domestic procedures, aiming for an expedited entry into force, and encourages members to continue negotiations on outstanding issues, with a view to making recommendations by the thirteenth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization for additional provisions that would achieve a comprehensive agreement on fisheries subsidies, including through further disciplines on certain forms of fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing country members and least developed country members should be an integral part of these negotiations;

27. *Underlines* the importance of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation annexed to the Protocol amending the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization in improving transparency, expediting the movement, release and clearance of goods, including goods in transit, and thereby reducing trade costs, and in this regard encourages its full and effective implementation, including through enhanced support towards its implementation;

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<sup>32</sup> See World Trade Organization, ministerial decision on the TRIPS Agreement (WT/MIN(22)/30), adopted on 17 June 2022.

<sup>33</sup> World Trade Organization, document WT/MIN(22)/31.

<sup>34</sup> See World Trade Organization, ministerial decision on World Food Programme food purchases exemption from export prohibitions or restrictions (WT/MIN(22)/29), adopted on 17 June 2022.

<sup>35</sup> See World Trade Organization, ministerial declaration on the emergency response to food insecurity (WT/MIN(22)/28), adopted on 17 June 2022.

<sup>36</sup> World Trade Organization, document WT/MIN(22)/W/22.

#### IV. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Second Committee

28. *Urges* the international community to adopt urgent and effective measures to eliminate the use of unilateral economic, financial or trade measures that are not authorized by relevant organs of the United Nations, and that are inconsistent with the principles of international law or the Charter of the United Nations or that contravene the basic principles of the multilateral trading system and that affect, in particular, but not exclusively, developing countries;

29. *Notes* that the use of policy instruments for environmental purposes with potential impact on international trade can have unintended consequences for partner countries, especially the least developed countries, which need to be addressed to aid their pursuit of structural transformation and economic diversification;

30. *Welcomes* efforts to enhance South-South and triangular trade cooperation under interregional trade arrangements, such as the Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries, as a vehicle to support export diversification, economic resilience and technological upgrading;

31. *Reiterates* the important role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as the focal point within the United Nations system for the integrated treatment of trade and development and interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development, and in contributing to supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

32. *Looks forward* to the celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development expected in June 2024;

33. *Recalls* the holding of the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in Bridgetown from 3 to 7 October 2021, and the adoption of its outcome document, the Bridgetown Covenant;<sup>37</sup>

34. *Reaffirms* the commitment at the very heart of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind and commit to taking more tangible steps to support people in vulnerable situations and the most vulnerable countries and to reach the furthest behind first;

35. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and developments in the international trading system, including concrete recommendations to accelerate the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda in this regard, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “Macroeconomic policy questions”, the sub-item entitled “International trade and development”.

#### RESOLUTION 78/135

Adopted at the 49th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 128 to 8, with 43 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/459/Add.1, para. 25)<sup>38</sup>

\* *In favour:* 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, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, 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 Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against:* Australia, Canada, Israel, Lithuania, New Zealand, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

<sup>37</sup> United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, The Bridgetown Covenant: from inequality and vulnerability to prosperity for all (TD/541/Add.2), adopted on 7 October 2021.

<sup>38</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by Cuba (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China) and the Russian Federation.

*Abstaining:* Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye

**78/135. Unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* the relevant principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations,

*Reaffirming* the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,<sup>39</sup> which states, inter alia, that no State may use or encourage the use of unilateral economic, political or any other type of measures to coerce another State in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights,

*Bearing in mind* the general principles governing the international trading system and trade policies for development contained in relevant resolutions, rules and provisions of the United Nations and the World Trade Organization,

*Recalling* its resolutions [44/215](#) of 22 December 1989, [46/210](#) of 20 December 1991, [48/168](#) of 21 December 1993, [50/96](#) of 20 December 1995, [52/181](#) of 18 December 1997, [54/200](#) of 22 December 1999, [56/179](#) of 21 December 2001, [58/198](#) of 23 December 2003, [60/185](#) of 22 December 2005, [62/183](#) of 19 December 2007, [64/189](#) of 21 December 2009, [66/186](#) of 22 December 2011, [68/200](#) of 20 December 2013, [70/185](#) of 22 December 2015, [72/201](#) of 20 December 2017, [74/200](#) of 19 December 2019 and [76/191](#) of 17 December 2021,

*Recalling also* paragraph 30 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>40</sup> whereby States are strongly urged to refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries,

*Gravely concerned* that the use of unilateral coercive economic measures that are inconsistent with the principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations adversely affects the economies and the development efforts of developing countries in particular and has a general negative impact on international economic cooperation and on worldwide efforts to move towards a non-discriminatory and open multilateral trading system,

*Recognizing* that such measures constitute a flagrant violation of the principles of international law as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the basic principles of the multilateral trading system,

*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,

*Taking note* of the work of the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights in documenting the impact of such measures on the economic and social development of developing countries targeted by these measures and on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Considering* that the continued enactment and application of unilateral economic, financial or trade measures that are inconsistent with the principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations have a negative

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<sup>39</sup> Resolution [2625 \(XXV\)](#), annex.

<sup>40</sup> Resolution [70/1](#).

impact on the capacity of targeted countries to recover from the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, strengthen resilience to future shocks and pursue sustainable development,

*Recognizing* that unilateral economic, financial or trade measures that are inconsistent with the principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations have a detrimental impact on all aspects of life in the targeted countries, including in access to food, clean water and sanitation, electricity, adequate medicine, medical equipment, prevention and control of diseases, training and up-to-date scientific knowledge, technologies and research, hampering the ability of the targeted countries to guarantee the well-being of their population,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>41</sup>

2. *Urges* the international community to adopt urgent and effective measures to eliminate the use of unilateral economic, financial or trade measures that are not authorized by relevant organs of the United Nations, that are inconsistent with the principles of international law or the Charter of the United Nations or that contravene the basic principles of the multilateral trading system and that affect, in particular, but not exclusively, developing countries;

3. *Takes note* of the Bridgetown Covenant, adopted at the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in Barbados from 3 to 7 October 2021, in which States are strongly urged to refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, in the light of concerns over the constraining nature and development implications of such measures that negatively impact the well-being of the populations and can impede the full achievement of economic and social development in the concerned States, as well as impair their trade relations;

4. *Calls upon* the international community to condemn and reject the imposition of the use of such measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries that impedes the full achievement of economic and social development;

5. *Recognizes* that unilateral coercive economic measures that are inconsistent with the principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations constitute a significant obstacle to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in developing countries targeted by these measures;

6. *Calls upon* the international community to condemn and reject the imposition of unilateral coercive economic measures that are inconsistent with the principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, which impede the capacity of targeted countries to promote post-COVID-19 pandemic recovery;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to monitor the imposition of unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion and to study, inter alia, with the support and cooperation of the resident coordinators and United Nations country teams, the impact of such measures on the affected countries, including the impact on trade and development;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its eightieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, with a particular focus on the impacts of unilateral economic measures on the achievement of sustainable development.

#### RESOLUTION 78/136

Adopted at the 49th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/459/Add.2, para. 7)<sup>42</sup>

#### 78/136. International financial system and development

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 55/186 of 20 December 2000 and 56/181 of 21 December 2001, entitled “Towards a strengthened and stable international financial architecture responsive to the priorities of growth and development,

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<sup>41</sup> A/78/506.

<sup>42</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee.

especially in developing countries, and to the promotion of economic and social equity”, as well as its resolutions [57/241](#) of 20 December 2002, [58/202](#) of 23 December 2003, [59/222](#) of 22 December 2004, [60/186](#) of 22 December 2005, [61/187](#) of 20 December 2006, [62/185](#) of 19 December 2007, [63/205](#) of 19 December 2008, [64/190](#) of 21 December 2009, [65/143](#) of 20 December 2010, [66/187](#) of 22 December 2011, [67/197](#) of 21 December 2012, [68/201](#) of 20 December 2013, [69/206](#) of 19 December 2014, [70/188](#) of 22 December 2015, [71/215](#) of 21 December 2016, [72/203](#) of 20 December 2017, [73/220](#) of 20 December 2018, [74/202](#) of 19 December 2019, [75/204](#) of 21 December 2020, [76/192](#) of 17 December 2021 and [77/152](#) of 14 December 2022,

*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 Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008,<sup>43</sup>

*Recalling also* the United Nations Millennium Declaration,<sup>44</sup> its resolution [56/210](#) B of 9 July 2002, in which it endorsed the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,<sup>45</sup> the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,<sup>46</sup> Agenda 21,<sup>47</sup> the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21<sup>48</sup> and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,<sup>49</sup>

*Recalling further* the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development and its outcome document,<sup>50</sup> recognizing the work undertaken by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly to follow up on the issues contained in the Outcome of the Conference, and recalling its progress report,<sup>51</sup>

*Recalling* the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, and its outcome document, entitled “The future we want”,<sup>52</sup>

*Appreciating* the fact that the Summit of the Group of 20 held in Hangzhou, China, on 4 and 5 September 2016, with the broad participation of developing countries, including the Chair of the Group of 77, endorsed the Group of 20 Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as an important contribution to the global implementation of the 2030 Agenda, recalling that the Summit of the Group of 20 held in Hamburg, Germany, on

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<sup>43</sup> Resolution [63/239](#), annex.

<sup>44</sup> Resolution [55/2](#).

<sup>45</sup> *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

<sup>46</sup> *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.

<sup>47</sup> *Ibid.*, annex II.

<sup>48</sup> Resolution [S-19/2](#), annex.

<sup>49</sup> *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 2, annex.

<sup>50</sup> Resolution [63/303](#), annex.

<sup>51</sup> [A/64/884](#).

<sup>52</sup> Resolution [66/288](#), annex.



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7 and 8 July 2017 endorsed the Hamburg Update: Taking Forward the Group of 20 Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, recalling also that the Summit of the Group of 20 held in Buenos Aires on 30 November and 1 December 2018 endorsed the Buenos Aires Update: Moving Forward the Group of 20 Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, recalling further that the Summit of the Group of 20 held in Osaka, Japan, on 28 and 29 June 2019 endorsed the Osaka Update on the Group of 20 Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, recalling that the Summit of the Group of 20, held virtually on 21 and 22 November 2020, endorsed the Riyadh Update on the Group of 20 Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, recalling also that the Summit of the Group of 20 held in Rome on 30 and 31 October 2021 endorsed the Rome Update on the Group of 20 Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, recalling further that the Summit of the Group of 20 held in Bali, Indonesia, on 15 and 16 November 2022 endorsed the Bali Update on the Group of 20 Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Group of 20 Development Commitments, recalling that the Summit of the Group of 20 held in New Delhi on 9 and 10 September 2023 endorsed the 2023 Action Plan to Accelerate Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals, and looking forward to their implementation, while urging the Group of 20 to continue to engage in an inclusive and transparent manner with other States Members of the United Nations in its work in order to ensure that the initiatives of the Group of 20 complement or strengthen the United Nations system,

*Noting* the holding of the twenty-sixth Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, from 14 to 17 June 2023, and noting also the Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond Initiative,

*Taking note* of the proposal by the Secretary-General, in his report entitled “Our Common Agenda”, regarding a biennial summit between the members of the Group of 20 and of the Economic and Social Council, the Secretary-General and the heads of the international financial institutions,<sup>53</sup>

*Recalling* the establishment of the Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance, chaired and convened by the Secretary-General, and taking note of its briefs on the three-dimensional crisis,

*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,

*Noting with great concern also* that the COVID-19 pandemic, and the social and economic crisis that it has triggered, geopolitical tensions and conflicts have amplified underlying risks in the international financial system and brought to the fore the growing importance of non-economic risks, including climate and disaster risks, as well as opportunities and risks associated with the rapid digitization of the economy, that women, young people and informal and low-skilled workers face a higher share of job losses, that many micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises have had to close or are at risk of closing amid uncertain prospects for economic recovery and the emergence of new variants of the coronavirus, that most developing countries lack the resources to implement large-scale monetary and fiscal policy responses and that debt risks and liquidity constraints remain elevated for many developing countries, leading to a risk of a diverging and uneven recovery, and having already contributed to the finance divide between and within countries,

*Recognizing* the steps that the international community, including the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the Group of 20, along with regional financial arrangements and development banks, has taken to respond to the crisis through increased global liquidity and debt relief measures for the poorest countries, and recognizing also that the COVID-19 crisis along with the current multiple crises have exposed and exacerbated gaps and vulnerabilities in the international system and underscored the importance of strengthening the global financial safety net and the

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<sup>53</sup> See [A/75/982](#).



need to work together to help to build a more resilient and sustainable global economy and that more remains to be done, also noting that the scale and prolonged duration of the crisis call for continued concerted and inclusive efforts to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic on economies and people and to ensure a more inclusive, sustainable and resilient recovery,

*Recognizing also* that the current multiple crises, the adverse impacts of climate change and the remaining effects of the world financial and economic crisis, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic have undermined debt sustainability and progress towards achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals, especially in developing countries, and stressing the need to better prepare for such crises that may happen in the future, including by addressing the lessons learned, improving confidence, sustaining economic growth, investing in the adoption of resilience measures and promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including young people, older persons and people with disabilities, and by continuing to promote global economic stability and the underlying institutional reforms required to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Expressing concern* about the adverse impact of the continuing fragility of the global economy, the slow pace of the restoration of global growth and trade, increasing protectionism and inward-looking policies, continued high inflation, high interest rates and increasing debt vulnerabilities, with increasing systemic risks that threaten financial stability, including in developing countries,

*Noting* the growing usage of local currencies in cross-border payments, including for trade and investment, from the standpoint that it can contribute to reducing vulnerabilities,

*Expressing concern* at the continued decline in correspondent banking relationships, impacting the ability to send and receive international payments, with potential consequences for the cost of remittances, which remain high, affecting those in vulnerable situations, such as migrants, financial inclusion and international trade, among other areas, and thus for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Reaffirming* the purposes and principles of the United Nations, as set forth in its Charter, including, inter alia, to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character, and to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of common ends, and reiterating the need to strengthen the leadership role of the United Nations in promoting development,

*Recognizing* the contribution of the original and reconvened Panel of Eminent Persons of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in the context of the United Nations sustainable development pillar and United Nations reform, as well as the contribution of the United Nations system to sustainable finance and investments in the Sustainable Development Goals, and recognizing also the contribution of the independent team of advisers to the Economic and Social Council dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda,

*Recognizing also* that adequate incentives for international and private investors to adopt longer-term investment strategies can support the achievement of sustainable development and potentially reduce capital market volatility,

*Emphasizing* that the international financial system should bolster sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth, sustainable development and job creation, promote financial inclusion and support efforts to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, and hunger, in particular in developing countries, while allowing for the coherent mobilization of all sources of financing for development,

*Taking note* of the work of the United Nations in the area of external debt sustainability and development,

*Recognizing* the importance of scaling up international tax cooperation, and in this regard welcoming the work of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters and the support to tax authorities of developing countries through the Addis Tax Initiative, which contribute to the mobilization of domestic resources for the Sustainable Development Goals and the curbing of illicit financial flows and tax evasion,

*Recognizing also* the need to reduce mechanistic reliance on credit-rating agency assessments, including in regulations, and to promote increased competition as well as measures to avoid conflict of interest in the provision of credit ratings in order to improve the quality of ratings, acknowledging the efforts of the Financial Stability Board and others in this area, and affirming the commitment to continue ongoing work on these issues, while noting with concern

that some countries stated that the fear of a credit rating downgrade discouraged them from accessing the Group of 20 and Paris Club Debt Service Suspension Initiative,

*Acknowledging* the 2016 implementation of quota and governance reforms at the International Monetary Fund and the 2018 agreement on shareholding reforms at the World Bank Group, including a general capital increase, a selective capital increase and a financial sustainability framework, the conclusion of the fifteenth general quota review by the Board of Governors of the Fund in February 2020, and the twentieth replenishment of the International Development Association, with a financing package amounting to 93 billion United States dollars, and acknowledging also that, in October 2016, the Chinese renminbi officially became the fifth currency in the special drawing rights basket, pursuant to the decision taken by the Executive Board of the Fund in November 2015,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>54</sup>

2. *Recognizes* the need to continue and intensify efforts to enhance the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems, reiterates the importance of ensuring their openness, fairness and inclusiveness in order to complement national efforts to ensure sustainable development, including strong, sustained, balanced, inclusive and equitable economic growth, and that all people, in particular the poor and vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources and appropriate financial services, and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement,<sup>55</sup> and encourages the international financial institutions to align their programmes and policies with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>56</sup> in accordance with their mandates;

3. *Also recognizes* that the twenty-first century requires an international development finance system that is fit for purpose, including for the scale of need and depth of the shocks facing developing countries, in particular the poorest and most vulnerable, keeping pace with a changing global landscape characterized by deeply integrated financial markets, multiple crises with cascading effects, systemic risks, the adverse impacts of climate change, shifting trade and financial relations, and rapid technological change, recognizes in this regard the urgent need for bold and ambitious reforms to create a stable, sustainable and inclusive international financial architecture, and reiterates that the international financial architecture, including its business models and financing capacities, must be made more fit for purpose, equitable and responsive to the financing needs of developing countries, to broaden and strengthen the voice and participation of developing countries in international economic decision-making, norm-setting and global economic governance;

4. *Welcomes* the work of the High-level Panel on the Development of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index for Small Island Developing States, which was co-chaired by the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Gaston Browne, and the former Prime Minister of Norway, Erna Solberg, including its consultations with Member States, and in this regard takes note of the Panel's final report and the recommendations contained therein;

5. *Notes* that the United Nations, on the basis of its universal membership and legitimacy, provides a unique and key forum for discussing international economic issues and their impact on development, and reaffirms that the United Nations is well positioned to participate in various reform processes aimed at improving and strengthening the effective functioning of the international financial system and architecture, while recognizing that the United Nations and the international financial institutions have complementary mandates that make the coordination of their actions crucial;

6. *Recognizes* the important efforts undertaken nationally, regionally and internationally to respond to the challenges posed by the global financial and economic crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent multiple crises, and also recognizes that more needs to be done in order to promote the economic recovery, to manage the consequences of volatility in global financial and commodity markets, especially continued high inflation, high interest rates and exchange rate pressures, as well as capital flight from shock-vulnerable countries, to tackle high unemployment and rising indebtedness in many countries, as well as widespread fiscal strains, to reinforce the banking sector, including by increasing its transparency and accountability, to address systemic fragilities and imbalances, to

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<sup>54</sup> [A/78/178](#).

<sup>55</sup> See [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21, annex.

<sup>56</sup> Resolution [70/1](#).

reform and strengthen the international financial system and to continue and to enhance the coordination of financial and economic policies at the international level;

7. *Acknowledges* that growing risks from more frequent and interconnected shocks require new and innovative financing instruments to boost the availability of resources for all countries in need;

8. *Also acknowledges* that endeavours to overcome the global financial and economic crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent multiple crises must go beyond short-term relief, and recognizes the need for continued action to support the developing countries, including middle-income countries, that are most in need, on an inclusive basis, including through enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and international financial institutions and multilateral and regional development banks, according to their respective mandates, net positive flows from the international financial institutions to developing countries, sufficient concessional finance by, inter alia, enhancing access to concessional, long-term loans and development assistance while mobilizing catalytically additional resources from the private sector and assisting developing countries in addressing debt vulnerability and liquidity risk in the immediate term and in attaining debt sustainability in the long term, notes the multilateral response to the pandemic, including the Group of 20 and Paris Club Debt Service Suspension Initiative, and remains concerned with the lack of participation of private creditors, appreciates the recent progress made in the ongoing implementation of the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the Debt Service Suspension Initiative, encourages the Group of 20 and Paris Club creditors to discuss options for implementing comparability of the treatment of private and other official bilateral creditors, expanding support to highly indebted developing countries, considering the provision of temporary debt standstills on a case-by-case basis throughout negotiations and facilitating rapid recovery of capital market access following restructuring, and calls for stepping up efforts to improve and implement the Common Framework in a timely, orderly, predictable and coordinated manner, noting the possibility for greater collaboration of credit rating agencies in this regard, and notes the liquidity support for countries with liquidity constraints and the forthcoming evaluation of funding needs of the International Monetary Fund Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust;

9. *Recognizes* the role of special drawing rights as an international reserve asset, acknowledges that special drawing rights allocations helped to supplement international reserves in response to the world financial and economic crisis as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, thus contributing to the stability of the international financial system and global economic resilience, and supports the continued examination of the broader use of special drawing rights as a way to enhance the resilience of the international monetary system, including with reference to their potential role in the international reserve system;

10. *Welcomes* the special drawing rights allocation of the equivalent of 650 billion United States dollars of 23 August 2021, recommends the exploration of further voluntary options related to special drawing rights that could serve the needs of developing member countries of the International Monetary Fund, calls for the urgent voluntary rechanneling of special drawing rights for countries most in need, including through multilateral development banks, while respecting relevant legal frameworks and preserving the reserve asset character of special drawing rights, and will explore ways for future allocations of special drawing rights to benefit those countries most in need;

11. *Takes note* with appreciation of the operationalization of the Resilience and Sustainability Trust of the International Monetary Fund to help eligible countries address longer-term structural challenges that pose macroeconomic risks, looks forward to the upcoming interim review of the Trust, and notes that debt sustainability and liquidity can play an important role in achieving a sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery and the Sustainable Development Goals;

12. *Stresses* that multilateral development banks are a key component of the reform of the international financial system, and also stresses the need to strengthen multilateral development banks and consider an increase in concessional funding from multilateral development banks, taking note of the recommendations under the Capital Adequacy Framework review by multilateral development banks to increase their lending and for the consideration of global financial system reform, which includes lending criteria that complement or go beyond gross domestic product and are based on a comprehensive understanding of multidimensional factors, including but not limited to vulnerability and resilience of developing countries;

13. *Urges* multilateral development banks to bring forward actions to mobilize and provide additional financing within their mandates to support developing countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, supports multilateral development bank reform efforts and calls for continued tangible progress in this regard, including through securing increases to grants and concessional finance, better leveraging their capital bases and

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considering ways for the respective boards of the multilateral development banks to increase their capitalization, and encourages dialogue between multilateral development banks and other financial institutions;

14. *Stresses* the critical importance of a stable, inclusive and enabling global economic environment for the advancement of sustainable development, for the reliable and effective financing of development and for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, mobilizing public and private, as well as domestic and international resources;

15. *Notes* the adoption by the Statistical Commission of the proposed new indicator 17.3.1 under Sustainable Development Goal target 17.3 (Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources), also notes the need for open, inclusive and transparent discussions on the modernization of official development assistance measurement and the new measure of “total official support for sustainable development”, and affirms that any such measure will not dilute commitments already made;

16. *Reiterates* that debtors and creditors, including both public and private, must work together in a transparent manner to prevent and resolve unsustainable debt situations and that maintaining sustainable debt levels is the responsibility of the borrowing countries, acknowledging, however, that lenders also have a responsibility to lend in a way that does not undermine a country’s debt sustainability, and in this regard takes note of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development principles on responsible sovereign lending and borrowing and recognizes the applicable requirements of the International Monetary Fund debt limits policy and/or the World Bank Sustainable Development Finance Policy, as well as the safeguards of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in its statistical system to enhance the debt sustainability of recipient countries, and will work towards a global consensus on guidelines for debtor and creditor responsibilities in borrowing by and lending to sovereigns, building on existing initiatives;

17. *Invites*, in this regard, the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General to give appropriate consideration to the central role of maintaining and facilitating the financial and macroeconomic stability of developing countries, including debt sustainability, and of supporting an appropriately enabling domestic and international economic, financial and regulatory environment for the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including financial inclusion, and in this regard invites all major institutional stakeholders, including the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to support these efforts, in accordance with their respective mandates;

18. *Encourages*, in this regard, the Economic and Social Council to consider, at its annual forum on financing for development follow-up, a dedicated discussion and analysis of systemic issues and challenges, taking into account the roles of all international financial institutions and also the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in accordance with their respective mandates, pursuant to the relevant resolutions on this matter, including its resolution 69/313 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the mandate of the annual forum on financing for development follow-up set out therein;

19. *Resolves* to strengthen the coherence and consistency of multilateral financial, investment, trade and development policy and environment institutions and platforms and to increase cooperation between major international institutions, while respecting mandates and governance structures, and commits itself to taking better advantage of relevant United Nations forums for promoting universal and holistic coherence and international commitments to sustainable development, building on the vision of the Monterrey Consensus, with a view to supporting the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda;

20. *Recalls* that countries must have, in accordance with their specific needs and circumstances, the flexibility necessary to implement countercyclical measures and pursue tailored and targeted responses to the various types of shocks, including economic and financial crises, notes that, in the 2018 International Monetary Fund review of programme design and conditionality, it was found that the number of structural conditions included in programmes of the Fund had increased over time, and calls for the Fund to build on recent progress to further prioritize reforms and streamline conditions to ensure that they are timely, tailored and targeted, in accordance with national circumstances and priorities, and that they support developing countries in the face of financial, economic and development challenges;

21. *Notes*, in this regard, the new strategy of the International Monetary Fund for engagement on social spending, welcomes the Fund’s recognition of the adverse impacts that fiscal adjustment could have on the vulnerable, for whom social spending is critical to achieving the commitments under the 2030 Agenda, including nationally

appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and encourages greater collaboration on social protection finance among all international development institutions;

22. *Invites* the multilateral development banks and other international development banks to continue to provide both concessional and non-concessional, stable, long-term development finance by leveraging contributions and capital, including hybrid capital, and by mobilizing resources for developing countries from multiple sources, for example from capital markets, and stresses that development banks should make optimal use of their resources and balance sheets, while preserving long-term financial sustainability, robust credit ratings and preferred creditor status, consistent with maintaining their financial integrity, and should continue to discuss options for implementing the recommendations of the independent review of multilateral development banks' capital adequacy frameworks, commissioned by the Group of 20, and should update and develop their policies in support of the 2030 Agenda, including the Sustainable Development Goals, as appropriate;

23. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the ongoing work of international financial institutions, including the more recently established New Development Bank and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, in the global development finance architecture, and encourages enhanced regional and subregional cooperation, including through regional and subregional development banks, commercial and reserve currency arrangements and other regional and subregional initiatives;

24. *Encourages*, in this regard, the multilateral development banks to continue to move forward on flexible, concessional, fast-disbursing and front-loaded assistance and innovative financial instruments that can absorb or diminish the financial costs for developing countries, with due regard to ensuring the financial sustainability of the banks, that will substantially and quickly assist developing countries facing financing gaps in their efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, in line with their national development priorities, taking into consideration the individual absorptive capacities and debt sustainability of those countries, and invites shareholders of regional development banks to ensure that they remain sufficiently capitalized so as to be able to meet those needs, and encourages an ambitious replenishment of the International Development Association to keep and increase the funding of the most concessional facilities of the World Bank;

25. *Also encourages* the multilateral development banks, within their respective mandates and in a coordinated way, to continue to expand technical assistance, disseminate and share their knowledge and best practices, as well as foster a deeper understanding of financial capacity and capital needs, in order to enhance the multiplier effect of their financing by leveraging more resources and diversifying their sources, including by mobilizing long-term and sustainable private investment, from domestic and international actors, to provide innovative and integral solutions to multidimensional development problems, in particular in developing and emerging economies;

26. *Recognizes* the need for the international financial institutions, as appropriate, to promote gender mainstreaming in their policies and programmes, including macroeconomic, job creation and structural reform policies and programmes, in accordance with relevant national priorities and strategies;

27. *Urges* multilateral donors and invites the international financial institutions and regional development banks, within their respective mandates, to review and implement policies that support national efforts to ensure that a higher proportion of resources reach women and girls, in particular in rural and remote areas, and invites multilateral and regional development banks to agree on common indicators for analysing the gender impact of their lending;

28. *Recognizes* that it is important that all international financial institutions and multilateral development banks continue to be adequately resourced, and reiterates the importance of further governance reform in order to adapt to changes in the global economy;

29. *Recalls* the commitment of the International Monetary Fund to revisiting the adequacy of quotas and continuing the process of governance reform under the sixteenth general review of quotas, including a new quota formula as a guide, by 15 December 2023, and the commitment to ensuring the primary role of quotas in Fund resources, and that any adjustment in quota shares would be expected to result in increases in the quota shares of dynamic economies in line with their relative positions in the world economy and hence likely in the share of emerging market and developing countries as a whole, while protecting the voice and representation of the poorest members, and recommits itself to the broadening and strengthening of the voice and participation of developing countries, including African countries, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States, middle-income countries and countries in conflict and post-conflict situations, in international economic decision-making, norm-setting and global economic governance;

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30. *Encourages* Member States to work together to strengthen and improve a system in which different layers of the global financial safety net are closely coordinated and have clear assignments of responsibilities and consider enhancing regional financial arrangements to help countries to weather shocks, strengthen their capacity to detect risk and create new regional arrangements where there are not sufficient institutions in place;

31. *Acknowledges* the importance of the international financial institutions supporting, in line with their mandates, the policy space of each country, while remaining consistent with relevant international rules and commitments, in particular developing countries;

32. *Reaffirms* that cohesive, nationally owned sustainable development strategies, supported by integrated national financing frameworks, will be at the heart of efforts, reiterates that each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, expresses respect for each country's policy space and leadership to implement policies for the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions and for sustainable development, while remaining consistent with relevant international rules and commitments, at the same time recognizes that national development efforts need to be supported by an enabling international economic environment, including coherent and mutually supporting world trade, monetary and financial systems and strengthened and enhanced global economic governance, and that processes to develop and facilitate the availability of appropriate knowledge and technologies globally, as well as capacity-building, are also critical, and commits to pursuing policy coherence and an enabling environment for sustainable development at all levels and by all actors, and to reinvigorating the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development;

33. *Recommits* itself to a redoubling of its efforts to substantially reduce illicit financial flows by 2030, with a view to eventually eliminating them, including by combating tax evasion and corruption through strengthened national regulation and stronger and more effective international cooperation;

34. *Notes* that rapid developments in digital financial technology, further accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic, have transformed the provision of financial services and created a new ecosystem of digital assets, recognizes the relevance of carefully monitoring domestic and global developments, reviewing and updating regulatory frameworks when necessary and cooperating across sectors and borders to support enabling environments that take due account of opportunities and risks to ensure a more balanced view of digital financial innovations, while still fostering competition and innovations in the financial system, and requests the United Nations system to continue to support developing countries through knowledge-sharing, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and capacity-building in order to better address the opportunities, challenges and implications of emerging digital financial technologies, including digital inequality;

35. *Also notes* the development of central bank digital currencies, and encourages regulators to consider potential opportunities and risks for the international and domestic financial system;

36. *Further notes* the statement by the Financial Stability Board on international regulation and supervision of cryptoasset activities, including stablecoins, of 11 July 2022, underlining that stablecoins should be covered by robust regulations and supervision by relevant authorities if they are to be adopted as a widely used means of payment or otherwise play an important role in the financial system, in line with their national regulations and policies;

37. *Notes* the work by the Financial Stability Board on financial market reform, commits itself to sustaining or strengthening frameworks for macroprudential regulation and countercyclical buffers, reaffirms the commitment to hastening the completion of the reform agenda on financial market regulation, including assessing and if necessary reducing the systemic risks associated with non-bank financial intermediation, markets for derivatives, securities lending and repurchase agreements, and also reaffirms the commitment to addressing the risk created by "too-big-to-fail" financial institutions and to addressing cross-border elements in the effective resolution of troubled, systemically important financial institutions;

38. *Also notes* that there are growing risks outside the regulatory framework, including through non-bank financial institutions and financial technology, and calls upon financial regulators to increasingly shift towards examining the underlying risks associated with financial activity rather than the type of financial institution;

39. *Calls upon* financial regulators to encourage financial institutions to explore new opportunities to improve their ability to better manage risks, including through anti-money-laundering and countering the financing of terrorism measures, as well as through the greater use of technology to help to address the costs and risks of operating correspondent banking relationships;

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40. *Emphasizes* the relevance of inclusion in the international financial system at all levels and the importance of considering financial inclusion as a policy objective in financial regulation, in accordance with national priorities and legislation;

41. *Reiterates* that effective, inclusive multilateral surveillance should be at the centre of crisis prevention efforts, stresses the need to continue to strengthen surveillance of the financial policies of countries, and in this regard notes the current efforts to update the surveillance approach of the International Monetary Fund in line with its mandate to better integrate bilateral and multilateral surveillance, along with cross-border and cross-sectoral linkages with macroeconomic and macroprudential policies, while paying closer attention to the spillover effects from national economic and financial policies on to the global economy;

42. *Notes* the potential for source countries of capital flows to use appropriate combinations of macroeconomic, macroprudential and regulatory policies that avoid excessive leverage and large international spillovers in the form of capital flow volatility, while still meeting domestic macroeconomic objectives, encourages source countries to consider such policies, while clearly communicating monetary policy decisions, and calls for greater macroeconomic coordination among systemically important economies, which can also help to address global financial market volatility;

43. *Invites* the international financial and banking institutions, in consultation with national Governments, to develop tailored guidelines on how countries can attract long-term international investments, guided by the 2030 Agenda, in line with national plans and policies, and with a view to minimizing the adverse effects of capital market volatility;

44. *Reiterates* the need to resolve to reduce mechanistic reliance on credit-rating agency assessments, including in regulations, and to promote increased competition as well as measures to avoid conflict of interest in the provision of credit ratings, underlining the importance that credit rating agencies ensure that their ratings are objective, independent, forward-looking and based on accurate information and sound analytical methods, and notes that Member States may consider the feasibility of establishing public rating agencies;

45. *Invites* the international financial and banking institutions to continue to enhance the transparency and analytical rigour of risk-rating mechanisms, noting that sovereign risk assessments should maximize the use of objective and transparent parameters, which can be facilitated by high-quality data and analysis, and encourages relevant institutions, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to continue their work on the issue, including the potential impact of the role played by private credit-rating agencies on the development prospects of developing countries, in accordance with their mandates;

46. *Recommits* itself to enabling women's full, equal and meaningful participation in the economy and their equal access to decision-making processes and leadership;

47. *Encourages* all development banks to establish or maintain social and environmental safeguard systems, including on sustainable infrastructure, human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment, that are transparent, effective, efficient and time-sensitive, and engage affected communities in project design and implementation;

48. *Reiterates* that States are strongly urged to refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries;

49. *Requests*, in this regard, the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session an action-oriented report on the implementation of the present resolution, with a particular focus on reform of the international financial system in the post-COVID era;

50. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled "Macroeconomic policy questions", the sub-item entitled "International financial system and development", unless otherwise agreed.



**RESOLUTION 78/137**

Adopted at the 49th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/459/Add.3, para. 7)<sup>57</sup>

**78/137. External debt sustainability and development**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 58/203 of 23 December 2003, 59/223 of 22 December 2004, 60/187 of 22 December 2005, 61/188 of 20 December 2006, 62/186 of 19 December 2007, 63/206 of 19 December 2008, 64/191 of 21 December 2009, 65/144 of 20 December 2010, 66/189 of 22 December 2011, 67/198 of 21 December 2012, 68/202 of 20 December 2013, 69/207 of 19 December 2014, 70/190 of 22 December 2015, 71/216 of 21 December 2016, 72/204 of 20 December 2017, 73/221 of 20 December 2018, 74/203 of 19 December 2019, 75/205 of 21 December 2020, 76/193 of 17 December 2021 and 77/153 of 14 December 2022,

*Noting* the work of the United Nations in this area,

*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 Agreement,<sup>58</sup> and encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change<sup>59</sup> that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

*Recalling* the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development and its outcome document,<sup>60</sup>

*Recalling also* the 2023 Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up and its intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations,<sup>61</sup>

*Welcoming* the convening of the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development held in New York on 20 September 2023,

*Emphasizing* that debt sustainability is essential for underpinning growth, underlining the importance of debt sustainability, debt transparency and effective debt management to the efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and acknowledging that debt crises are costly and disruptive, including for employment and productive investment, and tend to be followed by cuts in public spending, including on health and education, affecting the poor and vulnerable in particular,

*Reaffirming* that each country has primary responsibility for its own development, including through maintaining its own debt sustainability, and that the role of national policies and development strategies, including in

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<sup>57</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee.

<sup>58</sup> See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

<sup>59</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

<sup>60</sup> Resolution 63/303, annex.

<sup>61</sup> See E/FFDF/2023/3.

the area of debt management, is central to the achievement of sustainable development, and recognizing that national efforts, including to achieve development goals and to maintain debt sustainability, should be complemented by supportive global programmes, measures and policies aimed at expanding the development opportunities of developing countries, while taking into account national conditions and ensuring respect for national ownership, strategies and sovereignty,

*Noting* the increasing share of domestic borrowing, and acknowledging that the development of domestic bond markets can contribute to fiscal and financial resilience and mitigate exchange rate risks in times of financial turbulence, while noting that excessive borrowing from the domestic banking system could also exacerbate vulnerabilities through the sovereign-bank nexus, in the event of a crisis,

*Reiterating* that debt sustainability depends on a confluence of many factors at the international and national levels, and emphasizing that country-specific circumstances and the impact of external shocks, such as volatile commodity and energy prices, more intense and frequent natural disasters and international capital flows, should continue to be taken into account in debt sustainability analyses,

*Expressing concern* that a development setback is already under way, with elevated debt burdens further hampering efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and strengthen economic resilience, and that, for developing countries, keeping debt default at bay has come with difficult policy decisions, which may create constraints on mobilizing the resources needed to achieve sustainable development,

*Recognizing with deep concern* that tighter global financial conditions have contributed significantly to a finance divide between and within countries, leading to higher external borrowing costs, which could, inter alia, make it more difficult for developing countries to pay for external debt servicing and could push more countries towards debt distress, and undermine their debt sustainability,

*Expressing concern* about the adverse impact of and risks resulting from the continuing fragility of the global economy and the slow pace of the restoration of global growth and trade, including the impact on development, net negative capital flows from some emerging and developing economies and inequalities for young people, women, persons with disabilities, people in rural and remote areas and other people in vulnerable situations, underlining that global growth has remained strongly dependent on unprecedented increases in global debt stocks and, in conjunction with the fast integration of developing countries into international financial markets, including for purposes of debt refinancing, exposes a growing number of developing economies to highly sensitive and amplified reactions in financial markets, and stressing the need for continuing efforts to address systemic fragilities and imbalances and to reform and strengthen the international financial system, while implementing the reforms agreed upon to date to attend to these challenges and to make progress towards sustaining global demand,

*Underlining* that, globally, the gross domestic product growth rate could increase significantly if every country achieved gender equality, and recognizing that the economic and social losses owing to a lack of progress in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are significant,

*Recognizing with concern* that, in 2022, the external debt positions of many developing countries remained alarmingly high, of which several had continued to deteriorate, with external debt stocks of developing countries reaching a level of 11.4 trillion United States dollars,

*Recognizing* the important role, on a case-by-case basis, of debt relief, including debt cancellation, as appropriate, and debt restructuring as debt crisis prevention, management and resolution tools,

*Recalling* the Sendai Declaration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,<sup>62</sup> reiterating that severe natural disasters and social or economic shocks can pose immediate fiscal challenges or undermine a country's debt sustainability, and noting that public creditors have taken steps to ease debt repayment obligations through debt rescheduling and debt cancellation following an earthquake or a tsunami and in the context of the Ebola crisis in West Africa, noting the debt swap initiative of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Debt for Climate Adaptation Swap, and encouraging consideration of further debt relief steps, such as the use of State-contingent debt instruments where appropriate, and/or other measures for countries affected in this regard, as feasible,

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<sup>62</sup> Resolution 69/283, annexes I and II.

*Recalling also* the call made in February 2022 by the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund to prioritize help to those countries that need debt restructuring, considering that the share of low-income countries at high risk or already in debt distress has doubled since 2015,

*Expressing deep concern* that a number of countries in special situations, in particular African countries, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as a growing number of middle-income countries, face challenges in servicing their debt and that, in spite of international efforts, 52 per cent of low-income countries and 25 per cent of emerging economies are considered by the International Monetary Fund as being in debt distress or at high risk of debt distress, and the impact of high inflation and exchange rate fluctuations and rising international interest rates have significantly increased debt servicing costs,

*Recognizing with deep concern* the debt challenges faced by sub-Saharan Africa reflected in the ratio of public and publicly guaranteed debt service to government revenues, which increased to 18.4 per cent in 2022 from 13.6 per cent in 2021, to which the economic slowdown contributed,

*Expressing deep concern* that indicators of external debt sustainability of least developed countries deteriorated in 2022, and that the ratio of total debt service to export revenues rose to 18.9 per cent from 18.3 per cent in 2021, the share of government revenues spent on servicing the public and publicly guaranteed debt rose to 17.0 per cent from 15.6 per cent in 2021 and the ratio of reserves to short-term debt fell from 336 per cent in 2021 to 277.5 per cent in 2022,

*Recognizing with concern* that, although the ratio of total debt service to export revenues fell to 16.4 per cent in 2022 from 20.6 per cent in 2021, the liquidity buffer of small island developing States decreased to 148.3 per cent in 2022 from 181.9 per cent in 2021, making this group particularly vulnerable to external financial shocks,

*Recognizing with concern also* that the ratio of total external debt service to exports in low- and middle-income countries reached 13.2 per cent in 2022 and for low-income countries this ratio rose to a level of 22.6 per cent of their export earnings,

*Recognizing with concern further* that, prior to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, total external debt stocks of developing countries reached a new record of 10 trillion dollars and rising external debt burdens continued to absorb a growing share of developing countries' resources and simultaneously the ability of developing countries to self-insure against exogenous economic and non-economic shocks, and increased market risk through international reserve cushions continued to weaken, recognizing with concern also that there has been a deterioration in the external debt sustainability of economies, in particular in the most vulnerable and in middle-income countries throughout the crisis, despite efforts by the Group of 20, targeted at the most vulnerable countries, and bilateral creditors, such as the Paris Club and non-Paris Club members, and the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to address the challenges of debt sustainability, and encouraging them to continue their work to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, socioeconomic crisis and the increase in cost of living on debtor countries' debt sustainability,

*Recognizing* the importance of debt sustainability for the smooth transition of countries graduating from least developed country status, as well as those that have already graduated,

*Emphasizing* that international support, in the form of official development assistance and a coordinated multilateral effort to provide low-cost, long-term development financing, as well as enhanced domestic resource mobilization, which is the primary source of financing for development across all country classifications, are needed to address the growing challenges to developing countries' debt sustainability,

*Taking note* of the operational guidelines for sustainable financing promoted by the Group of 20, while urging the Group to continue to engage in an inclusive and transparent manner with other States Members of the United Nations in its work, in order to ensure that the initiatives of the Group complement or strengthen the United Nations system, and noting the progress achieved in the implementation of the operational guidelines,

*Noting* the need for coordinated efforts by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to promote responsible, transparent and sustainable lending and borrowing,

*Noting with concern* that countries around the world continue to grapple with multiple crises, including the ongoing impacts of COVID-19, climate change and geopolitical tensions and conflicts which have accentuated food, energy and financial challenges and undermined inclusive recovery and eradication of poverty, while rising risk

aversion has triggered capital outflows from emerging market economies, causing adverse effects on the debt sustainability efforts of developing countries,

*Noting with great concern* the severe negative impact on human health, safety and well-being caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, as well as the severe disruption to societies and economies and the devastating impact on lives and livelihoods, and that the poorest and most vulnerable are the hardest hit by the pandemic, reaffirming the ambition to get back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by designing and implementing sustainable and inclusive recovery strategies to accelerate progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to help to reduce the risk of and build resilience to future shocks, crises and pandemics, including by strengthening health systems and achieving universal health coverage, and recognizing that equitable and timely access for all to safe, quality, effective and affordable COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics are an essential part of a global response based on unity, solidarity, renewed multilateral cooperation and the principle of leaving no one behind,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;<sup>63</sup>
2. *Emphasizes* the special importance of predictable, timely, effective, comprehensive and durable solutions to the debt problems of developing countries to promote their economic growth and development;
3. *Recognizes* the importance, in particular, of new and emerging challenges and vulnerabilities in regard to developing country external debt sustainability arising from structural changes to overall debt composition, the rapid growth of private sector debt in many emerging and developing countries and the growing use of new debt financing instruments and approaches;
4. *Notes* the growing concerns about fast-rising corporate debt, high-risk exposure to volatile international financial markets and fast-growing debt servicing burdens as potential triggers of financial and debt crises and the consequent need for coordinated policy responses;
5. *Stresses* the need to continue to assist developing countries in avoiding a build-up of unsustainable debt and in implementing resilience measures so as to reduce the risk of relapsing into another debt crisis, taking into account the challenges posed by the global economic environment and risks for debt sustainability in a growing number of developing countries;
6. *Acknowledges* the role played by the Debt Sustainability Framework for Low-Income Countries, jointly developed by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, to guide borrowing and lending decisions, and notes its operationalization in 2018 and the further enhancement of debt sustainability assessment frameworks, consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>64</sup> and longer-term structural transformation;
7. *Reiterates* that no single indicator should be used to make definitive judgments about a country's debt sustainability, and, in view of the new challenges and vulnerabilities for developing countries' external debt sustainability, substantiated by the work of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and recent joint analyses of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, stresses the need for improved data collection and quality in areas that include domestic public debt and domestic and external private debt, as well as legal and regulatory features, such as ownership, currency denomination and jurisdiction according to national priorities, welcomes the work of the High-level Panel on the Development of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index for Small Island Developing States, which was co-chaired by the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Gaston Browne, and the former Prime Minister of Norway, Erna Solberg, including its consultations with Member States, and in this regard takes note of the Panel's final report and the recommendations contained therein;
8. *Also reiterates* that timely and comprehensive data on the level and composition of debt are necessary for, inter alia, building early warning systems aimed at limiting the impact of debt crises, calls for debtor and creditor countries to intensify their efforts to collect and release data, where appropriate, welcomes the ongoing work of relevant institutions to apply innovative tools for monitoring financial stress in developing countries and to invite relevant institutions to consider the creation of a central data registry that includes information on debt restructuring,

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<sup>63</sup> See [A/78/229](#).

<sup>64</sup> Resolution [70/1](#).

and calls for donors to consider increasing their support for technical cooperation programmes aimed at increasing the statistical capacity of developing countries in that regard;

9. *Encourages* the United Nations system, the World Bank Group, the International Monetary Fund and other relevant stakeholders, including the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, to continue to conduct analytical activities and to provide policy advice and technical assistance to Governments, upon request, in the areas of managing debt, and operating and maintaining databases, and in this regard recalls that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development should continue its analytical and policy work and technical assistance on debt issues, including the Debt Management and Financial Analysis System Programme, so that this extends not only to improvements in the timeliness and accuracy of debt data recording, but also to the enhanced coverage of public sector and other relevant debt data, including, in particular, heretofore unrecorded or hidden debt instruments, contingent liabilities and more complex debt instruments;

10. *Stresses* the need to strengthen information-sharing and transparency among all creditors and borrowers to make sure that debt sustainability assessments are based on comprehensive, objective and reliable data, including an assessment of national public and private debt, in order to ensure the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, encourages further improvement of the mutual exchange of information, on a voluntary basis, on borrowing and lending among all creditors and borrowers, and takes note of the Paris Forum initiative, which gathers together sovereign creditors and debtors to share views and information, promote greater debt transparency and preserve debt sustainability;

11. *Recognizes* that the long-term sustainability of debt depends on, inter alia, economic growth, the mobilization of domestic and international resources, the export prospects of debtor countries, sustainable debt management, sound macroeconomic policies that also support job creation, transparent and effective regulatory frameworks and success in overcoming structural development problems and, hence, on the creation of an enabling environment at all levels that is conducive to sustainable development, and also recognizes the need to assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability, through coordinated policies aimed at fostering adequate debt financing and resolution tools, such as debt relief and debt restructuring supporting sound debt management;

12. *Notes with concern* that some low- and middle-income developing countries that were not part of the existing debt relief initiatives now have large debt burdens that may create constraints on mobilizing the resources needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, indicating a need to consider, as appropriate, stronger debt management initiatives for those countries, and stresses the importance of medium- and long-term debt sustainability to deal with debt, including non-Paris Club debt;

13. *Underlines* the fact that heavily indebted poor countries eligible for debt relief will not be able to enjoy the full benefits unless all creditors, both public and private, contribute to debt workouts, as appropriate, in order to ensure the debt sustainability of those countries, and invites creditors, both private and public, that are not yet fully participating in debt relief initiatives to substantially increase their participation, including by providing comparable treatment to debtor countries that have concluded sustainable debt relief agreements with creditors;

14. *Stresses* the need for the international community to remain vigilant in monitoring the debt situation of developing countries, including the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, and to continue to take effective measures, preferably within existing frameworks, when applicable, to address the debt problem of those countries, acknowledges that sound debt management initiatives can play a key role in liberating resources that should be directed towards activities consistent with the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, and with the promotion of sustained economic growth and development and the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals, and in this regard urges countries to direct the resources freed through debt relief, in particular through debt cancellation and reduction, towards achieving those objectives, while still maintaining sustainable debt levels through prudent fiscal management, including in the context of the 2030 Agenda, according to their national priorities and strategies;

15. *Notes* that countries can seek to negotiate, as a last resort, on a case-by-case basis and through existing frameworks, agreements on temporary debt standstills between debtors and creditors in order to help to mitigate the adverse impacts of a debt crisis and stabilize macroeconomic developments;

16. *Acknowledges* the efforts of, and invites creditors to provide additional flexibility to, developing countries affected by natural disasters so as to allow them to address their national debt concerns, while taking into account their specific economic and social situations and needs;

17. *Recognizes* that the detrimental impact of disasters on the debt sustainability of many least developed countries, small island developing States and middle-income countries warrants further attention and that preserving external debt sustainability requires ex ante financing to enable the systematic reduction of disaster risk and resilience-building, as well as the disclosure of disaster risk to avoid exacerbating debt distress, when feasible, and in this regard recognizes that many least developed countries, small island developing States and middle-income countries have limited access to financing to invest in disaster risk reduction for resilience before and after disasters, while noting the potential benefits of climate-resilient debt instruments;

18. *Acknowledges* that State-contingent debt instruments could further strengthen borrower resilience, encourages the consideration of their use where appropriate, with a view to providing breathing room to countries hit by shocks, welcomes the development of climate-resilient debt clauses, where appropriate, and further notes that clauses that consider other catastrophic external shocks could also be developed;

19. *Recognizes* that, in some cases, the use of public debt and renewed external borrowing to absorb the impact of a disaster could lead to higher debt servicing for developing countries and constrain their growth and their capacity to invest in long-term resilience-building measures, and further acknowledges that, with each new disaster, financial vulnerabilities grow and domestic response capacities weaken;

20. *Also recognizes* the importance of the creation of robust, nationally appropriate legal and regulatory frameworks for sustainable national and municipal borrowing, on the basis of sustainable debt management, supported by adequate revenues and capacities, by means of local creditworthiness, as well as expanded sustainable municipal debt markets, when appropriate, and in this regard underlines the importance of the establishment of appropriate financial intermediaries for urban financing, such as regional, national, subnational and local development funds or development banks, including pooled financing mechanisms, which can catalyse public and private, national and international financing;

21. *Further recognizes* that developing countries experiencing high debt distress can concurrently experience socioeconomic challenges and stretched social safety nets, and invites a multilateral response that supports these countries to achieve debt sustainability and sustainable development;

22. *Underlines* the importance of multilateral efforts to tackle increasingly complex cross-border challenges that have serious effects on development and debt sustainability;

23. *Recognizes with appreciation* the steps taken by the Group of 20, in particular under the presidencies of Saudi Arabia, Italy, Indonesia and India, to further promote debt-related measures and the implementation of the Debt Service Suspension Initiative and the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the Debt Service Suspension Initiative, and the recent agreements concluded under the Common Framework, while recognizing that delays in the implementation of the Common Framework may have impacted the confidence of some eligible countries and that the fear of downgrading inhibited some eligible countries from applying, emphasizes in that regard the need to further strengthen the Common Framework and calls to implement it fully in a transparent, predictable, timely, orderly and coordinated manner, including to increase the fiscal space of countries in debt distress, encourages greater private sector participation through more clarity in assessing comparability of treatment, while also noting that more needs to be done to respond to the need of countries not covered by current initiatives, including middle-income countries, and in this regard reaffirms the growing urgency of dealing not only with liquidity but also solvency risks;

24. *Welcomes* the special drawing rights allocation of the equivalent of 650 billion United States dollars of 23 August 2021, commends the achievement of the target of 100 billion dollars in pledges for rechanneling special drawing rights or equivalent contributions, recommends the exploration of further voluntary options related to special drawing rights that could serve the needs of developing member countries of the International Monetary Fund, calls for the urgent voluntary rechanneling of special drawing rights for countries most in need, including through multilateral development banks, while respecting relevant legal frameworks and preserving the reserve asset character of special drawing rights, and will explore ways for future allocations of special drawing rights to benefit those countries most in need;

25. *Looks forward* to the interim review of the Resilience and Sustainability Trust, considering the experiences with the Resilience and Sustainability Facility programmes;

#### IV. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Second Committee

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26. *Recommends* assisting developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief, debt restructuring and sound debt management, as appropriate, to enhance the ability of countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals;

27. *Also recommends* the facilitation of timely and orderly debt treatment with the broad participation of all creditors, including those in the private sector, on comparable terms, stresses the need in the medium term to strengthen information-sharing between debtors and creditors, as necessary, and long-term debt sustainability analysis, based on comprehensive, objective, transparent and reliable data, and technical cooperation that takes account of the requirements of sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda, and emphasizes the urgency of strengthening international efforts and cooperation and responding to the call for the easing of debt burdens by addressing the debt vulnerability, in the immediate term, and the debt sustainability, in the long term, of heavily indebted developing countries;

28. *Recognizes* the role of the United Nations and of the international financial institutions, in accordance with their respective mandates, and encourages them to continue to support global efforts towards sustained and inclusive growth, sustainable development and the external debt sustainability of developing countries, including through continued monitoring of global financial flows and their implications in this regard;

29. *Takes note* of the Chair's statement in 2023 at the forty-eighth meeting of the International Monetary and Financial Committee, in which it was stated that a review of surcharge policies would be considered, and looks forward to this discussion;

30. *Recognizes* the important role of credit ratings in the capital market ecosystem, as they provide creditors and the public with assessments of a debtor's relative risk of default, and acknowledges that downgraded ratings may negatively affect the opinion of lenders and bondholders and as a result raise the cost and reduce the availability of future debt funding, and that it is important that credit rating agencies ensure that their ratings are objective, independent and based on accurate information and sound analytical methods, including by considering development, social and environmental indicators and impacts of external shocks in their ratings, to the extent that these factors have an impact on debt risk, noting in this regard the high-level meeting on the role of credit rating agencies in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

31. *Reiterates* that debtors and creditors must work together in a transparent manner to prevent and resolve unsustainable debt situations and that maintaining sustainable debt levels is the responsibility of the borrowing countries, acknowledges that lenders also have a responsibility to lend in a way that does not undermine a country's debt sustainability, and in this regard takes note of the principles on responsible sovereign lending and borrowing of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, recognizes the applicable requirements of the debt limits policy of the International Monetary Fund and/or the non-concessional borrowing policy of the World Bank and the safeguards of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in its statistical system to enhance the debt sustainability of recipient countries, and resolves to work towards a global consensus on guidelines for debtor and creditor responsibilities in borrowing by and lending to sovereigns, building on existing initiatives;

32. *Calls for* the intensification of efforts to prevent and mitigate the prevalence and cost of debt crises by enhancing international financial mechanisms for crisis prevention and resolution, encourages the private sector to cooperate in this regard, and invites creditors and debtors to further explore, where appropriate and on a mutually agreed, transparent and case-by-case basis, the use of new and improved debt instruments such as debt swaps, including debt for equity in Sustainable Development Goal projects, as well as debt indexation instruments;

33. *Reiterates* the need for multilateral debt mechanisms to fully address sovereign external debt distress and provide an effective, efficient, equitable and predictable mechanism for managing debt crises in view of the development needs of developing countries;

34. *Recalls* the holding of the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in Barbados and Geneva from 3 to 7 October 2021, and the Bridgetown Covenant,<sup>65</sup> and encourages the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in cooperation with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, to continue its analytical and policy work and technical assistance on debt issues, including to promote policies

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<sup>65</sup> [TD/541/Add.2](#).



for responsible, sustainable and transparent sovereign borrowing and lending, as appropriate, and to enhance the efficiency of the global economic system and debt sustainability for the realization of the 2030 Agenda in developing countries;

35. *Expresses its concern* regarding the ability of non-cooperative minority bondholders to disrupt the will of the large majority of bondholders who accept a restructuring of a debt-crisis country's obligations, given the potential broader implications in other countries, notes contractual and legislative steps taken by countries to prevent these activities, and encourages all Governments to take action, as appropriate, and, furthermore, takes note of discussions in the United Nations on debt issues;

36. *Encourages* Governments to be mindful of the ability of non-cooperative minority bondholders to block a restructuring of a debt-crisis country's obligations, and encourages debtors and creditors to work together to draft bond agreements; accordingly;

37. *Welcomes* the reforms to pari passu and collective action clauses proposed by the International Capital Market Association and endorsed by the International Monetary Fund to reduce the vulnerability of sovereigns to holdout creditors, encourages countries to take further action to include those clauses in all their bond issuances, and welcomes the continued work of the International Monetary Fund to monitor the uptake of the clauses and explore options for resolving the issue with the outstanding stock of debt without such clauses;

38. *Recalls* that the United Nations, as a universal intergovernmental body, has provided a platform for both creditors and debtors to discuss ways to improve external debt sustainability, notes the substantive expert debate among the major institutional stakeholders on how to improve debt sustainability and debt restructuring during the 2023 Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up, and in this regard invites continued ongoing cooperation among the international financial institutions, including the Bretton Woods institutions, in particular the International Monetary Fund, relevant United Nations system entities, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and other relevant forums, in accordance with their respective mandates pursuant to the relevant resolutions on this matter;

39. *Also recalls* the establishment of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, notes its seventh session, held in November 2023, at which policy priorities for financing for development, in particular delivering development finance to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: making development finance contribute to environmentally sound industrialization, were items for deliberation, and recalls the request that the work of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development be presented as a regular input to the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up, in accordance with the terms of reference of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts;

40. *Reiterates* the invitation to the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General to give appropriate consideration to the central role of maintaining and facilitating the financial and macroeconomic stability of developing countries, including debt sustainability, and of supporting an appropriately enabling domestic and international economic, financial and regulatory environment for the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and in this regard invites all major institutional stakeholders, including the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to support these efforts, in accordance with their respective mandates;

41. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations system, the World Bank Group, the International Monetary Fund and other relevant stakeholders, and international financial institutions, to scale up technical assistance in debt management, including debt data recording and reporting, and debt transparency and to provide greater coordination of advice, for the delivery of such technical assistance upon request, and to ensure synergies with the full spectrum of debt management mechanisms;

42. *Invites* donor countries, taking into account country-specific debt sustainability analyses, to continue their provision of concessional and grant-based financing to developing countries, which could contribute to debt sustainability in the medium to long term, and notes the provision by the International Monetary Fund of interest relief to eligible developing countries in the form of zero-interest loans;

43. *Calls for* the scaling up of debt swaps for the Sustainable Development Goals, including debt swaps for climate and nature, and debt swaps for food security, as appropriate, while recognizing that debt swaps cannot replace

broader debt treatments in unsustainable debt situations, to allow developing countries to use debt service payments for investments in sustainable development;

44. *Requests* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to develop a mapping exercise on the existing initiatives in the use of debt swaps for the Sustainable Development Goals, including for climate and nature, and to provide an analysis identifying the challenges and recommendations to scale up their use, and to include the results of this work in the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the present resolution;

45. *Invites* the international community to continue efforts to increase support, including financial and technical assistance, for institutional capacity-building in developing countries to enhance sustainable upstream and downstream debt management as an integral part of national development strategies, including by promoting transparent and accountable debt management systems and negotiation and renegotiation capacities and through supporting legal advice in relation to tackling external debt litigation and debt data reconciliation between creditors and debtors so that debt sustainability may be achieved and maintained;

46. *Requests* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and invites the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, in cooperation with the regional commissions, regional development banks and other relevant multilateral financial institutions and stakeholders, to intensify cooperation in respect of activities relating to capacity-building and to early warning monitoring systems in developing countries in the area of debt management and debt sustainability, with a view to contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

47. *Invites* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in cooperation and inclusive dialogue with international financial institutions and relevant international stakeholders, to continue its analytical, policy, technical cooperation and statistical work on debt issues and to strengthen its contribution to enhancing long-term financial and debt sustainability in developing countries, taking into account also the impact of investment requirements arising from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and other global crises, in accordance with the Bridgetown Covenant;

48. *Calls upon* all Member States and the United Nations system to take appropriate measures and actions for the implementation of the commitments, agreements and decisions of the major United Nations conferences and summits, in particular those related to the question of the external debt sustainability of developing countries;

49. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session an action-oriented report on the implementation of the present resolution and to include in his report progress made on international measures and concrete recommendations to accelerate the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development<sup>66</sup> and the 2030 Agenda with respect to matters of debt and debt sustainability and the related efforts to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as their implications for external debt sustainability and development, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “Macroeconomic policy questions”, the sub-item entitled “External debt sustainability and development”, unless otherwise agreed.

#### RESOLUTION 78/138

Adopted at the 49th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/459/Add.4, para. 7)<sup>67</sup>

##### 78/138. Commodities

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 59/224 of 22 December 2004, 61/190 of 20 December 2006, 63/207 of 19 December 2008, 64/192 of 21 December 2009, 66/190 of 22 December 2011, 68/203 of 20 December 2013, 70/191 of 22 December 2015, 72/205 of 20 December 2017, 74/204 of 19 December 2019 and 76/194 of 17 December 2021 on commodities,

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<sup>66</sup> Resolution 69/313, annex.

<sup>67</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee.

#### IV. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Second Committee

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*Recalling also* the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted by Heads of State and Government on 8 September 2000,<sup>68</sup> the 2005 World Summit Outcome adopted on 16 September 2005<sup>69</sup> and its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006 on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals,

*Recalling further* the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002, and the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008,

*Recalling* the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development and its outcome document,<sup>70</sup>

*Recalling also* the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation)<sup>71</sup> and 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”,<sup>72</sup>

*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 Agreement<sup>73</sup> 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 Change<sup>74</sup> that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

*Welcoming* the first part 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 the second part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, held in Montreal, Canada, from 7 to 19 December 2022, and its outcomes, including the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and urging their early, inclusive and effective implementation,

*Welcoming* the convening of the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028, in New York from 22 to 24 March 2023,

*Noting* the ongoing efforts to implement the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2022–2031, adopted in March 2022 at the first part of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,<sup>75</sup> the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, adopted in September 2014

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<sup>68</sup> Resolution 55/2.

<sup>69</sup> Resolution 60/1.

<sup>70</sup> Resolution 63/303, annex.

<sup>71</sup> *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 2, annex.

<sup>72</sup> Resolution 66/288, annex.

<sup>73</sup> Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

<sup>74</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

<sup>75</sup> Resolution 76/258, annex.

at the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States,<sup>76</sup> and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, adopted in November 2014 at the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries,<sup>77</sup> and recognizing the special challenges facing middle-income countries,

*Recalling* the Sendai Declaration<sup>78</sup> and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,<sup>79</sup>

*Recalling also* the holding of the one-day informal interactive dialogue on commodity markets in New York on 31 March 2022, from which resulted a summary that outlined the central messages and conclusions of the two interactive panels held during the dialogue,

*Reaffirming* the importance of supporting Agenda 2063 of the African Union, as well as its first 10-year implementation plan, as a strategic framework for ensuring a positive socioeconomic transformation in Africa within the next 50 years, its continental programme embedded in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the New Partnership for Africa's Development, and regional initiatives,

*Reaffirming also* that, in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, Heads of State and Government expressed concern about the excessive volatility of commodity prices, including for food and agriculture, and its consequences for global food security and improved nutrition outcomes, noted the Agricultural Market Information System hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and called for the provision of access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets, consistent with sustainable management practices as well as initiatives that add value to outputs from small-scale fishers, and noting that, in *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2019: Safeguarding against Economic Slowdowns and Downturns*, the Food and Agriculture Organization highlighted that 80 per cent of the countries – 52 of 65 – with a rise in hunger and an increase in undernourishment during recent economic slowdowns and downturns are countries whose economies are highly dependent on primary commodities for export and/or import,

*Noting* the outcome of the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and taking note of the decisions and agreed conclusions on commodities adopted by the Trade and Development Board and its subsidiary bodies,

*Taking note* of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development *Commodities and Development Reports*, particularly its *Commodities and Development Report 2023: Inclusive Diversification and Energy Transition*, and its *State of Commodity Dependence* reports and its note on commodity dependence and the Sustainable Development Goals, and noting the role that the Conference has been playing as an institution in looking at the interaction between commodity markets and economic development and in the elaboration of the concept of commodity-dependent developing countries,

*Taking note* of resolution [5/12](#) of 2 March 2022 of the United Nations Environment Assembly,<sup>80</sup>

*Noting with concern* that most developing countries have not been able to overcome commodity dependence challenges for several decades,

*Underlining* the importance of advancing sustainable consumption and production patterns,

*Noting with concern* that most commodities exhibited price volatility, driven primarily by a variety of factors relating to supply and demand associated with geopolitical tensions and conflicts, weather patterns, fears of a global economic slowdown and monetary tightening to combat rising inflation across major economies,

*Recognizing* that commodity price volatility, including excessive volatility, can have adverse impacts on both producer and consumer countries, and noting with concern that this can undermine commodity-dependent countries' development efforts, as it could discourage investment, widen trade deficits and aggravate household poverty,

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<sup>76</sup> Resolution [69/15](#), annex.

<sup>77</sup> Resolution [69/137](#), annex II.

<sup>78</sup> Resolution [69/283](#), annex I.

<sup>79</sup> *Ibid.*, annex II.

<sup>80</sup> [UNEP/EA.5/Res.5](#).

*Noting* that commodity price movements have both macroeconomic and microeconomic implications for commodity-dependent developing countries, as well as net commodity-importing developing countries, and further noting that rises in commodity prices may contribute to improvements by exporting countries in their export and fiscal revenue, allowing them to increase current and capital government expenditure, and that, by contrast, a decline in commodity prices may lead to shortfalls in export and fiscal earnings and the inability of Governments to deliver basic goods and services,

*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,

*Noting* that countries dependent on commodities exports or on a limited number of economic activities have been particularly hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic and that the pandemic, in addition to geopolitical tensions and conflicts, has also led to severe commodity price variations, which have deepened the challenges faced by commodity-dependent countries,

*Expressing concern* that the global economy has yet to recover and remains in a challenging phase, that growth remains weak in many countries and includes subdued trade growth, volatile capital flows, widespread fiscal strains and unsustainable debt in some countries, particularly developing countries, and that commodity exporters are particularly hard hit owing to their vulnerability to commodity price volatility, and in this regard stressing the need for continuing efforts to address systemic fragilities and imbalances, to reform and strengthen international financial institutions as key to large-scale Sustainable Development Goals-related investments in order to better address global challenges and to make further progress towards sustaining and rebalancing global demand,

*Recognizing* the adverse impact of excessive price volatility of commodities, especially on women, girls, young people and people in vulnerable situations,

*Recognizing also* that the structural constraints that women face as economic agents, including segmentation in low-value-added or subsistence-oriented work, unequal access to productive resources, limited access to training and skill-building due to gender segmentation in education and labour markets and a lack of resources, as well as the heavy burden of unpaid work, make women and girls especially vulnerable to the adverse impact of excessive price volatility of commodities,

*Stressing* the importance of policies to address longer-term structural issues, including structural constraints faced by women as economic agents, to diversify commodity economies and to integrate commodity policies into wider development and poverty eradication strategies at all levels,

*Recognizing* that uncertainty in global commodity markets reinforces the need to comprehensively deal with the commodity problematique, inter alia, the demand for commodities, supply capacities, commodity revenues and investments in commodity-dependent economies, while taking due account of the diversity of each country's individual situation and needs and the promotion of their sustainable development, and to strengthen the nexus between, inter alia, trade, finance, investment in sustainable agriculture and food systems, energy and industrialization,

*Noting* the work on consensus-building on commodity-related issues achieved through meetings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, including the multi-year expert meetings on commodities and development, the Global Commodities Forum and the African Oil, Gas and Mines Trade and Finance Conference and Exhibition,

*Underlining* the importance of timely, accurate and transparent information to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets, in accordance with the 2030 Agenda, noting global and regional initiatives, including the Agricultural Market Information System and its Rapid Response Forum, the joint organization data initiative and other regional data platforms and programmes, and urging the participating international organizations, private sector actors and Governments to ensure the public dissemination of timely and quality food market information products,

*Expressing deep concern* at the adverse impact of climate change and extreme weather patterns on access to, and the utilization and prices of, agricultural commodities, while recognizing the important role of land and sustainable land management in the climate system,

*Recognizing* the continued dependence of many developing countries on commodity exports and the need for economic diversification to reduce their dependence and increase their resilience to the negative effects of high commodity price volatility and global shocks,

*Reaffirming* the need for commodity-dependent developing countries to use their natural resource endowments for value addition with attention to social, economic and environmental sustainability and to enhance their participation in commodity and related product value chains to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and promote economic and export diversification,

*Noting* the increased demand for certain minerals critical for just, sustainable and inclusive transitions and the opportunity that these minerals offer to support economic diversification and structural transformation in mineral-exporting developing countries by moving up these commodities value chains,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on world commodity trends and prospects;<sup>81</sup>
2. *Recognizes* the interlinkage between the adequate and transparent functioning of commodity markets and the capacity of some commodity-dependent developing countries to collect appropriate fiscal revenues from commodity exports and mobilize domestic resources to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and their sustainable development, including through sustainable and inclusive economic growth, industrialization, decent work and market diversification;
3. *Encourages* support for developing countries, according to their national plans and policies, through technical assistance, to increase their capacity in detecting and averting trade misinvoicing and transfer mispricing in their commodities sectors in order to enhance their benefits from those sectors to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;
4. *Recognizes* the need for developing countries rich in critical minerals to add value to their supply chains in line with the three pillars of sustainable development in a balanced manner as a way of contributing to their economic structural transformation, creating decent employment, increasing export revenues and participating in the process of economic development;
5. *Reiterates* the need for further efforts to address excessive commodity price volatility, in particular by assisting producers, especially small-scale producers, including women, in accordance with national plans and policies, in managing risk;
6. *Stresses* that developing countries, including African countries, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, face particular challenges as lower prices for the commodities that they produce threaten the sustainable growth and the debt positions of such countries, and therefore notes that, in this context, economic and export diversification, value addition and industrialization can contribute to strengthening resilience to excessive price volatility by allowing the derivation of revenue from various sources;
7. *Recognizes* the need to continue efforts to diversify economies, as well as to improve the regulation, where appropriate, and the efficiency, responsiveness, functioning and transparency of financial and commodity markets nationally, regionally and internationally;
8. *Acknowledges* two main diversification strategies, one being horizontal diversification to export different types of commodities and other products to different markets, and the other being vertical diversification through value addition, and notes that these diversification strategies can contribute to creating sustained jobs and foster an inclusive and sustainable process of industrialization in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals;
9. *Recognizes* the relationship between technological change, innovation, economic diversification and structural transformation, notes with concern that most commodity-dependent developing countries have made minimal gains in closing technological gaps in the past 25 years, and notes that acquiring technological capabilities on mutually agreed terms and adopting policies and exploring the creation of national institutions, as appropriate, that

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<sup>81</sup> [A/78/231](#).

foster innovation and technological development in line with the Sustainable Development Goals could help to close those gaps;

10. *Encourages* Member States, development partners and the private sector to promote economic diversification in commodity-dependent developing countries by means of responsible and sustainable investments in productive capacity, physical capital accumulation, value addition to commodities supply chains, human capacity-building, infrastructure, the improvement of science and technology capabilities and the strengthening of institutions and governance, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, while considering that diversification strategies can contribute to the creation of decent work and economic growth (Goal 8) and build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation (Goal 9);

11. *Calls upon* the international community to support the efforts of and foster cooperation with commodity-dependent developing countries to address the factors that create structural barriers to international trade and impede, inter alia, diversification, including tariff and non-tariff barriers, limited access to financial services resulting in scarce resources for investing in the commodity sector, weak infrastructure, particularly regarding both the cost and availability of transportation and storage, and lack of skills in producing and marketing alternative products;

12. *Emphasizes* the importance of enhanced collaboration between the public and private sectors and high levels of investment in commodity-dependent developing countries to promote diversification and upgrade productive structures integrated into global value chains for sustainable development;

13. *Also emphasizes* the importance of coherence in the integration of developing countries into commodity value chains, particularly through local and regional value addition;

14. *Welcomes* the successful conclusion of the twelfth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Geneva from 12 to 17 June 2022, under the presidency of the Government of Kazakhstan, and looks forward to the convening of the thirteenth Ministerial Conference, to be held from 26 to 29 February 2024 in Abu Dhabi;

15. *Notes with concern* that the slow and uneven recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic particularly harms developing countries, including commodity-dependent developing countries, and acknowledges that international trade can play a role in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>82</sup> and sustainable, robust and balanced growth for all;

16. *Calls for* a coherent set of policy actions at the national, regional and international levels to address excessive price volatility and support commodity-dependent developing countries in mitigating negative impacts, by facilitating value addition and enhancing their participation in commodity and related product value chains, by supporting large-scale diversification of these economies and by encouraging the use and further development of market-oriented risk management tools, instruments and strategies;

17. *Stresses* the importance of developing and strengthening agricultural policies and strategies that recognize and address women's critical role in food security and improved nutrition outcomes as an integral part of both short- and long-term responses to food insecurity and malnutrition and food crises in developing countries;

18. *Recognizes* the potential for innovation, productivity improvements and the promotion of non-traditional exports in most commodity-dependent developing countries, particularly in Africa, and calls for enhanced support by the international community as well as exchanges of experience in these areas within the framework of South-South economic cooperation;

19. *Underscores* the importance of increased investments in quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure as a means of promoting sustainable agricultural development and enhancing commodity diversification, including value-added production, and trade, and urges the international community to assist commodity-dependent developing countries in mainstreaming trade as well as sound investment and financial policies as key elements of development strategies, based on national circumstances and development priorities, and investing in and supporting research, innovation and development of sustainable agriculture productivity;

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<sup>82</sup> Resolution 70/1.



20. *Stresses* that technical assistance and capacity-building aimed at improving the commodity export competitiveness of producers are particularly important for developing countries, especially in Africa, and invites Member States and all relevant stakeholders to provide the resources necessary for commodity-specific financial and technical assistance, in particular for human and institutional capacity-building, including gender-responsive measures, as well as quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure development of developing countries, with a view to reducing their institutional bottlenecks and transaction costs and enhancing their commodity trade and development in accordance with national development plans;

21. *Also stresses* that the Aid for Trade initiative should aim to help developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, to build the supply-side capacity and trade-related infrastructure that they need to assist them in implementing and benefiting from World Trade Organization agreements and, more broadly, expanding their trade;

22. *Recalls* the agreement to keep under regular review, by the Ministerial Conference and appropriate bodies of the World Trade Organization, the impact of the results of the Uruguay Round on the least developed countries as well as on the net food-importing developing countries, with a view to fostering positive measures to enable them to achieve their development objectives, and in this regard looks forward to the implementation of the Marrakesh Ministerial Decision on Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Programme on Least Developed and Net Food-Importing Developing Countries;

23. *Recognizes* that high volatility in food prices in various countries and continuing food insecurity and malnutrition being faced by hundreds of millions of people, in particular in Africa, in South and West Asia and in parts of Latin America and the Caribbean, highlight the need for resilient and diversified agrifood systems, in order to lower the risks associated with future shocks and to safeguard access to safe, sufficient and nutritious food and diversified healthy diets, by supporting large-scale diversification of these economies, building a stronger food production sector inclusive of all relevant stakeholders, boosting productivity and market links in the food supply chains, increasing investments for a more diverse agricultural sector and seeking partnerships to increase trade and strengthen supply chains;

24. *Stresses* that improving access to safe, sufficient and nutritious food and diversified healthy diets and maintaining food security during crises involve efforts to protect the most vulnerable, which, drawing from the experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic, highlights the need for socioeconomic policies to counteract the effects of adverse economic cycles and serve as a buffer against income shocks;

25. *Encourages* developed countries that have not already done so and developing countries declaring themselves in a position to do so to take steps towards the goal of realizing timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration adopted by the World Trade Organization in 2005;

26. *Notes* the efforts under way to make the international financial architecture more responsive to global challenges, recognizes that more needs to be done, and in this regard strongly encourages international financial institutions and development banks to assist developing countries, in particular commodity-dependent developing countries, in managing the effects of commodity price volatility, including excessive volatility, in accordance with their respective mandates;

27. *Reaffirms* that every State has and shall freely exercise full permanent sovereignty over all its wealth, natural resources and economic activities;

28. *Recognizes* the importance of increasing efficiency, effectiveness and transparency in the management of public and private sector revenues in developed and developing countries derived from all commodities and commodities-related industries, including final processed goods, in support of development;

29. *Notes* the important contributions of the Common Fund for Commodities and other international commodities organizations, and encourages them, in cooperation with the International Trade Centre, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and other relevant bodies, to strengthen coordination among them and to identify and implement innovative measures to enable the sustainable contribution of the commodity sector to economic development, including ways to reduce vulnerability to volatility in commodity prices, as well as to enhance activities in developing countries to improve access to markets and the reliability of supply, enhance diversification and the addition of value, improve the competitiveness of commodities, strengthen the market chain, improve market structures, broaden the export base

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and ensure the effective participation of all stakeholders, on the basis of a shared understanding of the contribution of commodities to sustainable development;

30. *Stresses* that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and its partners, in the spirit of inter-agency cooperation and multi-stakeholder partnerships, within their respective mandates, should continue to engage actively in collaborative research and analysis of the commodity problematique and related capacity- and consensus-building activities, with a view to providing regular analysis and policy advice relevant to the sustainable development of commodity-dependent developing countries, particularly low-income countries;

31. *Welcomes* the successful conclusion of the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in Barbados from 3 to 7 October 2021;

32. *Notes* the convening of the first Global Supply Chain Forum, which will be organized jointly by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Government of Barbados from 21 to 24 May 2024;

33. *Emphasizes* the importance of facilitating accession to the World Trade Organization, particularly for commodity-dependent developing countries, in full compliance with its rules;

34. *Underlines* the urgent need for the provision of and access to trade finance to commodity-dependent developing countries, given the tightened access to all types of credit and noting debt sustainability;

35. *Welcomes* the commitment to prevent and combat illicit financial flows and strengthen international cooperation and good practices on assets return and recovery;

36. *Stresses* that revenues from commodity production and exports remain critical for developing countries, in particular in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, given that developing countries need to mobilize resources in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and that commodity prices have been highly volatile since 2022, which has put pressure on government budgets in developing countries;

37. *Invites* the President of the General Assembly to hold a one-day informal interactive dialogue of the Assembly on commodity markets during the first half of 2024 to review world commodity trends and prospects and possible strategies for economic and export diversification, as well as value addition for sustainable development, particularly in commodity-dependent developing countries, with the aim of sharing experiences and lessons learned, on a date and in a format to be decided by the President of the Assembly;

38. *Calls upon* all relevant bodies, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other relevant intergovernmental, global, regional and subregional organizations, in particular the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and all relevant international financial and economic institutions, within their respective mandates, to continue to address the issue of the low industrialization and diversification of the economies of some commodity-dependent developing countries in relation to the capacity of Member States to achieve all the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030;

39. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its eightieth session, in collaboration with the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, an action-oriented report on the implementation of the present resolution, with a particular emphasis on recommendations and strategies for economic and export diversification, commodity production and value addition for sustainable development, in line with the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,<sup>83</sup> and, in this regard, decides to include in the provisional agenda of its eightieth session, under the item entitled “Macroeconomic policy questions”, the sub-item entitled “Commodities”.

#### RESOLUTION 78/139

Adopted at the 49th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/459/Add.5, para. 7)<sup>84</sup>

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<sup>83</sup> Resolution 69/313, annex.

<sup>84</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee.

**78/139. Financial inclusion for sustainable development**

*The General Assembly,*

*Guided by the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,*

*Recalling its resolutions 70/189 of 22 December 2015, 72/206 of 20 December 2017, 74/205 of 19 December 2019 and 76/195 of 17 December 2021,*

*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 that the 2030 Agenda, inter alia, sets out policies, the adoption and implementation of which seek to increase financial inclusion, and that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, inter alia, seeks to ensure that policy and regulatory environments support financial market stability, integrity and the promotion of financial inclusion in a balanced manner and with appropriate consumer protection, working towards the strengthening of financial literacy, capacity development for developing countries and full and equal access to formal financial services for all, in a manner that contributes to the mobilization of domestic resources for public and private investment in the economy and for capital formation and to greater availability of financial services in ways that spur enterprise growth and job creation and stimulate the economy and that brings more people and businesses into the formal economy in ways that stimulate economic growth, increase transparency and accountability and contribute to increased tax collection,*

*Reaffirming the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 76/258 of 1 April 2022, which commits to renewed and strengthened global partnerships for achieving sustainable development in least developed countries, and looking forward to the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries as mandated in its resolution 77/246 of 30 December 2022 and the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States as mandated in its resolution 77/245 of 30 December 2022,*

*Reaffirming and committing to the implementation of the outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation,<sup>85</sup>*

*Emphasizing the relevance of inclusion in the international financial system at all levels and the importance of considering financial inclusion as a policy objective in financial regulation, in accordance with national priorities and legislation,*

*Recommitting to promoting appropriate, affordable and stable access to credit and other financial services to micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, in particular businesses and enterprises in the social and solidarity economy operating in both the formal and informal sectors, as well as adequate skills development training for all, particularly for youth, persons with disabilities, older persons, women, Indigenous Peoples, local communities and entrepreneurs,*

*Acknowledging that the promotion of formal financial systems and services with robust risk-based regulatory frameworks for all financial intermediation, as appropriate, as well as the rule of law and accountable and inclusive*

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<sup>85</sup> Resolution 73/291, annex.

institutions, contributes to inclusive financial systems and to effectively and comprehensively preventing and combating corruption and curbing illicit financial flows,

*Recognizing* the value and principles of multi-stakeholder engagement also with regard to the development of national financial inclusion strategies, and that multi-stakeholder partnerships and the resources, knowledge and ingenuity of the private sector, civil society, the scientific community, academia, philanthropy and foundations, parliaments, local authorities, volunteers and other stakeholders will be important in mobilizing and sharing knowledge on mutually agreed terms, expertise, technology and financial resources, complementing the efforts of Governments and supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular in developing countries,

*Recognizing also* that many people in vulnerable situations are disproportionately excluded from financial systems and may not have access to financial services or may be reluctant to adopt them,

*Reaffirming* the need to ensure, by 2030, that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance,

*Reiterating* the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, and the wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

*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,

*Recognizing* that digital technologies helped societies respond to COVID-19, creating new opportunities for digital financial services to accelerate and enhance financial inclusion amid social distancing and containment measures, expanding the use of such services significantly and driving lasting changes in all sectors of the economy, including labour markets, e-commerce and financial services, noting with deep concern the barriers posed by the digital divide and their impact on ensuring financial inclusion, and stressing the importance of bridging the digital gap between and within countries in order to ensure broadening financial inclusion in societies, improving digital financial literacy and consumer protection, enabling access to social safety nets and eradicating poverty for those hardest to reach, especially in rural and remote areas, in order to benefit the poorest and most vulnerable, particularly youth, persons with disabilities, older persons, women and girls, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, farmers, migrants and entrepreneurs,

1. *Recalls* the inclusion in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>86</sup> of, inter alia, several targets related to the promotion of financial inclusion, also recalls that the Sustainable Development Goals and associated targets are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development, and in this regard looks forward to their achievement;

2. *Also recalls* the inclusion in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development<sup>87</sup> of, inter alia, several policies and actions intended to ensure a policy and regulatory environment for the promotion of financial inclusion, and in this regard looks forward to their implementation;

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<sup>86</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>87</sup> Resolution 69/313, annex.

3. *Reaffirms* its decision to give consideration, as appropriate, to financial inclusion in the follow-up and review framework of the 2030 Agenda and in the follow-up process of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda;

4. *Takes note* of the consideration given to financial inclusion in the *Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2023*,<sup>88</sup> stresses that, while financial inclusion has improved in recent years, notably owing to the growth in mobile banking, significant gaps remain within and among developed and developing countries, and remains concerned that, globally, 1.4 billion people do not have access to formal financial services and that, despite increased account ownership among women, the financial inclusion gender gap remains;

5. *Notes* that mobile phones could continue to strengthen financial inclusion, and in this regard underlines the need for the necessary investments, including in infrastructure, such as reliable electricity and network connections, as well as in payment systems and other financial infrastructure, and encourages Member States to take policy actions in accordance with national circumstances and priorities;

6. *Acknowledges* the important role that national financial inclusion strategies can play in identifying and overcoming financing gaps and binding constraints, including the lack of access to finance for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, notes that at least 70 countries have adopted or are in the process of developing financial inclusion strategies, and in this regard encourages Member States to consider the convenience of adopting and pursuing national financial inclusion strategies and gender-responsive strategies, to end the structural barriers to women and girls' equal access to economic resources and to expand peer learning, experience-sharing and capacity-building among countries and regions in this respect, among others, through risk-sharing mechanisms and regulatory requirements as well as support from international partners through blended finance;

7. *Recognizes* that digitally enabled innovation in the financial sector has contributed significantly to the rapid expansion of access to financial services and financial inclusion, enabling progress on the Sustainable Development Goals and showing impacts across the 2030 Agenda, as outlined in the *Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2023*, and supports concrete actions to advance digital financial inclusion and close digital divides, including the gender digital divide, across and within countries, while improving responsible digital financial practices and promoting regulatory responses, as appropriate, to protect consumers' interests, financial integrity and system stability, which are mutually reinforcing and also enablers of greater financial inclusion;

8. *Also recognizes* the growing importance of financial technology actors and new instruments and platforms, including mobile banking and peer-to-peer platforms and open banking, which have enabled access to financial services for millions of people and provided channels for smaller companies to raise risk capital, as well as the potential of big data and artificial intelligence in this respect, encourages, in this context, Governments and regulatory agencies to review and adjust, as appropriate, legal and regulatory frameworks to cope with the risks and maximize the benefits associated with these new instruments, and invites countries to exchange experiences and promote peer learning in this area and further enhance capacity-building in this regard;

9. *Encourages* the use of digital financial technologies and services which have gained further importance during the pandemic and have allowed many households and micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises to access financial services despite lockdowns and social distancing; considers that digital financial inclusion is associated with higher gross domestic product growth and that the adoption of digital payments is consistent with the notion that financial technologies may contribute to growth and sustainable development and thus play an important role in mitigating the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and support the recovery; promotes financial innovation and its role in enhancing financial inclusion and fostering more inclusive and equitable access to the benefits of the emerging digital economy; acknowledges the needs of the poorest and of the people in the most vulnerable situations, while acknowledging the importance of more inclusive and equitable access to the benefits of the emerging digital economy, providing for an open, fair and non-discriminatory business environment; and encourages multi-stakeholder partnerships, as appropriate, at the local, regional and international levels in order to allow for an exchange of experiences, promote peer learning in this area and further enhance capacity-building, access to finance and support of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, including those owned and operated by women;

10. *Invites* further use of digital financial technologies in the delivery of financial services in an efficient, effective, quick, affordable and secure manner, so that they can benefit micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises and people, including the poorest and most vulnerable, who are affected disproportionately by the pandemic,

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<sup>88</sup> United Nations publication, 2023.

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geopolitical tensions and conflicts and multiple crises, in turn allowing Governments to expand the reach of their emergency responses to those in the informal sector and those who do not have access to bank accounts, while functioning as an enabler of the Sustainable Development Goals, including eradicating poverty, bridging inequality gaps, creating jobs and promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and in that regard calls for the strengthening of digital skills and digital financial infrastructure to promote a sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery;

11. *Acknowledges* that, in the absence of strong financial consumer protection, the growth-enhancing benefits of expanded financial inclusion may be lost or severely undermined, and in this regard stresses the importance of scaled-up action to improve financial and digital literacy and effective consumer protection for the poorest and most vulnerable, including for women, young people, rural residents and migrants;

12. *Also acknowledges* the efforts and actions on financial inclusion for sustainable development undertaken by a wide range of stakeholders working in partnership, such as the Alliance for Financial Inclusion, the Better Than Cash Alliance, the Special Advocate of the Secretary-General for Inclusive Finance for Development and the Group of 20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion, urges them to engage in an inclusive and transparent manner with Member States in their work, in order to ensure that their initiatives complement or strengthen the United Nations system, including the United Nations Capital Development Fund and the regional commissions, and encourages enhanced coordination and cooperation with the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development;

13. *Encourages* the international community, including Member States, and all relevant stakeholders, including the entities of the United Nations system, international financial institutions, other intergovernmental bodies, regional and national development banks, domestic financial institutions, credit unions, multi-stakeholder partnerships and relevant non-governmental organizations, as appropriate, to further develop financial literacy and financial education programmes that include an emphasis on the impact of finance on sustainable development, as appropriate, to ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to access financial services, in particular women and girls, Indigenous Peoples, farmers and those working in micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises;

14. *Encourages* Member States and all relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, in the context of a renewed and strengthened Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, led by Governments, to further efforts to reduce the transaction costs of migrant remittances to less than 3 per cent by 2030 and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent by 2030, considering that the global average was about 6.3 per cent in the third quarter of 2022, which has remained unchanged in the past five to six years, to support national authorities in addressing the most significant obstacles to the continued flow of remittances, such as the trend of banks withdrawing services, and to work towards expanding access to and the volume of remittances through regulated and transparent channels, and in this regard highlights the potential of financial technology services to offer alternative channels and reduce remittance costs;

15. *Looks forward* to the continuing consideration of financial inclusion in the forthcoming reports of the Inter-Agency Task Force on financing for sustainable development, as appropriate and in accordance with existing mandates, as well as in the annual report of the Secretary-General on progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and to the further consideration of financial inclusion for sustainable development at the 2024 Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up;

16. *Reaffirms* the commitment at the very heart of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind and commit to taking more tangible steps to support people in vulnerable situations and the most vulnerable countries and to reach the furthest behind first;

17. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its eightieth session, under the item entitled “Macroeconomic policy questions”, the sub-item entitled “Financial inclusion for sustainable development”.

RESOLUTION 78/140

Adopted at the 49th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/459/Add.6, para. 7)<sup>89</sup>

**78/140. Promotion of international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows and strengthen good practices on assets return to foster sustainable development**

*The General Assembly,*

*Guided by the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,*

*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 United Nations Convention against Corruption,<sup>90</sup> which is the most comprehensive and universal instrument on corruption, and recognizing the need for its full and effective implementation, to continue to promote its ratification or accession thereto, and its full support for the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the Convention,

*Recalling* its resolution S-32/1 of 2 June 2021 containing the political declaration entitled “Our common commitment to effectively addressing challenges and implementing measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation”, and recalling also the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption at its ninth session, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 13 to 17 December 2021,<sup>91</sup>

*Reaffirming* the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,<sup>92</sup>

*Recalling* its resolutions 65/169 of 20 December 2010, 71/213 of 21 December 2016, 72/207 of 20 December 2017, 73/222 of 20 December 2018, 74/206 of 19 December 2019, 75/206 of 21 December 2020 and 76/196 of 17 December 2021 and 77/154 of 14 December 2022,

*Recalling also* its resolutions 71/208 of 19 December 2016, 72/196 of 19 December 2017, 73/186 of 17 December 2018, 74/177 of 18 December 2019, 74/276 of 1 June 2020 and 75/194 of 16 December 2020,

*Taking note* of the 2023 report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development<sup>93</sup> and its policy recommendations for combating illicit financial flows,

*Recognizing* that making progress on reducing illicit financial flows as facilitated through strengthened international tax cooperation could contribute to domestic resource mobilization and the achievement of other goals and targets in the 2030 Agenda,

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<sup>89</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee.

<sup>90</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

<sup>91</sup> CAC/COSP/2021/17, sect. I.

<sup>92</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

<sup>93</sup> *Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2023* (United Nations publication, 2023).



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*Recalling* the report of the High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa and its relevant contributions in increasing knowledge of the sources of illicit financial flows, and reiterating its invitation to other regions to carry out similar exercises,

*Recalling also* the high-level meeting on international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows and strengthen good practices on assets return, convened by the President of the General Assembly at Headquarters on 16 May 2019, and taking note of the Chair's summary,

*Recalling further* the focus on combating illicit financial flows at the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development, held on 26 September 2019, as well as the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development, held on 20 September 2023,

*Taking note* of the policy recommendations of the sixth Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,<sup>94</sup> and recalling the 2020 publication of the Conference on tackling illicit financial flows for sustainable development in Africa,<sup>95</sup>

*Recalling* the report of the High-level Panel on International Financial Accountability, Transparency and Integrity for Achieving the 2030 Agenda,<sup>96</sup> and taking note of the recommendations by independent experts contained therein for further consideration, as appropriate,

*Recalling also* the conceptual framework for the statistical measurement of illicit financial flows of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, recalling further that it was endorsed by the Statistical Commission at its fifty-third session for global use as indicator 16.4.1 to measure illicit financial flows in the context of the 2030 Agenda and its indicator framework, and noting the availability of the first official estimates of illicit financial flows based on the endorsed methodology and reported for that indicator,

*Reiterating its deep concern* about the impact of illicit financial flows, in particular those caused by tax evasion, corruption and transnational organized crime, on the economic, social and political stability and development of societies, and especially on developing countries and their progress in financing the 2030 Agenda,

*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,

*Acknowledging* that the COVID-19 pandemic has put a spotlight on the limitations of the Governments of developing countries to marshal resources in times of crisis, reiterating the need to enhance and strengthen effective domestic resource mobilization, including accountable and transparent public expenditure systems, and strengthen domestic regulatory and legal frameworks, as necessary, to more effectively counter the harm resulting from illicit financial flows, and that the harm done by such flows in straining the limited resources of developing countries evidently affects their ability to address the Sustainable Development Goal financing gap and to mobilize domestic resources for longer-term sustainable development, and recalling the meetings of discussion group VI of the informal process launched by the Secretary-General and the Governments of Canada and Jamaica on Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond,

*Encouraging* Member States to use and strengthen appropriate focal points to facilitate information exchange among one another, acknowledging the Riyadh initiative for enhancing international anti-corruption law enforcement cooperation and its Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities, as well as existing

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<sup>94</sup> See [TD/B/EFD/6/3](#).

<sup>95</sup> *Economic Development in Africa Report 2020: Tackling Illicit Financial Flows for Sustainable Development in Africa* (United Nations publication, 2020).

<sup>96</sup> [A/75/810/Rev.1](#), annex.

agreements, formal forums or networks, including the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) Global Focal Point Network on Asset Recovery,

*Bearing in mind* that there are different sources of illicit financial flows and that a separate analysis of each source is more beneficial in designing policy responses to prevent illicit financial flows,

*Noting with appreciation* the ongoing efforts by regional organizations and other relevant international forums to strengthen cooperation in preventing and combating illicit financial flows, as well as new initiatives taken by Governments and the private sector to mobilize the financial sector in the collective fight against illicit financial flows,

*Recognizing* that combating illicit financial flows is an essential development challenge, noting that developing countries are particularly susceptible to the negative impact of illicit financial flows, and emphasizing that illicit financial flows reduce the availability of valuable resources for financing for development,

*Recognizing also* the importance of studying the potential relationship between combating illicit financial flows and attaining debt sustainability,

*Recognizing further* the challenge posed by the increasing scope and complexity of illicit financial flows, and recognizing also that the need for the recovery and return of stolen assets in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption requires strengthened international cooperation,

*Recognizing* that numerous technical, legal and practical challenges are to be addressed in order to facilitate the repatriation of proceeds of crime to countries from where they were originally stolen,

*Recognizing also* that global knowledge of the importance of combating illicit financial flows and enhancing the return of assets is rapidly increasing, as is the political will to recover illicitly acquired assets by both requesting and requested States, and noting that, while many challenges remain unresolved, tackling them effectively requires a holistic approach that recognizes the different types of illicit financial flows and their impact on sustainable development,

*Recognizing further* that the loss of resources caused by corruption, including complex cases such as those involving multiple national jurisdictions and vast quantities of assets, may constitute a substantial proportion of the resources of States, and has a particularly negative impact on developing countries,

*Reaffirming* the importance of chapter V of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and underlining that the recovery and return of stolen assets pursuant to that chapter is a fundamental principle of the Convention,

*Recognizing* the work carried out by the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and in particular its Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery, to advance the full and effective implementation of chapter V of the Convention,

*Noting* the efforts to promote the exchange of information and synergies between the open-ended intergovernmental expert meetings to enhance international cooperation under the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the Working Group on International Cooperation established by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,

*Recalling* the third International Expert Meeting on the Return of Stolen Assets, held in Nairobi on 28 and 29 November 2022,

*Recalling also* the holding of the second session of the Illicit Trade Forum, in Geneva on 6 and 7 September 2022, which highlighted the negative impact of illicit trade, including related illicit financial flows, on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, revenue generation and economic activity,

*Recalling further* the work of the Platform for Collaboration on Tax, which is to intensify collaboration and coordination on tax issues between the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank Group and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, including on formalizing regular discussions among the four international organizations on the implementation of standards for international tax matters and on the strengthening of their ability to provide capacity-building support to developing countries,

*Noting* the ongoing efforts of the joint Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development/United Nations Development Programme initiative, Tax Inspectors Without Borders, to support developing countries through targeted tax audit assistance programmes,

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*Recognizing* the important work undertaken by academia and civil society, including the International Centre for Asset Recovery and the U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre, in assisting Member States in understanding the challenges associated with the return of stolen assets under chapter V of the United Nations Convention against Corruption,

*Noting* the work of the 143 members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development/Group of 20 Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting, which provides a forum for collaboration for tackling tax avoidance, improving the coherence of international tax rules and ensuring a more transparent and fair tax environment,

*Noting also* international developments on the implementation of the Standard for Automatic Exchange of Financial Account Information in Tax Matters under a common reporting standard developed by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, which 123 members have already committed to implementing by 2026, as well as the role of the 168 members of the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes, which enables cooperation on an equal footing,

*Reiterating* the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, and the wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

1. *Acknowledges* that combating illicit financial flows contributes to domestic resource mobilization, which is essential to finance policies aiming to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals;

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>97</sup>

3. *Reiterates its commitment* to financial integrity for sustainable development, through national efforts and international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows and promote good practices on assets return to foster sustainable development, including through existing relevant international frameworks, such as the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, while noting the ongoing work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Group of 20;

4. *Reaffirms its commitment* to strive to eliminate safe havens that create incentives for the transfer abroad of stolen assets and illicit financial flows;

5. *Also reaffirms its commitment* to strengthen regulatory frameworks at all levels in accordance with international standards and to further increase the transparency and accountability of financial institutions and the corporate sector, as well as public administrations;

6. *Takes note* of the work of the media in exposing corruption, tax abuse and the failings of financial integrity regulations and controls;

7. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts of Member States to enhance knowledge and broaden understanding of the challenges and opportunities involved in international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows and strengthen good practices on assets recovery and return consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption so as to foster sustainable development;

8. *Acknowledges* that combating illicit financial flows requires a range of actions that includes deterring, detecting, preventing and countering such flows in source, transit and destination countries and expeditious law enforcement action and cooperation;

9. *Also acknowledges* the need to combat illicit financial flows and strengthen good practices on assets return and recovery as one of the sources of financing for development in a broad range of areas, such as poverty eradication, food security, health, education, investment in social programmes or adaptation to climate change, and may contribute to improved sustainable development outcomes;

10. *Recognizes* that combating illicit financial flows requires a coordinated, whole-of-government approach and therefore encourages Member States to create domestic institutional mechanisms as appropriate and necessary, including those related to digitalization or other appropriate measures to ensure information-sharing and whole-of-

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<sup>97</sup> [A/78/186](#).

government coordination, in this regard invites those Member States willing to prepare integrated national financing frameworks to include plans for combating illicit financial flows, including through the transfer and sharing of data, where appropriate, and with the necessary safeguards, and looks forward to the formulation by the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development of guidance on how countries can incorporate financial integrity actions into their financing frameworks;

11. *Notes* that international cooperation in combating illicit financial flows is a work in progress that must continue to be pursued, and encourages all countries to develop effective tools and create a policy environment for combating illicit financial flows, in accordance with the existing relevant international frameworks, including the United Nations Convention against Corruption;

12. *Recognizes* that measures aimed at combating illicit financial flows often require cross-border cooperation between law enforcement agencies and that, where requested, technical assistance can also contribute to better international cooperation, and encourages Member States, where applicable and subject to their domestic legal systems, and in line with their treaty obligations, to cooperate and exchange information and best practices in this regard;

13. *Encourages* countries and relevant multilateral and international organizations to continue and strengthen their efforts to provide, upon request, technical assistance and capacity-building assistance to developing countries, as well as to support African and other regional initiatives, to prevent, detect and combat illicit financial flows and to strengthen good practices on assets recovery and return to foster sustainable development in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;<sup>98</sup>

14. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto,<sup>99</sup> and urges States parties to those Conventions and Protocols to make efforts towards their effective implementation;

15. *Reaffirms* the need for Member States to effectively implement and enforce all existing obligations under the United Nations Convention against Corruption, as a critical part of combating illicit financial flows;

16. *Urges* Member States to increase their efforts to prevent and counter corruption that involves vast quantities of assets and related illicit financial flows, noting that no country alone can effectively combat complex cases involving multiple jurisdictions and that international cooperation and technical assistance are needed in the prevention of and fight against corruption, including in asset recovery;

17. *Stresses* that anti-corruption measures should be an integral part of national development policies and strategies and therefore invites countries developing integrated national financing frameworks to include anti-corruption components and standards therein, as appropriate, further stresses that all jurisdictions should consider undertaking further research, policy development and programming, as appropriate, to address corruption, and decides to deter, detect, prevent and counter corruption, increase transparency and promote good governance;

18. *Encourages* closer public-private sector collaboration to better tackle corruption, and stresses that further research, policy development and programming should help in reaching this goal;

19. *Notes with concern* that proceeds derived from offences established under the United Nations Convention against Corruption have yet to be disposed of in favour of the requesting States parties, their prior legitimate owners and victims of the crimes, and decides to deter, detect, prevent and counter corruption, increase transparency and promote good governance;

20. *Encourages* States parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption to make full use of the asset recovery tools set forth in chapter V of the Convention, including mechanisms for the enforcement of foreign restraining and confiscation orders;

21. *Calls upon* all States parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, in particular requesting and requested States parties, to cooperate to recover the proceeds of crime as defined in the Convention, and to fulfil

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<sup>98</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>99</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2225, 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.

their obligation to ensure the return or disposal of such proceeds, in accordance with article 57 of the Convention, and invites States parties, in accordance with their respective domestic laws, to consider allocating recovered resources to finance the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and to strengthening the implementation of existing multilateral legal instruments for the purpose of asset recovery and return;

22. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in coordination with the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative, to continue to expand global knowledge and data collection on asset recovery and return by gathering and sharing information on challenges and good practices, as well as on volumes of assets frozen, seized, confiscated and returned in relation to corruption offences, and the number and types of cases, as appropriate, while ensuring the protection of personal data and privacy rights, drawing upon existing efforts, within existing resources;<sup>100</sup>

23. *Stresses* that efforts in international tax cooperation should be universal in approach and scope and fully take into account the different needs and capacities of all countries, in particular the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and African countries;

24. *Encourages* further efforts by relevant national and international actors to mitigate transfer pricing not in line with the arm's length principle and trade misinvoicing;

25. *Calls upon* all countries to work together to eliminate base erosion and profit shifting and to ensure that all companies, including multinationals, pay taxes to the Governments of countries where economic activity occurs and value is created, in accordance with national and international laws and policies;

26. *Also calls upon* all countries to cooperate, in accordance with applicable bilateral or multilateral agreements, in the areas of mutual legal assistance, administrative assistance and the exchange of information in tax matters, as well as the automatic exchange of financial account information;

27. *Invites* signatories to bilateral or multilateral tax transparency agreements to consider allowing information exchanged pursuant to those agreements to be used where permitted under such agreements and when written consent is provided, having regard to confidentiality and domestic law limitations;

28. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council to update and strengthen the United Nations code of conduct on cooperation in combating international tax evasion<sup>101</sup> in response to new international agreements and to emphasize the importance of developing countries being able to benefit from international tax cooperation;

29. *Recognizes* the importance of the consideration of international tax cooperation at the United Nations, in that regard takes note with appreciation of the work of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters, and invites the Economic and Social Council to explore options to strengthen the role of the Committee while giving due consideration to the need that efforts in international tax cooperation should be universal in approach and scope;

30. *Takes note* of the ongoing work on the implementation of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development/Group of 20 two-pillar solution to address the tax challenges arising from the digitalization of the economy, acknowledges the need for a careful analysis of the implications for developing countries, and encourages a special focus on their unique needs and capacities;

31. *Recalls* the analysis, in the *Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2022*, the *Trade and Development Report 2021* of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2022* of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development/Group of 20 two-pillar solution, and calls for inclusive discussions to address the uncertainties and implications for developing countries, including their capacity-building needs;

32. *Also recalls* that new technologies can both increase efficiency in revenue collection and strengthen the efforts to combat illicit financial flows, expresses concern that virtual assets are being used for illicit activities, and in this regard encourages Member States and other relevant organizations to take measures in line with international standards, where applicable, to prevent and counter their illicit use;

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<sup>100</sup> CAC/COSP/2021/17, sect I.A, resolution 9/2, para. 15.

<sup>101</sup> Economic and Social Council resolution 2017/3.

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33. *Notes* that various jurisdictions have introduced mechanisms to increase beneficial ownership transparency, including beneficial ownership registries of legal entities and legal arrangements, such as companies, trusts and limited liability partnerships, encourages all jurisdictions to consider establishing appropriate mechanisms through either a registry of beneficial ownership or an alternative mechanism, in line with domestic law and applicable international standards, and encourages Member States to facilitate the timely availability of adequate, accurate and up-to-date beneficial ownership information;

34. *Also notes* that a wide variety of individuals and entities are involved in the transactions that comprise an illicit financial flow, recognizes the need to consider appropriate business regulatory policies, taking into account national circumstances, and in this regard reiterates the invitation to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to jointly prepare a global mapping of existing standards and guidelines, in consultation with all relevant stakeholders, taking into account national circumstances, and to submit these to the Economic and Social Council for intergovernmental discussion;

35. *Recognizes* the significant progress and availability of concepts and tested methods to measure illicit financial flows, notes the outcomes of pilot studies across three continents showing that measurement of these flows is possible, while challenging, and requires strengthened support, and calls for increased transparency and the strengthening of efforts to enhance the capacity of national authorities for data collection and analysis to combat illicit financial flows with more informed and targeted policy efforts, emphasizing the need to strengthen national capacity to measure illicit financial flows in the context of the 2030 Agenda and increase the exchange of data within national government institutions as well as from international institutions;

36. *Invites* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as custodian agencies of Sustainable Development Goal indicator 16.4.1 on the total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows, in consultation with other institutions, to leverage and continue developing concepts and refine methods developed to date and to provide stronger support to national authorities, and invites all Member States to engage with the custodian agencies towards reporting data on the indicator;

37. *Invites* all institutions involved in measuring and reporting on illicit financial flows to use the statistical concepts and methods to estimate illicit financial flows, encourages all Member States to report on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 16.4.1, using the methodology adopted by the Statistical Commission, and calls upon the United Nations system entities, international organizations and donors to work in coordination with the custodian agencies to train national statistical offices and other entities in charge of reporting on illicit financial flows on these agreed methods;

38. *Invites* the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Economic and Social Council, the Secretary-General and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to give appropriate consideration to the importance of combating illicit financial flows and strengthening good practices on asset return to foster sustainable development, calls upon the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to continue their consideration of the negative impact of illicit financial flows on financing the 2030 Agenda based on its indicator 16.4.1 and to coordinate their efforts to further explore policy responses to the phenomenon, and in this regard invites all other relevant international institutions to support these efforts, in accordance with their respective mandates;

39. *Reaffirms* the commitment at the very heart of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind and commit to taking more tangible steps to support people in vulnerable situations and the most vulnerable countries and to reach the furthest behind first;

40. *Calls upon* the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to enhance, within existing mandates, policy recommendations for combating illicit financial flows, involving all the relevant institutions and using existing bodies, to review progress on financial integrity issues, to scale up efforts to provide data on indicator 16.4.1, as well as to foster the implementation of existing intergovernmental agreements to address illicit financial flows;

41. *Looks forward* to the inclusion, in the 2024 report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development, of an analysis of international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows and strengthen good practices on assets recovery and return to foster sustainable development, pursuant to the mandate of the Task Force,



and also looks forward to the deliberations of the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up on efforts to combat illicit financial flows;

42. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session a report, within existing resources, in relation to progress made on combating illicit financial flows and the implementation of assets return and recovery based on existing mechanisms, and to elaborate on strengthening international coordination in this regard, and requests the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to inform the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session about the implementation of the present resolution, through a dedicated section of the *Sustainable Development Goals Pulse* report, to be introduced to the Second Committee by the Secretariat, elaborating in particular on the progress in testing, refining and applying the methodology to report on indicator 16.4.1, and the need to combat illicit financial flows and recover and return stolen assets in line with commitments contained in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development<sup>102</sup> and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic;

43. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “Macroeconomic policy questions”, the sub-item entitled “Promotion of international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows and strengthen good practices on assets return to foster sustainable development”.

#### RESOLUTION 78/141

Adopted at the 49th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/459/Add.7, para. 7)<sup>103</sup>

##### 78/141. Promoting investments for sustainable development

*The General Assembly,*

*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,

*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,

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<sup>102</sup> Resolution 69/313, annex.

<sup>103</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee.



Recalling its resolutions 74/199 of 19 December 2019, 75/207 of 21 December 2020, 76/197 of 17 December 2021 and 77/155 of 14 December 2022,

*Underscoring* that international project finance is increasingly important for Sustainable Development Goals and climate change investment and that the strong growth performance of international project finance can be explained by favourable financing conditions, infrastructure stimulus and significant interest on the part of financial market investors to participate in projects that require multiple financiers, recognizing that international project finance can enable Governments to leverage public investment through private finance participation, and noting that developing countries are disadvantaged in this regard that efforts to enhance private finance mobilization in developing countries are particularly crucial,

*Emphasizing* that, in 2021, the bulk of tracked climate change investments is concentrated in renewable energy and energy-efficiency projects, that international private investment in climate change sectors is directed almost exclusively to mitigation, with only 5 per cent going to adaptation projects, and that more than 60 per cent is invested in developed countries, where 85 per cent of projects are purely privately financed, whereas almost half of the projects in developing countries require some form of public sector participation, while noting that investments in adaptation are underreported,

*Noting with concern* that the progress on most of the Sustainable Development Goals is either moving much too slowly or has regressed below the 2015 baseline and that, in the face of current multiple crises, years of sustainable development gains are being reversed, as millions of people, particularly in developing countries, have fallen into poverty, hunger and malnutrition are becoming more prevalent, and humanitarian needs are rising,

*Highlighting* the fact that finance and investment support is needed not only for climate change mitigation and adaptation, but is equally important in other Sustainable Development Goal investment areas,

*Highlighting also* that the second highest Sustainable Development Goal investment gap is in water and sanitation, with a growing need for sustainable and innovative investments in water and sanitation to ensure progress on the implementation of water-related goals and targets,

*Noting* the urgent need to achieve zero hunger, end all forms of malnutrition, eradicate extreme poverty and ensure rapid, inclusive and sustainable income growth in developing countries by adopting the right policies and step up investments, research and the sharing of technology on mutually agreed terms, with the achievement of all Sustainable Development Goals as the ultimate objective,

*Noting with concern* that the global environment changed dramatically in 2022, with rising geopolitical tensions and conflicts and the current multiple crises, which increased pressure on food, energy and finance, affecting many countries around the world, increasing investor uncertainty and putting significant downward pressure on global foreign direct investment in 2022,

*Noting* that the crises underscore the imperative to embed long-term and risk-informed thinking and sustainability into corporate and investment practices, and stressing that in order to respond to and recover from the COVID-19 crisis all stakeholders will have to work in tandem, at the same time, while the global fight against the pandemic and climate change has accelerated the momentum of sustainability finance and investment, with the value of sustainability-themed investment products in global capital markets growing fivefold in the past five years, amounting to 5.8 trillion United States dollars in 2022, recognizing that the vast majority of these funds have been invested in developed countries, leaving developing country investment opportunities significantly lacking, and that it is critical to scale up sustainable investments in all countries, especially in developing countries, including countries in special situations,

*Emphasizing* that success in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions depends on the creation of enabling environments at all levels, which can be supported by a reformed international financial architecture, to strengthen investments towards activities that promote the Goals,

*Recognizing* that a revitalized global partnership will facilitate an intensive global engagement in support of the implementation of all of the Goals and their targets, bringing together Governments, civil society, the private sector, academia, the United Nations system and other actors and mobilizing all available resources,

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*Recalling* that, in the 2030 Agenda, it was acknowledged that the implementation of sustainable development will depend on the active engagement of both the public and private sectors and other relevant international organizations, including international financial institutions and multilateral development banks,

*Noting* the convening of the eighth World Investment Forum of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in Abu Dhabi from 16 to 20 October 2023, as well as the eighth Sustainable Development Goals Investment Fair, held in New York from 18 to 29 April 2023,

*Noting also* the work of the United Nations in the area of investments for sustainable development, and taking note of the *World Investment Report 2023* and the *SDG Investment Trends Monitor of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development*, the *Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2023*, the *Sustainable Development Goals Report 2023* and the outcome document of the 2023 Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up,<sup>104</sup>

*Noting further* all initiatives at the global, regional and local levels that are aimed at scaling up the mobilization of public and private finance towards investing for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in its three dimensions and deepening international cooperation,

*Noting* the potential of impact investment for the financing of sustainable development in supporting national development policies, plans, priorities and needs in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Recognizing* that achieving the Sustainable Development Goals will require a shift towards long-term investment horizons, including early-stage financing, in this regard encouraging investors to take measures to incentivize greater long-term investment and early-stage financing, and recognizing that international public and private finance for development complemented by other innovative financing mechanisms, including blended finance, can play an important role in upscaling our collective efforts to cover the finance needs to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Recognizing also* that entrepreneurship can help achieve the 2030 Agenda, underlining the importance of advancing sustainable consumption and production patterns, and stressing the need to promote sustainable and innovative financing opportunities and mechanisms to unlock new capital for sustainable investment and upscale sustainable business models, with a special focus on micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises,

*Emphasizing* that national development efforts need to be supported by an enabling international economic environment, including coherent and mutually supporting world trade, monetary and financial systems, and strengthened and enhanced global economic governance, and in this regard stressing that the likelihood of an increase in global foreign direct investment is further tempered by a series of risk factors,

*Emphasizing also* that achieving the Sustainable Development Goals is not possible without private and public investment, including long-term foreign investment, which can be mobilized when there is an enabling environment at all levels,

*Recognizing* the importance of corporate sustainability, including reporting on environmental, social and governance impacts, as appropriate, to help to ensure transparency and accountability and avoid practices that counteract efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Reaffirming* the commitment to significantly increase investments to close the gender gap and strengthen support for institutions in relation to gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at the global, regional and national levels,

*Noting with concern* that investments critical to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals remain underfunded, and recognizing that additional public and private investment and financing at the national and international levels will be required to meet the large investment needs, associated with gaps, for achieving the Goals, including in quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all,

*Recognizing* that international public finance, including official development assistance, is important to the efforts of developing countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, including through its capacity to

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<sup>104</sup> [E/FFDF/2023/3](#).

catalyse additional resource mobilization from other sources, public and private, as it can support improved tax collection and help to strengthen domestic enabling environments and build essential public services,

*Emphasizing* that the call for the contribution by the private sector to Sustainable Development Goals financing is not a substitute for but rather an important complement to public financing,

*Underlining* that, in order to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, both public and private finance should be sustainable and provided at affordable terms,

*Emphasizing* the need to continue to scale up investments in climate action, including by making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development, in line with the Paris Agreement,<sup>105</sup> and reiterating the need to accelerate the transfer and deployment of environmentally sound and low-emission technologies on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, and mutually agreed terms,

*Noting* that global foreign direct investment flows declined by 12 per cent in 2022, to 1.3 trillion dollars, and that although foreign direct investment in developing countries increased marginally, it however declined considerably in Africa from the 80 billion dollars recorded in 2021 to 45 billion dollars in 2022, growth was concentrated in a few large emerging economies, while inflows in many smaller developing countries were stagnant and foreign direct investment to the least developed countries declined,

*Noting also* that many developing countries continue to struggle to attract significant amounts of foreign direct investment beyond the extractive sector, 31 developing countries, including 11 least developed countries, have not yet registered a single utility-sized international investment project in renewables or other energy transition sectors since 2015, indicating that financing and, where adequate, de-risking support is especially crucial in most developing countries,

*Stressing* that transparency and inclusion in the international financial, monetary and trading systems and solid institutions at all levels and the design and implementation of policies, including capital market regulations, where appropriate, that promote incentives along the investment chain, that are aligned with long-term performance and sustainability indicators and that reduce volatility, are essential for investment promotion, sustained economic growth, poverty eradication and employment creation that goes hand-in-hand with technical education and vocational training in developing countries, and in this regard stressing the need for further international support as well as competitive investment climates at all levels for developing countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Recognizing* that socially, economically and environmentally responsible, accountable and sustainable national and international private business activity, investment, entrepreneurship and innovation, including equal access for all women and youth, are major drivers of productivity, inclusive economic growth and job creation, in order to leave no one behind,

*Noting* the role of the United Nations Development Programme Istanbul International Centre for Private Sector in Development in its engagement with the private sector to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and promote inclusive markets and sustainable business development,

*Recognizing* the importance of investments in technological industry and the digital economy to promote connectivity and digital partnerships, and that development and transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms is a powerful driver of sustainable development and that there is a need to foster linkages between multinational companies and the domestic public and private sectors, as appropriate, to facilitate technology development and transfer on mutually agreed terms,

1. *Emphasizes* that promoting investments in value addition and in the processing of natural resources and productive diversification ensures more inclusive and sustainable development, and in this regard encourages accelerated national efforts and the strengthening of international cooperation in areas that support policies and programmes that increase public and private, domestic and international investments for structural change in the economies of developing countries;

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<sup>105</sup> See [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21, annex.

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2. *Encourages* the promotion of sustainable and innovative financing opportunities and mechanisms to unlock new capital for sustainable investment and upscale sustainable business models, with a special focus on micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises;
3. *Notes with concern* that many of the least developed countries and small island developing States continue to be largely sidelined by foreign direct investment that could help to diversify their economies, despite improvements in some of their investment climates;
4. *Also notes with concern* the gap in access to capital and adequate support services for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, in particular for businesses led by women, young entrepreneurs and persons with disabilities, and recognizes that financial markets as well as business support organizations can be powerful vehicles for sustainable and inclusive economic growth and poverty alleviation, including when they support businesses that have a sustainable development impact and when access to credit is inclusive across all segments of an economy;
5. *Recognizes* that foreign direct investment can have positive spillovers, such as know-how and technology, including through establishing linkages with domestic suppliers, as well as encouraging the integration of local enterprises, in particular micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in developing countries, into regional and global value chains;
6. *Emphasizes* that foreign direct investment may have different impacts on Sustainable Development Goals, and underlines the need to strengthen the alignment of foreign direct investment with national policies and sustainable development strategies and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>106</sup> and invites States preparing integrated national financing frameworks to include and implement plans for mobilizing and aligning private finance with national development plans;
7. *Recognizes* the need to develop and strengthen policies to better align private sector incentives with Sustainable Development Goals, and acknowledges that sustainable finance taxonomies can be a helpful tool in creating more transparency and can thus incentivize the private sector to adopt and invest in sustainable practices and foster long-term quality investment;
8. *Encourages* national and international efforts to integrate sustainability into the financial system and thus to further reorient capital flows towards investments that are sustainable from an economic, social and environmental perspective;
9. *Calls for* increased foreign direct investments, particularly in developing countries, which have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and current multiple crises, to meet the 4 trillion dollar Sustainable Development Goal investment gap in developing countries, while recognizing the key role of foreign direct investments for economic growth and development and that foreign direct investments can reduce inequalities and can help commodity-dependent countries to transition to manufacturing activities and other higher-value-added activities;
10. *Encourages* financial actors at all levels to work towards the establishment of inclusive, representative and responsible financial practices, including practices related to transparency, disclosure and standards, and further encourages the efforts of all actors to reduce the existing and prevent further fragmentation of reporting and disclosure standards, as appropriate;
11. *Welcomes* the progress made by many countries in strengthening the enabling environment for private sector businesses and investments, but notes that more can be done to create competitive business and investment climates, including by increasing efforts to combat corruption, promoting market transparency, improving access to market information and easing the process of setting up businesses, that are well placed to attract private sector investment and participation in support of sustainable development;
12. *Reiterates* that greater gender equality in the distribution of economic resources can provide the means for women to generate income and creates positive multiplier effects for the achievement of inclusive, equitable and sustainable economic growth, and in this regard reiterates the need for targeted actions and investments;

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<sup>106</sup> Resolution 70/1.

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13. *Recognizes* the importance of private sector engagement with national, international and intergovernmental organizations, Member States and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, in their efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, in an effective, accountable and consultative manner;

14. *Acknowledges* the importance of combining international, multilateral development banks and government stakes in public-private partnerships to reduce the cost of capital, and the need for a shift in the lending priorities of multilateral development banks towards better leverage their funds, to attract greater volumes of private finance into developing countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals;

15. *Notes* the importance of sustainable corporate practices, including integrating environmental, social and governance factors into company reporting, as appropriate, with countries deciding on the appropriate balance of voluntary and mandatory rules, and encourages businesses to adopt principles for responsible business and investing;

16. *Acknowledges* the importance of corporate sustainability reporting, encourages companies, especially publicly listed and large companies, to integrate sustainability and due diligence information into their reporting cycles, encourages industry, interested Governments and relevant stakeholders, with the support of the United Nations system, as appropriate, to enhance existing models and develop new models for best practice and to facilitate action for the integration of sustainability reporting, taking into account experiences from already existing frameworks and paying particular attention to the needs of developing countries, including for capacity-building, and welcomes in this context the collaboration of the United Nations Global Compact with the Global Reporting Initiative and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development;

17. *Recognizes* the challenges faced by developing countries in adopting new international sustainability reporting standards, leading to increased needs for capacity-building, especially for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, and welcomes in this context the work of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting for the promotion of sustainability reporting in developing countries;

18. *Calls upon* Member States to reduce tensions and other risk factors and to foster environments that are conducive to scaling up long-term and sustainable investments, characterized by, inter alia, open, transparent and non-discriminatory investment policies;

19. *Notes with concern* the growing number of slum dwellers and the adverse effects on their health, safety and livelihood opportunities, and in this regard encourages targeted investments at all levels to ensure affordable and adequate housing as well as sustained investment for Sustainable Development Goal targets in these sectors by 2030;

20. *Emphasizes* that the private sector can contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in many ways, including through applying creative and innovative solutions to solving sustainable development challenges, the alignment of its business models with the Sustainable Development Goals, and supporting the efforts of the public sector in, inter alia, disaster risk reduction, climate action and skills development, in accordance with national plans and policies, and in this regard encourages further policy development and capacity-building on de-risking investments in all countries to mobilize financing;

21. *Welcomes* the growing interest among investors in taking sustainability issues into account in their investment decisions, but acknowledges that further work is needed to analyse, monitor and measure its contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals and maximize its positive development impact;

22. *Acknowledges* that reducing disaster risk, as outlined in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,<sup>107</sup> and the political declaration of the high-level meeting on its midterm review,<sup>108</sup> is a cost-effective investment in preventing future losses, encourages Member States to develop standards, legislation and regulations, as appropriate, for disaster risk-informed public and private sector investments, including on risk disclosure in investments and transactions, and to ensure that pipeline and bankable projects include multi-hazard and other measures that assess, prevent and mitigate risks, including in infrastructure and the real estate sector, and in this regard encourages Member States to routinely conduct stress testing of infrastructure systems;

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<sup>107</sup> Resolution 69/283, annex II.

<sup>108</sup> Resolution 77/289, annex.



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23. *Encourages* efforts to align infrastructure plans to disaster risk reduction strategies, promoting multi-hazard disaster risk assessments as a prerequisite for infrastructure, housing and real estate investments in all sectors and stress-testing of critical infrastructure systems, with a view to safeguarding gains in sustainable development;

24. *Encourages* Member States to achieve sustainable development in its three dimensions in an innovative, integrated, transparent, inclusive and equitable manner, which requires sufficient, sustainable and predictable investment through both the public and the private sectors;

25. *Invites* all relevant stakeholders to explore the possibilities of taking sustainability factors into account in credit rating assessments and to strengthen credit markets to promote the growth of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, in particular those owned by women;

26. *Recognizes* the growing momentum around sustainable investment and finance, including through investments in Sustainable Development Goal bonds, and invites private companies to adopt sustainable practices that foster long-term value;

27. *Acknowledges with great concern* the devastating economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which undermines countries' ability to implement the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement and threatens to upend the progress made recently in promoting investment in the Sustainable Development Goals, notes the role of multi-stakeholder partnerships, including with the public and private sectors, to foster strategic investment in the Sustainable Development Goals, especially in areas that could contribute more to combat COVID-19 and its resulting socioeconomic impacts, including through innovative financing, inter alia, in health-care systems, including universal health coverage; food security, including agricultural and food production and related supply chains; digital connectivity; job creation; sustainable and quality infrastructure development and growth in productivity; as well as to ensure an environment-responsive approach to COVID-19 recovery and to counter the shortfall in investment that the pandemic entails, calls upon all stakeholders to cooperate in order to enhance resilience and sustainability in global supply chains and strengthen international investment, including by aligning investments with the 2030 Agenda, and encourages cooperation to facilitate cross-border travel of persons for essential purposes, without undermining efforts to prevent the spread of the virus;

28. *Stresses* the need to take stock of public and private initiatives to measure investment impacts on the Sustainable Development Goals, identify their similarities and differences, and lay out potential gaps;

29. *Welcomes* in this regard the request, in the outcome document of the 2019 Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up, to the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development to further its analysis on the impact and metrics for measurement of the contribution of private sector investments and instruments to the Sustainable Development Goals at the global level,<sup>109</sup> and encourages international support for Member States, according to national circumstances and priorities, to voluntarily develop practical tools on measuring and collecting timely and reliable data on the private sector contribution towards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at the national level, as appropriate;

30. *Emphasizes* that international public finance plays an important role in complementing the efforts of countries to mobilize public resources domestically and that official development assistance, as a critical source for development finance, helps developing countries to secure sufficient public resources to invest in sectors that could accelerate the delivery of the transformational ambition of the 2030 Agenda, and notes in this regard the need to intensify efforts to meet respective commitments, focusing the most concessional resources on those with the greatest needs and least ability to mobilize other resources;

31. *Notes* the potential of blended finance, including its ability to crowd in, leverage or catalyse additional financing, and stresses that projects should be aligned with national priorities, have long-lasting development impact and be in the public interest, including those in vulnerable situations, while recognizing that, for different Sustainable Development Goal investment areas, different types of finance may represent the most effective financing modalities;

32. *Encourages* Member States to promote shareholder and consumer engagement that may encourage companies to take into account consumers' sustainability preferences;

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<sup>109</sup> See [E/FFDF/2019/3](#).

33. *Calls upon* development partners to continue to support efforts to strengthen policy frameworks to incentivize finance for productive investment, including building capacity to access available, additional and sustainable sources of financing, including concessional finance, particularly in the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and African countries, and taking into account the specific challenges faced by middle-income countries;

34. *Notes* the policy proposals put forward by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in its *World Investment Report 2022: International Tax Reform and Sustainable Investment*, in particular that the international community should support developing countries, especially in Africa and the least developed countries, including through scaling up technical assistance to take advantage of international tax reforms, and calls upon the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to work in collaboration with multiple stakeholders to help developing countries to avail themselves of these recommendations;

35. *Takes note of* the *World Investment Report 2023: Investing in Sustainable Energy for All* by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and invites the consideration of the proposals contained therein as appropriate;

36. *Encourages* States, development partners and the private sector to invest in technological development, to build more resilient supply chains, increase productive capacity and economic diversification in developing countries, share and transfer technology and know-how on mutually agreed terms and improve domestic investment climates to facilitate mass production, especially of safe, quality, effective and affordable vaccines, therapeutics and medical equipment, promote job creation, adequate training and capacity-building and wealth creation, increase investment in quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including through the full utilization of the United Nations development system, the World Bank and other multilateral institutions in addressing the capacity and funding gaps, building a pipeline of bankable, quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure projects and exploring innovative platform approaches to coordinating, scaling up and channelling public and private finance and technical assistance, increase all components of international public finance, including the catalytic use of official development assistance, domestic and international private sector finance, domestic resource mobilization, and trade, and reduce the average transaction cost of migrant remittances;

37. *Emphasizes* the need for technical assistance and capacity-building support for investment promotion and developing project pipelines and bankable projects, in particular for developing countries;

38. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and all relevant stakeholders to support the capacity-building of developing countries in their efforts to close the Sustainable Development Goals investment gaps, especially at the country programme level, on the use of public finance to leverage private investment for projects benefiting sustainable development;

39. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to inform the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session of the implementation of the present resolution, based on their ongoing research, through a dedicated section of the *World Investment Report*, with a special focus on promoting investments for sustainable development as well as concrete recommendations, including on strategic sectors to invest for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and looks forward to the continuing consideration of these issues in the forthcoming reports of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development;

40. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “Macroeconomic policy questions”, the sub-item entitled “Promoting investments for sustainable development”.



RESOLUTION 78/142

Adopted at the 49th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/461, para. 53)<sup>110</sup>

**78/142. International cooperation and coordination for the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region of Kazakhstan**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 52/169 M of 16 December 1997, 53/1 H of 16 November 1998, 55/44 of 27 November 2000, 57/101 of 25 November 2002, 60/216 of 22 December 2005, 63/279 of 24 April 2009, 66/193 of 22 December 2011, 69/209 of 19 December 2014, 72/213 of 20 December 2017 and 75/210 of 21 December 2020,

*Recognizing* that the Semipalatinsk nuclear testing ground, inherited by Kazakhstan and closed in 1991, remains a matter of serious concern for the people and Government of Kazakhstan with regard to the long-term consequences of its activity for the lives and health of the people, especially children and other vulnerable groups, as well as for the environment of the region,

*Taking into account* the fact that a number of international programmes in the Semipalatinsk region have been completed since the closure of the nuclear testing ground, but that serious social, economic and ecological problems continue to exist,

*Taking into consideration* the results of the International Conference on Semipalatinsk, held in Tokyo on 6 and 7 September 1999, which have promoted the effectiveness of the assistance provided to the population of the region,

*Acknowledging* the progress made towards accelerating the development of the Semipalatinsk region during the period from 2020 to 2022, through programmes and actions of the Government of Kazakhstan and the international community, including United Nations agencies,

*Recognizing* the important role of national development policies and strategies in the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region, including the newly established Abai region with the city of Semey as its administrative centre,

*Recognizing also* the challenges that Kazakhstan faces in the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region, in particular in the context of the efforts by the Government of Kazakhstan to ensure the effective and timely achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular with regard to health care and environmental sustainability,

*Recognizing further* that the Government of Kazakhstan may call upon the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Kazakhstan to render assistance in conducting consultations for establishing a multi-stakeholder mechanism, with the participation of various government bodies, local governments, civil society, the donor community and international organizations, to improve governance and enable the more efficient use of resources allocated for the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region, in particular regarding the areas of radiation safety, socioeconomic development and health and environmental protection, and for the provision of information on risks to the population,

*Emphasizing* the importance of support by donor States and international development organizations for the efforts of Kazakhstan to improve the social, economic and environmental situation in the Semipalatinsk region and the need for the international community to continue to pay due attention to the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region,

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<sup>110</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Maldives, Malta, Mongolia, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uzbekistan and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

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*Taking note* of the need to utilize modern technologies to minimize and mitigate radiological, health, socioeconomic, psychological and environmental challenges in the Semipalatinsk region,

*Considering* the importance of cooperation with the United Nations in establishing a coherent framework for strengthening coordination and information-sharing, as appropriate, among various actors in the region to plan, implement and monitor inclusive regional socioeconomic programmes and services, with special attention to vulnerable groups in the region,

*Emphasizing* the importance of the new development-oriented approach in tackling problems in the Semipalatinsk region in the medium to long term,

*Expressing appreciation* to donor countries and organizations, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, the specialized agencies and related organizations mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General<sup>111</sup> for their contribution to the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution [75/210](#) and the information contained therein on measures taken to solve the health, ecological, economic and humanitarian problems in the Semipalatinsk region;

2. *Welcomes and recognizes* the important role of the Government of Kazakhstan in providing domestic resources to help meet the needs of the Semipalatinsk region, implementing measures for optimizing public administration of the territory and facilities of the former Semipalatinsk nuclear test site and surrounding areas, ensuring radiation safety and environmental rehabilitation and reintegrating the use of the nuclear test site into the national economy;

3. *Urges* the international community to provide assistance to Kazakhstan in formulating and implementing special programmes and projects for the treatment and care of the affected population, as well as in efforts to ensure economic growth and sustainable development in the Semipalatinsk region, including increasing the effectiveness of existing programmes and providing the technical, expert and financial contributions necessary for the implementation of national development programmes for the rehabilitation and development of the Semipalatinsk region;

4. *Calls upon* Member States, relevant multilateral financial organizations and other entities of the international community, including academia and non-governmental organizations, to share information and experience in order to contribute to the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region, and to promote international awareness of the situation;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue pursuing a consultative process, with the participation of interested States and relevant United Nations agencies, on modalities for mobilizing and coordinating the necessary support to seek appropriate solutions to the problems and needs of the Semipalatinsk region, including those prioritized in his report;

6. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to enhance world public awareness of the problems and needs of the Semipalatinsk region;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its eighty-first session, under the item entitled “Sustainable development”, on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

#### RESOLUTION 78/143

Adopted at the 49th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 164 to 7, with 6 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee ([A/78/461](#), para. 53)<sup>112</sup>

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

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<sup>111</sup> [A/78/312](#).

<sup>112</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by Cuba (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China) and the Russian Federation.

Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, 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, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, 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, Türkiye, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against:* Australia, Canada, Israel, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, United States of America

*Abstaining:* Cameroon, Guatemala, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, South Sudan, Tonga

#### 78/143. 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, 75/209 of 21 December 2020, 76/199 of 17 December 2021 and 77/157 of 14 December 2022 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,<sup>113</sup> 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,<sup>114</sup> 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,<sup>115</sup>

*Reaffirming* its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,<sup>116</sup> recalling the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,<sup>117</sup> which highlights the importance of improving preparedness and national coordination for disaster response, rehabilitation and reconstruction, and post-disaster recovery and reconstruction, supported by strengthened modalities of international cooperation, and recalling also its resolution 71/256 of 23 December 2016, entitled “New Urban Agenda”, acknowledging that, in implementing the New Urban Agenda, particular attention should be given to addressing the unique and emerging urban development challenges facing, inter alia, countries affected by natural and human-made disasters,

*Welcoming* the declaration entitled “Our ocean, our future, our responsibility” as adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 76/296 of 21 July 2022, which underlines the interlinkages and potential synergies between Goal 14 and the other Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the importance of halting and reversing the decline in the health of the ocean’s ecosystems and biodiversity and of protecting and restoring its resilience and ecological integrity,

<sup>113</sup> 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.

<sup>114</sup> *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.

<sup>115</sup> *Ibid.*, annex II.

<sup>116</sup> See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

<sup>117</sup> Resolution 69/283, annex II.

*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](#), [75/209](#), [76/199](#) and [77/157](#),

*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 [77/157](#), 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,

*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,<sup>118</sup>

*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 eighteenth 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,<sup>119</sup> 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,

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<sup>118</sup> [A/78/280](#).

<sup>119</sup> [A/62/343](#).

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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 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-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution under the item entitled “Sustainable development”.

#### RESOLUTION 78/144

Adopted at the 49th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 135 to 26, with 10 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/461, para. 53)<sup>120</sup>

\* *In favour:* Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Niger, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Türkiye, 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, Zimbabwe

*Against:* Algeria, Bahrain, Brunei Darussalam, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Egypt, Guinea, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen

<sup>120</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Eswatini, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, South Sudan, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam.



*Abstaining:* Angola, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Guinea-Bissau, Indonesia, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Russian Federation, South Africa

**78/144. Agricultural technology for sustainable development**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution [76/200](#) of 17 December 2021,

*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, and 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,

*Expressing concern* about the high level of global hunger, which affected between 691 million and 783 million people in 2022,

*Recognizing* that sustainable, affordable and context-specific 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 Goals,<sup>121</sup> the *Global Sustainable Development Report* and the Secretary-General’s strategy on new technologies,

*Recognizing also* that the agriculture sector is inextricably linked with the entire food system and that agricultural technologies, innovations and digitalization can be enablers of efforts to make agrifood systems more efficient, inclusive, equitable, resilient and sustainable and add value throughout the agrifood system by improving the sustainability of production, harvesting, storage, transport, trade, processing, transformation, retail, loss and waste reduction and recycling, as well as interactions among these processes, and that it is necessary to identify and analyse opportunities, risks and trade-offs associated with technologies and to ensure the availability, accessibility and affordability of relevant technologies for small-scale producers, family farmers and all actors of the agrifood system,

*Recalling* the Rome Declaration on Nutrition, adopted at the Second International Conference on Nutrition,<sup>122</sup> the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025)<sup>123</sup> and the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030),<sup>124</sup> taking note of the Nutrition for Growth Summit held in Tokyo in 2021, and looking forward to the Nutrition for Growth Summit to be held in Paris,

*Recalling also* the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019–2028),<sup>125</sup> noting the report on its implementation,<sup>126</sup> and that sustainable agricultural technology, digitalization, as well as technological, social, economic and institutional innovations, build on the knowledge, capacities and a science base to respond to the needs and realities of smallholder and family farmers, in particular women and youth and Indigenous Peoples in rural areas, and in that regard highlighting the importance of innovation-driven development and support to entrepreneurship and innovation that embraces both traditional good practices and innovations, secures access for family farmers to sustainable, affordable and context-specific innovations, technologies and connectivity, and leverages the potential

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<sup>121</sup> [A/78/80-E/2023/64](#).

<sup>122</sup> World Health Organization, document EB136/8, annex I.

<sup>123</sup> See resolution [70/259](#).

<sup>124</sup> See resolution [73/284](#).

<sup>125</sup> See resolution [72/239](#).

<sup>126</sup> [A/78/233](#).

for innovation among young family farmers, and welcoming new sustainable agricultural technologies and approaches that can increase productivity and food safety and resilience, contributing to their transition from subsistence farming to innovative, commercial production and helping them to increase in a sustainable manner their own food security and nutrition, generate marketable surpluses and add value to their production,

*Taking note with appreciation* of the United Nations Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment, convened by the Secretary-General from 24 to 26 July 2023 and hosted by the Government of Italy at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in collaboration with the United Nations system in Rome,

*Stressing* the need to design sustainable agrifood 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, innovation and digitalization can contribute to food security and nutrition and help to build resilience,

*Recognizing* the need to further enhance the linkages and synergies between agricultural technology and sustainable agricultural practices, including agroecological and other innovative approaches, resource use efficiency, including sustainable use of existing domestic agricultural resources acknowledging diversity in circumstance, circular economy, recycling, optimizing external inputs, integration, crop rotation and diversification, no-tillage, soil health monitoring, agroforestry and regenerative agricultural practices, by effectively combining safe use and 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 as well as promote the realization of the right to adequate food, enhance productivity, increase adaptive capacity and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve nutrition, conserve the natural resource base and attain more sustainable and innovative agrifood systems,

*Noting with concern* the findings contained in the synthesis report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change sixth assessment report,

*Reaffirming* the Paris Agreement<sup>127</sup> 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 Change<sup>128</sup> that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

*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 and promote efforts for their conservation and their sustainable use,

*Welcoming* the adoption on 19 December 2022 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity,

*Recalling* 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,<sup>129</sup>

*Taking note with appreciation* of the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028, held in New York from 22 to 24 March 2023, and the Sustainable Development Goals Summit held in New York on 18 and 19 September 2023, noting the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 6 to 20 November 2022, and the adoption of its decision on the Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on the implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security, and looking forward to the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 30 November to 12 December 2023,

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<sup>127</sup> Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.

<sup>128</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

<sup>129</sup> [A/CONF.216/5](#), annex.



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*Recalling* the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030,<sup>130</sup> taking note of the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use, 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,

*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,

*Recognizing* 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,

*Stressing* the importance of rapid technological change in ensuring food security by 2030, and encouraging the adoption of the most advanced and appropriate information technology in agriculture systems, and calling for enhanced international cooperation to facilitate access and promote investment in research, technology and infrastructure,

*Recognizing* the need to mobilize and scale up financing for science, technology and innovation, especially in developing countries, in support of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 2,

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

*Recalling* the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Road map for digital cooperation", presented on 11 June 2020,<sup>131</sup>

*Noting* the creation of the Secretary-General's Scientific Advisory Board for Independent Advice on Breakthroughs in Science and Technology,

*Stressing* the need to support and strengthen information systems and statistical systems for better disaggregated data collection, including sex-disaggregated data, processing and interoperability, 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, and noting the Committee on World Food Security policy recommendations on strengthening collection and use of food security and nutrition data and related analysis tools to improve decision-making in support of the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security, adopted in October 2023,

*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 women, smallholder and family farmers, especially in supporting more efficient, inclusive, equitable, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems that can deliver nutritious food,

*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,<sup>132</sup> and the convening of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 18 and 19 May 2023,

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<sup>130</sup> See resolution [71/285](#).

<sup>131</sup> [A/74/821](#).

<sup>132</sup> 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,<sup>133</sup>

*Recalling further* all relevant strategies and programmes of action for the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, including the Doha Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries,<sup>134</sup> the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024<sup>135</sup> and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,<sup>136</sup> recalling the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Doha, looking forward to the convening of the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, in Kigali in June 2024, and the fourth United Nations Conference on Small Island Developing States, in Antigua and Barbuda in May 2024, reaffirming the importance of supporting Agenda 2063 of the African Union and the programme of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,<sup>137</sup> and recognizing the major challenge to the achievement of durable peace and sustainable development in countries in conflict and post-conflict situations,

*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,

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

*Stressing* the crucial and equal 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-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 full, equal and meaningful 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,

*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, including through the use of appropriate agricultural technology, digitalization and the training of smallholder and family farmers, in particular rural women and Indigenous Peoples, and that multi-stakeholder partnerships can contribute to the financing of food

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<sup>133</sup> Resolution [73/291](#), annex.

<sup>134</sup> Resolution [76/258](#), annex.

<sup>135</sup> Resolution [69/137](#), annex I.

<sup>136</sup> Resolution [69/15](#), annex.

<sup>137</sup> [A/57/304](#), annex.

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,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>138</sup>

2. *Calls upon* Member States to include sustainable agricultural development as an integral part of their national policies and strategies, acknowledges the positive impact of international development cooperation, including North-South, triangular and South-South cooperation, as a complement to, not a substitute for, North-South cooperation, and urges the relevant bodies of the United Nations system to include elements of agricultural technology, innovation, research and extension in efforts to realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>139</sup> 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 and family farmers, in particular rural women, young and ageing farmers;

3. *Underlines* the importance of supporting sustainable agriculture including agroecology and other innovative approaches and advancing research in improving and diversifying crop varieties and seed systems, as well as supporting the establishment of sustainable and resilient 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, make food more nutritious and, in particular, 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;

4. *Recognizes* the important role of family farming and smallholder farming in adapting and developing sustainable, affordable and context-specific innovations and technologies while helping to preserve and promote traditional products, and in contributing to global food security, poverty eradication and sustainability, as well as job creation, and in ending chronic child malnutrition, and in this regard calls upon Member States, academia, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders to adapt agricultural technologies to the needs of small- and medium-scale family farmers and combine them 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;

5. *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 rural agricultural land planning, improved rural-urban transportation links, food processing and 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;

6. *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 productivity and adaptive capacity of agriculture and the use of a broad range of agricultural technologies that support more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood 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;

7. *Stresses* the importance of indicators that can be used to formulate targeted policies towards the development and adoption of, access to and use 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;

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<sup>138</sup> A/78/228.

<sup>139</sup> Resolution 70/1.

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8. *Notes* the need to analyse the potential impacts of agricultural technologies before their implementation, to ensure that agrifood systems are more inclusive, equitable, efficient, resilient and sustainable that can deliver nutritious food, and that fostering synergies between government departments, research institutions, national and international organizations, alliances and coalitions can accelerate the development and adoption of technologies;

9. *Also notes* that the development of and access to new technologies should be combined with the preservation and promotion of traditional knowledge, where relevant, to attract Indigenous Peoples and local communities and enable young people to be drivers of more efficient, inclusive, equitable, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems, that investments are needed to improve inclusive digital literacy and build the digital competencies of young rural people, and that relevant and effective policy frameworks and incentives, regulatory measures and economic and legal instruments should be promoted to ensure equity and inclusion in the development of and access to technologies;

10. *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;

11. *Also 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 processing, 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;

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

13. *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;

14. *Calls upon* Member States, academia, the private sector and other stakeholders to harness science, technology and innovation, including co-innovation, by promoting coherent and integrated agricultural innovation systems through 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;

15. *Invites* the United Nations system and all relevant stakeholders to consider ways to make available, on mutually agreed terms, data and information relating to agrifood 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 smallholder and family farmers, optimize yields and support rural livelihoods;

16. *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;

17. *Also recognizes* that advanced technologies, such as big data, the Internet of things, artificial intelligence and machine learning, distributed ledgers, remote sensing and geospatial analysis, have the potential to increase agricultural productivity, improve access to markets and efficiency of inputs, and ensure timely communication for

informed decision-making, while acknowledging that this should be examined carefully to maximize benefits and minimize downsides;

18. *Further 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, and in this regard, welcomes the convening of the Global Conference on Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization, organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization, from 27 to 29 September 2023 in Rome;

19. *Recognizes* the important role of information and communications technology, as well as digitalization and e-agriculture, in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and in 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 that women and youth and Indigenous Peoples have equitable access to information and communications technology, digitalization and e-agriculture, especially in rural areas, and to close digital divides within and between countries, as well as the gender digital divide, to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

20. *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 women, smallholder and family 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;

21. *Recognizes* that agricultural biotechnologies can be harnessed and scaled up to enhance the productivity of agrifood systems, notes with concern that national agricultural research systems in developing countries face barriers such as restricted access, limited funding and regulatory frameworks to use advanced biotechnologies, and in this regard reiterates the need to accelerate the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on mutually agreed terms;

22. *Notes* that, according to World Bank estimates, at least 300 billion United States dollars in investments are needed annually to promote sustainable food systems and that many developing countries, particularly low-income countries, are grappling with multiple crises, including extreme weather disasters, constrained fiscal conditions, and escalating interest rates, making it challenging to finance emergency responses while simultaneously investing in sustainable food systems, and in this regard calls upon Member States to promote a concerted effort to jointly mobilize public and private capital, to achieve high-performing food systems;

23. *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 on 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 agricultural productivity and the nutritional quality of agricultural 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;

24. *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, that are gender-responsive, including in rural

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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;

25. *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;

26. *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 sustainable agriculture;

27. *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;

28. *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;

29. *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 and family 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;

30. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its eightieth 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 eightieth session the item entitled "Sustainable development".

#### RESOLUTION 78/145

Adopted at the 49th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/461, para. 53)<sup>140</sup>

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<sup>140</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Belize, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Georgia, Guatemala, Honduras, Kazakhstan, Maldives, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Philippines, Singapore, Suriname, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam.



**78/145. Sustainable and resilient tourism and sustainable development in Central America and the Dominican Republic**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions [68/207](#) of 20 December 2013, [70/196](#) of 22 December 2015, [72/214](#) of 20 December 2017, [74/211](#) of 19 December 2019 and [76/201](#) of 17 December 2021, 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 Agreement,<sup>141</sup> encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change<sup>142</sup> that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

*Recalling* the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016,<sup>143</sup> which recognized the commitment to sustain and support urban economies to transition progressively to higher productivity through high-value-added sectors, including through the promotion of cultural and creative industries, sustainable tourism, performing arts and heritage conservation activities, among others,

*Recalling also* the Sendai Declaration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,<sup>144</sup> adopted at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, the latter of which, inter alia, 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,

*Welcoming* the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, adopted at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and calls for its timely implementation,

*Welcoming also* the convening of the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028, from 22 to 24 March 2023,

*Looking forward* to the third United Nations Ocean Conference, to be co-hosted by Costa Rica and France and to be held in Nice, France, in June 2025,

*Recalling* its resolution [77/178](#) of 14 December 2022 on the promotion of sustainable and resilient tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environmental protection, and its resolution [77/269](#) of 6 February 2023, in which it proclaimed 17 February as Global Tourism Resilience Day,

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<sup>141</sup> Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.

<sup>142</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

<sup>143</sup> Resolution [71/256](#), annex.

<sup>144</sup> Resolution [69/283](#), annexes I and II.



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*Welcoming* the decision by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its resumed fifth session, in its resolution 5/14 of 2 March 2022,<sup>145</sup> to convene an intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment,

*Taking note* of the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative and its role in accelerating climate action and advancing the tourism sector towards a sustained, sustainable and resilient economic growth pathway, while acknowledging the efforts that are being undertaken by countries in the Central American Integration System region to combat plastic pollution,

*Recalling* its resolution 77/282 of 26 April 2023 on building global resilience and promoting sustainable development through regional and interregional infrastructure connectivity, in which it emphasized that infrastructure impacts the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, and stressing the importance of quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure for addressing the interconnected social, economic and environmental challenges,

*Welcoming* the holding of the high-level thematic debate on tourism on the theme “Putting sustainable and resilient tourism at the heart of an inclusive recovery”, convened by the President of the General Assembly in May 2022, in collaboration with the World Tourism Organization, as an important milestone to work towards a concerted approach on tourism at the highest level, within the United Nations system,

*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, the creation of decent jobs, protection of the environment, improvement of quality of life, and advancement of social inclusion, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, especially in developing countries,

*Noting* in this regard the role of the Central American Integration System,<sup>146</sup> through the Central American Tourism Integration Secretariat, and the Central American Tourism Council in the promotion of sustainable tourism in the region,

*Commending* the ongoing efforts of the Governments of the States members of the Central American Integration System, 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,

*Acknowledging* that tourism is among the economic sectors hardest hit by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and stressing that the challenges require comprehensive solutions and international collaboration which contribute to strengthening policies and financial support needed to sustain the livelihoods dependent on the sector, reduce inequalities, eradicate poverty and safeguard the benefits of tourism, including coastal and rural tourism, in order to promote a more sustainable tourism model based on social inclusion and the conservation and protection of the environment,

*Taking note* of the World Tourism Organization *World Tourism Barometer* of September 2023, which highlights that international tourism is expected to continue its recovery backed by strong travel demand, that the latest World Tourism Organization data show that the recovery has continued in 2023, with an estimated 700 million tourists travelling internationally between January and July 2023, about 43 per cent more than in the same period of 2022, and noting, however, that it was mentioned in the *World Tourism Barometer* of May 2023 that, according to experts, the economic environment continues to be the main factor weighing on the recovery of international tourism,

*Noting with concern* that, owing to its geographical location and its geological and hydrometeorological characteristics, Central America is a region prone and vulnerable to natural hazards, including those that are climate-related, which have resulted in disasters causing substantial human and economic losses, including impacts on gross domestic product per capita, income, and poverty reduction,

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<sup>145</sup> UNEP/EA.5/Res.14.

<sup>146</sup> The membership of the Central American Integration System includes Belize, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama.

*Recognizing* that the Central American Integration System region contains 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 States members of the Central American Integration System 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,

*Acknowledging* the importance of ongoing actions to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production<sup>147</sup> in the tourism sector while contributing to sustainable development and resilient societies,

*Stressing* the importance of the tourism sector becoming more sustainable, resilient, digital and accessible, while stressing the need to close the digital divides, both between and within countries and including the rural-urban, youth-older persons and gender digital divides, and to harness information and communications technologies for development, and recalling the need to emphasize quality and affordability of access to bridge digital and knowledge divides, and improve digital literacy using a multidimensional approach that includes speed, stability, affordability, language, training, capacity-building, local content and accessibility for persons with disabilities,

*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,<sup>148</sup> and recalling also its resolution 74/198 of 19 December 2019, entitled "International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development, 2021",

*Recognizing* 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* 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 Sustainable Tourism and Climate Change in Central America, held from 21 to 24 September 2023 in La Ceiba, Honduras, the outcomes adopted at the 126th meeting of the Central American Tourism Council, held in San Salvador on 30 August 2023, the twenty-second Forum for the Development of Tourism Integration of Central America and the Caribbean, held in San Salvador on 28 September 2022, and 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, and looks forward to the second Social, Solidarity and Sustainable Tourism Forum, to be held with the support of the International Social Tourism Organization,

*Recalling also* the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization, held in Madrid from 30 November to 3 December 2021, and welcoming its twenty-fifth session, held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, from 16 to 20 October 2023,

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<sup>147</sup> In accordance with United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 4/1 (UNEP/EA.4/Res.1).

<sup>148</sup> A/73/283.

*Emphasizing* that rebuilding tourism after the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic is an opportunity for transformation, with a focus on leveraging its impact on destinations, fostering community-based models and building more sustainable, resilient and inclusive communities and businesses through innovation and public-private partnerships to foster investments in sustainable travel and infrastructure, targeted training and human resources development,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on sustainable tourism and sustainable development in Central America;<sup>149</sup>

2. *Recognizes* the major role that sustainable and resilient tourism plays in advancing towards the achievement of sustainable development of the States members of the Central American Integration System, as an instrument of social inclusion that generates decent jobs and entrepreneurship opportunities, contributing to inclusive economic growth and the improvement of the quality of life of the population, aimed at achieving poverty eradication in all its forms and dimensions, and that it contributes to the promotion of climate resilience, environmental sustainability and disaster risk management in tourist activities and destinations;

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

4. *Recognizes* that since the adoption of resolution 76/201 in 2021, despite the many challenges they have faced owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, Central America and the Dominican Republic have shown numerous positive developments, initiatives and efforts to promote sustainable tourism and sustainable development, making significant progress towards recovery and enhancing resilience, recognizing the implementation of policies at the national level, and employing an integrated and holistic approach for the promotion of sustainable tourism and sustainable development to generate benefits in the social, economic and environmental pillars;

5. *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;

6. *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;

7. *Recognizes* that the tourism sector has been a catalyst for achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions in Central America and the Dominican Republic, 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 and of adopting a comprehensive, multisectoral approach for the sustainable development of tourism;

8. *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;

9. *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 Integration System 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

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<sup>149</sup> [A/78/210](#).

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;

10. *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;

11. *Encourages* Member States and relevant stakeholders to support cooperatives, community-based organizations and micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises with initiatives towards achieving a stronger business environment, technical assistance, institutional networking and capacity-building and by enhancing institutional coherence policy that supports funding mechanisms and initiatives for poverty eradication programmes and projects;

12. *Welcomes* the progress made by the States members of the Central American Integration System 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;

13. *Appreciates* the continued efforts of the States members of the Central American Integration System 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;

14. *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;

15. *Recognizes* the important efforts made by the Central American Integration System region to include those in vulnerable situations in decision-making in the tourism sector, with a more decentralized and participatory approach, especially rural and local communities and Indigenous Peoples, aiming also to advance the empowerment of women and girls and provide opportunities for youth, and calls upon the international community to support local, rural and community-based tourism initiatives to ensure that tourism continues to support economic growth and sustainable development;

16. *Also 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;

17. *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;

18. *Recognizes* that the implementation of sustainable consumption and production patterns in the tourism sector in Central America, and hence advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>150</sup> in the region, requires, inter alia, the identification and adoption of more resource-efficient tourism planning approaches by all relevant stakeholders;

19. *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;

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<sup>150</sup> Resolution 70/1.

20. *Invites* Governments and other stakeholders to join the Sustainable Tourism Programme of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns,<sup>151</sup> which aims at promoting innovation and circular thinking to accelerate resource efficiency in the tourism value chain;

21. *Notes with appreciation* the launch of the first phase of the Tourism Observatory of the Central American Integration System Region in June 2023, and looks forward to its completion, 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;

22. *Encourages* further collaboration by public-private partnerships towards the enhancement of quality data collection, including disaggregated data, in accordance with national legislation, taking into account the concerted efforts by national authorities of the States members of the Central American Integration System, 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;

23. *Urges* the tourism sector in the States members of the Central American Integration System 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, and in that sense welcomes the progress of the Secretary-General's call to protect everyone on Earth through universal coverage of early warning systems, including through the Early Warning for All initiative;

24. *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 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to promote sustainable tourism worldwide;

25. *Invites* Member States and other stakeholders and the World Tourism Organization to continue to support the activities undertaken by the States members of the Central American Integration System 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 Integration System region to disasters caused by natural hazards 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;

26. *Invites* Member States and relevant stakeholders to welcome the many opportunities that the new digital transformation of the tourism sector offers for creating and implementing innovative technologies to modernize the tourism industry in the States members of the Central American Integration System, by creating momentum for economic growth and expanding opportunities, including for women and young people, harnessing digital technology, fostering innovation and training and building human capacity, for the successful recovery and resilience of the tourism sector;

27. *Encourages* the States members of the Central American Integration System, 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 One Planet Sustainable Tourism Programme, among other international initiatives, can deliver direct and focused support to Governments;

28. *Also encourages* the States members of the Central American Integration System to establish and strengthen quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, emphasizing the need to promote investments in infrastructure that are socially, economically and environmentally sustainable, so as to promote sustainable tourism in the region;

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<sup>151</sup> [A/CONF.216/5](#), annex.

#### IV. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Second Committee

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29. *Reiterates* the commitment to the development of sustainable regional infrastructure projects that stimulate sustainable economic productivity, promoting equitable growth of regions across the urban-rural continuum, and encourages urban-rural interactions and connectivity by strengthening sustainable transport and mobility, and technology and communications networks and infrastructure, including connectivity between cities and their surroundings, peri-urban and rural areas, as well as greater land-sea connections, where appropriate, and encourages the development of tourism infrastructure and the promotion of tourism diversification, including through public-private partnerships, as a way to foster job creation for local communities, the preservation of their way of life, culture and heritage and the promotion of the three dimensions of sustainable development, while simultaneously inviting Member States to take measures to protect the environment and the sociocultural heritage of a destination;

30. *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;

31. *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;

32. *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;

33. *Welcomes* the positive role that tourism can play 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 sustainable tourism as an enabling agent of change, and also welcomes the convening of the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 30 November to 12 December 2023, and looks forward to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in 2024;

34. *Reiterates its call for* the prevention of new and the reduction of existing disaster risk through the implementation of integrated and inclusive economic, structural, legal, social, health, cultural, educational, environmental, technological, political, financial and institutional measures that prevent and reduce hazard exposure and vulnerability to disaster, increase preparedness for response and recovery and thus strengthen resilience, and reaffirms the need for the enhancement of the means of implementation and the capacity and capability of developing countries, including the mobilization of support through international cooperation, for the provision of means of implementation to augment domestic efforts in accordance with their national priorities;

35. *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 eightieth 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 States members of the Central American Integration System, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its eightieth session the item entitled “Sustainable development”.



RESOLUTION 78/146

Adopted at the 49th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/461, para. 53)<sup>152</sup>

**78/146. Cooperative measures to assess and increase awareness of environmental effects related to waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 65/149 of 20 December 2010, 68/208 of 20 December 2013, 71/220 of 21 December 2016 and 74/213 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, and its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner,

*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 relevant recommendations of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm in June 1972,<sup>153</sup>

*Taking note* of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 1992,<sup>154</sup> and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation), adopted in Johannesburg, South Africa, in September 2002,<sup>155</sup> and reaffirming the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, adopted in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012,<sup>156</sup>

*Recognizing* the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity<sup>157</sup> and its programme of work to reduce marine and coastal biological loss, as well as other multilateral environmental agreements and regional seas conventions to address marine pollution and their contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

*Welcoming* the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted in decision 15/4 at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and its target 7,

*Recalling* the political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly (Sustainable Development Goals Summit),<sup>158</sup> held in New York on 18 and

<sup>152</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Ukraine and Vanuatu.

<sup>153</sup> See *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm, 5–16 June 1972 (A/CONF.48/14/Rev.1)*, part one.

<sup>154</sup> See *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.

<sup>155</sup> *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 2, annex.

<sup>156</sup> Resolution 66/288, annex.

<sup>157</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

<sup>158</sup> Resolution 78/1, annex.



19 September 2023, in which Member States confirmed that they remain resolved to ensure the lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources and committed to reducing disaster risk,

*Recalling also* its resolutions [73/254](#) of 20 December 2018 and [76/224](#) of 17 December 2021, in which it promotes global partnerships that are critical to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as a principle-based approach to enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners,

*Recalling further* the efforts to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, including preventing and significantly reducing, by 2025, marine pollution of all kinds,<sup>159</sup>

*Recalling* the 2022 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, co-hosted by Kenya and Portugal,

*Encouraging* all parties to support the preparations for the next United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, to be co-hosted by Costa Rica and France in June 2025,

*Recalling* its resolution [72/73](#) of 5 December 2017, in which it proclaimed the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development,

*Reaffirming* the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,<sup>160</sup> which provides the legal framework for ocean activities, and emphasizing its fundamental character, conscious that the problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and need to be considered as a whole through an integrated, interdisciplinary and intersectoral approach,

*Noting* the importance of cooperation on chemical munitions dumped at sea as an effort that contributes to the improvement of the overall marine environment,

*Recalling* relevant international and regional instruments such as the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction,<sup>161</sup> the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter,<sup>162</sup> the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region,<sup>163</sup> the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean,<sup>164</sup> the Agreement on the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Area of the South-East Pacific,<sup>165</sup> the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area<sup>166</sup> and the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic,<sup>167</sup>

*Noting* the national, regional and international activities, including scientific research,<sup>168</sup> data collection and sharing, awareness-raising, reporting on encounters and technical advice, related to munitions dumped at sea, inter alia, in the frameworks of the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic, the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area,

*Emphasizing* that, in the report on the Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (the Third Review Conference), adopted at The Hague on

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<sup>159</sup> See resolution [70/1](#).

<sup>160</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.

<sup>161</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1974, No. 33757.

<sup>162</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1046, No. 15749.

<sup>163</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1506, No. 25974.

<sup>164</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1102, No. 16908.

<sup>165</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1648, No. 28325.

<sup>166</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2099, No. 36495.

<sup>167</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2354, No. 42279.

<sup>168</sup> See, for example, the findings of the Baltic Sea research project entitled “Chemical Munitions, Search and Assessment (CHEMSEA)”, which is conducting research on environmental effects related to chemical munitions dumped at sea. The findings summarize all results obtained by the project.

19 April 2013, the States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction were invited to support voluntary sharing of information, raising awareness and cooperation on this issue, and stressing the value of such voluntary efforts, building upon the discussions held at the Review Conferences of 2018 and 2023,

*Noting* that Member States, international and regional organizations and civil society have undertaken activities to discuss and promote the issues related to waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea, including international cooperation and the exchange of experiences and practical knowledge,

*Noting also* that the first and second World Ocean Assessments (World Ocean Assessment I and II), adopted respectively in 2015 and 2021, also highlight the issue of marine pollution, including from munitions dumped at sea, and have been taken into account by the General Assembly in its resolutions [70/235](#) of 23 December 2015, [71/257](#) of 23 December 2016, [72/73](#) of 5 December 2017, [73/124](#) of 11 December 2018, [75/239](#) of 31 December 2020 and [77/248](#) of 30 December 2022,

*Noting further* the concerns about the potential long-term environmental effects related to waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea, including their potential impact on human health and safety and on the marine environment and resources,

*Recognizing* the mandates and capacities of competent United Nations system entities in the fields of marine environment monitoring, research and information-sharing, as well as pollution preparedness and response,<sup>169</sup>

*Recognizing also* the ongoing efforts aimed at awareness-raising, information-sharing and capacity-building at various levels, as well as partnership and cooperation on the issue among relevant regional and international bodies, including the United Nations, the International Maritime Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Commission for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic and the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission, as well as the regional seas conventions and others,<sup>170</sup>

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General, including the views submitted and contained therein;
2. *Notes* the importance of raising awareness of the environmental effects related to waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea;
3. *Invites* Member States and relevant international and regional organizations to keep under observation the issue of the waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea, to continue outreach efforts to assess and increase awareness of environmental effects related to that issue and to cooperate, including by strengthening existing efforts within regional seas conventions and other international, regional and subregional activities, as appropriate, related to risk assessment, monitoring, information-gathering, risk prevention and response to incidents;
4. *Encourages* voluntary sharing of information on waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea through conferences, seminars, workshops, training courses and publications aimed at the general public and industry in order to reduce related risks;
5. *Also encourages* partnerships between Governments, industry and civil society for raising awareness about, reporting on and monitoring of waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea;
6. *Invites* Member States to consider providing assistance and sharing expertise aimed at building capacities related to risk assessment, monitoring, information gathering, risk prevention and response to incidents resulting from waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea;
7. *Encourages* Member States to share experiences, good practices and information on the technologies available to treat, conserve or safely destroy the waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea;
8. *Invites* the Secretary-General to continue analysing all available information and additionally, if appropriate, to seek the views of Member States and relevant regional and international organizations on cooperative measures to assess and increase awareness of the environmental effects related to waste originating from chemical

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<sup>169</sup> Competent United Nations system entities include, inter alia, the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Maritime Organization, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and the Secretariat.

<sup>170</sup> See [A/78/276](#).

munitions dumped at sea, also with a view to providing a global review of available technical means of minimizing potential environmental effects related to the waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea, including through their elimination, based on the scientific data and information compiled with due regard to equitable geographical representation,<sup>171</sup> and further exploring the possibility of establishing a database,<sup>172</sup> as well as identifying the appropriate intergovernmental bodies within the United Nations system for further consideration and implementation, as appropriate, of the cooperative measures envisaged in the present resolution, building on and without duplicating existing activities, and with a view to achieving efficiency and synergies, taking into account the mandates and capacities of relevant international and regional organizations;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General, within existing resources, to submit to the General Assembly at its eighty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, prepared using responses of Member States and relevant regional and international organizations, as well as other available information, with the circulation of the related questionnaire among Member States with due advance notice, and decides to include the item entitled “Sustainable development” in the provisional agenda of its eighty-second session, unless otherwise agreed.

#### RESOLUTION 78/147

Adopted at the 49th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/461, para. 53)<sup>173</sup>

#### **78/147. Central Asia facing environmental challenges: fostering regional solidarity for sustainable development and prosperity**

*The General Assembly,*

*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,

*Recalling* its resolutions 75/278 of 18 May 2021 on declaring the Aral Sea region a zone of ecological innovations and technologies, 77/158 of 14 December 2022 on the proclamation of the International Year of Glaciers’ Preservation, 77/165 of 14 December 2022 on the protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind, 77/172 of 14 December 2022 on sustainable mountain development, 77/286 of 16 May 2023 on the proclamation of World Sustainable Transport Day and 77/334 of 1 September 2023 on the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028,

*Recognizing* the need to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts,

*Recognizing also* the importance of the unique ecological and geographical significance of the Aral Sea region, recognizing the catastrophic consequences of the drying up of the Aral Sea, supporting the efforts of the countries of Central Asia aimed at preserving the Aral Sea, including the rational and effective use of the Aral water basin, and

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<sup>171</sup> The absence of inputs from certain regions will not invalidate the review, noting the request for the Secretariat to observe the principle of equitable geographical representation.

<sup>172</sup> Such a database could contain relevant and voluntarily shared information on, inter alia, the location of dumping sites, the type, quantity and, to the extent possible, the current condition of chemical munitions, the recorded environmental impact, best practices on risk prevention and response to incidents or accidental encounters and destruction or impact reduction technologies, including by means of data collection and management.

<sup>173</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Cabo Verde, China, Cyprus, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Germany, Hungary, Indonesia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Panama, Paraguay, Singapore, Suriname, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Tonga, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

acknowledging the urgent need for sustainable development in the Aral Sea region, by promoting regional and international cooperation as well as financial and technical support, as appropriate, including, among other initiatives, through the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea and the multi-partner human security trust fund for the Aral Sea region,

*Recognizing further* that mountain ecosystems are highly vulnerable to the increasing adverse impacts of climate change, extreme weather events, deforestation, forest fires and forest degradation, land-use change, land degradation and natural disasters, from which they recover slowly, and that mountain glaciers around the world are retreating and getting thinner, with increasing impacts on the environment, sustainable livelihoods and human well-being, while reaffirming the importance of the Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions proclaimed for the period 2023–2027 to give new impetus to the international community's efforts to address the challenges and problems of mountain countries,

*Noting* that, over the past decades, global warming has led to widespread shrinking of the cryosphere, with mass loss from ice sheets and glaciers and reductions in snow cover, and stressing the urgent need to raise awareness of and to promote and facilitate actions and sustainable measures towards preserving glaciers, while seizing the opportunities of the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation in 2025,

*Welcoming* the offer of the Government of Tajikistan to convene an international conference dedicated to glaciers' preservation in Tajikistan in 2025, and the offer of the Government of Kyrgyzstan to convene the second Global Mountain Summit in Bishkek in 2027,

*Noting* the intention of Turkmenistan to host the Regional Centre for Climate Change Mitigating Technologies, in cooperation with the Climate Technology Centre and Network,

*Noting also* the adoption, by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its seventy-ninth session, of resolution 79/8 of 19 May 2023 on the modalities for the establishment of the United Nations special programme for the Aral Sea basin,

*Recognizing* that water is critical for sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger, that water, ecosystems, energy, food security and nutrition are linked and that water is indispensable for health, well-being and human development, including the empowerment of women, and a vital element of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and other relevant goals in the social, environmental and economic fields,

*Welcoming* the convening of the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development," 2018–2028, from 22 to 24 March 2023,

1. *Reaffirms* that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, presenting a serious challenge to the sustainable development of all countries;
2. *Emphasizes* the importance of strengthening regional cooperation to tackle environmental challenges in Central Asia, including the Aral Sea region, and promoting socioeconomic development and adaptation to climate change;
3. *Takes note* of the adoption by the Heads of State of the Central Asian countries of the regional programme known as "Green Agenda for Central Asia", aimed at fostering sustainable development;
4. *Welcomes* the initiative of Uzbekistan to convene an International Climate Forum in Samarkand in 2024, dedicated to seeking coordinated approaches and solutions to environmental challenges in the Central Asian region for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;
5. *Also welcomes* the initiative of Kazakhstan to organize a regional climate summit in 2026, aimed at strengthening the regional response to climate change;
6. *Further welcomes* the commitment of the multi-partner human security trust fund for the Aral Sea region to addressing climate change and promoting climate-resilient development in the Aral Sea basin and Aral Sea region in its next cycle, invites Member States and relevant international organizations to contribute to the trust fund, and calls for increased financial resources to support climate-resilient development projects in the Aral Sea basin and Aral Sea region;

7. *Encourages* the multi-partner human security trust fund for the Aral Sea region to prioritize projects and initiatives that are aimed at enhancing the climate resilience of communities in the Aral Sea basin and Aral Sea region, and to support initiatives that are aimed at implementing climate-resilient development projects and achieving climate-related goals in the Aral Sea basin and Aral Sea region, including those related to water management, building drought resilience, agriculture and disaster risk reduction;

8. *Recognizes* the importance of new and innovative technologies and best practices in combating desertification, drought and sand and dust storms and in achieving land degradation neutrality and drought resilience in Central Asia, welcomes in this regard the holding of the twenty-first session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and a high-level event on sand and dust storms in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, from 13 to 17 November 2023 to discuss action-oriented recommendations and address the challenges faced by the affected countries;

9. *Encourages* greater efforts by Central Asian countries, Member States, all relevant stakeholders and the international community towards the conservation of mountain ecosystems and the preservation of glaciers;

10. *Also encourages* the strengthening of the scientific and technological capacities of Central Asian countries to promote sustainable agriculture, sustainable patterns of consumption and production, afforestation and reforestation, the sustainable use of freshwater resources, the recycling of waste, energy efficiency, sustainable tourism, smart cities and sustainable transport, building drought resistance and combating land degradation, which will contribute significantly to climate change adaptation and mitigation in the region and in the world;

11. *Further encourages* the United Nations system, international and financial institutions, the private sector, investors and donors and other relevant stakeholders to continue to mobilize resources and provide capacity-building and assistance for addressing the environmental challenges in Central Asia.

#### RESOLUTION 78/148

Adopted at the 49th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/461, para. 53)<sup>174</sup>

#### **78/148. Strengthening the links between all modes of transport to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,<sup>175</sup> Agenda 21,<sup>176</sup> the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,<sup>177</sup> the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development,<sup>178</sup> the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation)<sup>179</sup> and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,<sup>180</sup>

*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

<sup>174</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, China, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Fiji, Georgia, Guinea, Hungary, Indonesia, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Philippines, Qatar, Singapore, Suriname, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam.

<sup>175</sup> *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.

<sup>176</sup> *Ibid.*, annex II.

<sup>177</sup> Resolution S-19/2, annex.

<sup>178</sup> *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.

<sup>179</sup> *Ibid.*, resolution 2, annex.

<sup>180</sup> Resolution 66/288, annex.

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 the importance of timely implementation, in this decade of action and delivery for sustainable development, of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,<sup>181</sup> and reaffirming also the Paris Agreement,<sup>182</sup>

*Recalling* its resolutions [69/213](#) of 19 December 2014, entitled “Role of transport and transit corridors in ensuring international cooperation for sustainable development”, its resolution [70/197](#) of 22 December 2015, entitled “Towards comprehensive cooperation among all modes of transport for promoting sustainable multimodal transit corridors”, its resolution [72/212](#) of 20 December 2017, entitled “Strengthening the links between all modes of transport to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”, its resolution [75/313](#) of 29 July 2021, entitled “Strengthening the links between all modes of transport to ensure stable and reliable international transport for sustainable development during and after the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic”, and its resolution [77/286](#) of 16 May 2023, entitled “World Sustainable Transport Day”,

*Recalling also* the first United Nations Global Sustainable Transport Conference, held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, on 26 and 27 November 2016, and the second United Nations Global Sustainable Transport Conference, held in Beijing, China, from 14 to 16 October 2021,

*Recalling further* the Ashgabat Declaration, adopted at the High-level International Conference on the Role of Transit Transport Corridors in Ensuring International Cooperation, Stability and Sustainable Development, held in Ashgabat on 3 and 4 September 2014,<sup>183</sup> in cooperation with the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the International Road Transport Union,

*Reaffirming* its resolution [76/294](#) of 30 June 2022, entitled “Political declaration of the high-level meeting on improving global road safety”, in which it acknowledged the need to promote road safety and sustainable transport,

*Recalling* the proclamation of the period 2021–2030 as the Second Decade of Action for Road Safety, with a goal of reducing road traffic deaths and injuries by at least 50 per cent from 2021 to 2030, in line with the pledge of the 2019 high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly,

*Affirming* the importance of the spirit of peaceful cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning and shared benefit in promoting infrastructure connectivity and sustainable transport, as well as regional and interregional economic integration and cooperation,

#### **Transport and transit corridors**

*Noting* the need for continued international cooperation to address the issues relating to transport and transit corridors as an important element of sustainable development and connectivity, and in this regard noting the related intergovernmental deliberations in the relevant international bodies and forums,

*Recalling* the report of the Secretary-General on the role of transport and transit corridors in ensuring international cooperation for sustainable development,<sup>184</sup>

*Reiterating* the importance of transport and transit corridors in facilitating transport linkages on domestic routes and promoting urban-rural connectivity in order to boost economic growth at the local and regional levels, promote interconnections between cities, peoples and resources and facilitate intraregional and interregional economic and

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<sup>181</sup> Resolution [69/313](#), annex.

<sup>182</sup> Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.

<sup>183</sup> [A/68/991](#), annex.

<sup>184</sup> [A/70/262](#).



sustainable development, emphasizing that transport and transit corridors should be safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and environmental impacts,

*Reiterating also* that international transport corridors should be identified, designed and developed, keeping in mind the safety and protection of transport users and the competitive advantages of each mode of transport and addressing infrastructure needs and the regulatory and institutional framework for the services that those corridors provide, including the promotion of decent work and social dialogue, safety and health in the workplace and gender balance in the workforce to improve the quality of life,

#### Countries in special situations

*Recognizing* the importance of addressing the particular vulnerability of landlocked countries, especially low- and middle-income countries, inter alia, by establishing and promoting efficient transit transport systems that link them to international markets, and in this regard reaffirming that the Almaty Declaration,<sup>185</sup> the Vienna Declaration and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024<sup>186</sup> constitute a fundamental framework for genuine partnerships between landlocked and transit developing countries and their development partners at the national, bilateral, subregional, regional and global levels,

*Noting* in this regard the Ministerial Transport Conference of Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Turkmenbashi, Turkmenistan, on 15 and 16 August 2022, and its outcome document, the Awaza summary statement,<sup>187</sup>

*Reaffirming* the importance of timely implementation of the outcomes of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in New York and in Doha, Qatar,<sup>188</sup> and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway<sup>189</sup> for small island developing States for the remaining period,

*Stressing* the importance of enhancing inter-island connectivity and linking the economies of small island developing States to regional markets and global supply chains, including by integrating them into existing and emerging maritime and multimodal transport and economic corridors, and encouraging sustainable transport initiatives, including in the context of the Small Island Developing States Partnership Framework,

*Reiterating* the importance of actively supporting private sector investment, including through public-private partnerships and grant/loans blending, for infrastructure development and maintenance in communications and in multimodal transport such as railways, roads, waterways, warehouses and port facilities in the least developed countries,

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*Recognizing* the important role of safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all in supporting sustainable economic growth, improving the social welfare of people and enhancing international cooperation and trade among countries,

*Noting* the importance of promoting the integration of science, technology and innovation into sustainable, integrated, multimodal and intermodal transport systems by tapping into technological opportunities in the decades to come to bring about fundamental, transformative changes to transport systems, including accelerated digitalization, energy efficiency and energy storage technologies and low-emission fuel technologies, and to strengthen capacity-building support to developing countries,

*Recognizing* that increasing investment in infrastructure is critical to integrate global economies, which can drive growth and help to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, while the need for infrastructure is still

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<sup>185</sup> *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003 (A/CONF.202/3)*, annex II.

<sup>186</sup> Resolution 69/137, annexes I and II.

<sup>187</sup> A/77/343, annex.

<sup>188</sup> Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries (resolution 76/258, annex) and Doha Political Declaration (*Report of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, New York, 17 March 2022, and Doha, 5–9 March 2023 (A/CONF.219/2023/3)*, chap. I, resolution 2).

<sup>189</sup> Resolution 69/15, annex.



enormous and pressing and will continue to grow, realizing that filling the huge gap in infrastructure financing will require public and private financing as well as technologies, know-how and operational efficiencies, as well as an enabling domestic environment, and in this regard affirming the need to enhance infrastructure investment and experience-sharing, and that infrastructure must be high-quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient in order to support economic development and human well-being,

*Emphasizing* the need to promote harmonization, simplification and standardization of rules and documentation, including the full and effective implementation of international conventions on transport and transit as well as bilateral, subregional and regional agreements for parties thereto,

#### **Multimodal transportation**

*Noting* that, in developing multimodal transport systems, it is necessary to take into account street, road, including public transport systems, rail, maritime, inland shipping, ferry and air transport, as well as non-motorized transport such as cycling and walking, and emphasis should be placed on low-emission, energy-efficient, quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient modes of transport and an increased reliance on interconnected transport networks, including public transport systems, for seamless and “door-to-door” mobility and connectivity of people and goods,

*Noting also* the importance of cooperation in enhancing transport connectivity through an integrated intermodal transport system by exchanging best practices to optimize the development of interconnected highways, roads, streets, railways, waterways, areas of modal transfer and ports, and by encouraging the construction of quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure and operations to minimize consumption of energy, land and other resources, generate lower emissions of greenhouse gases, ozone-depleting substances and other pollutants and ensure a positive social impact,

*Recalling* the importance of international collaboration in furthering the work of the International Maritime Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Road Transport Union to enhance the sustainability of international shipping, aviation, and road transport,

#### **Social aspects**

*Noting* the importance of supporting efforts to provide communities in rural areas, especially in developing countries, with access to major roads, streets, rail lines and public and non-motorized transport options and areas of modal transfer that enable access to economic and social activities and opportunities in cities and towns and that unleash the productivity and competitiveness of rural entrepreneurs and smallholder farmers, which will be important steps needed to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its promise to “leave no one behind”,

*Reaffirming* its commitment to promote access for all to safe, age- and gender- responsive, affordable, accessible and sustainable urban mobility and land and sea transport systems, enabling meaningful participation in social and economic activities in cities and human settlements, by integrating transport and mobility plans into overall urban and territorial plans and promoting a wide range of transport and mobility options,

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*Welcoming* the efforts of the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, other international, regional and subregional organizations, in particular the World Bank, the regional development banks, the World Customs Organization, the World Trade Organization, the International Road Transport Union, the International Union of Railways and the International Transport Forum, within their respective mandates, to develop and operationalize international and regional transport and transit corridors,

*Underscoring* the need to mobilize, as appropriate, additional financial resources for the development of quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient transport and mobility infrastructure and services, including through the promotion of public-private partnerships, where conceivable and practicable, so as to achieve inclusive and sustainable development,

*Recognizing* the need for continued cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and existing partnerships on sustainable transport issues, such as the Global Partnership for Sustainable Transport, the Sustainable Mobility for All partnership, the Partnership on Sustainable Low Carbon Transport (SLOCAT) and the Group of Friends of Sustainable Transport,

1. *Commits* to enhancing the role of sustainable transport and mobility in job creation, mobility facilitation and improvement of the efficiency of logistics chains in connecting people and communities to jobs, schools and health care and in the delivery of goods and services to rural and urban communities, thus providing all with equal opportunities and leaving no one behind;
2. *Calls upon* Member States to maintain the continued functioning and strengthening of the transport system and transport infrastructure in all relevant aspects necessary for sustainable development, recognizing in this regard the importance of an enabling domestic environment and adequate domestic financing for the transport sector that does not undermine a country's debt sustainability in order to ensure stable and reliable domestic and international transport;
3. *Encourages* national, regional and global plans, policies and programmes on transport and mobility to take into account the needs of women and girls, persons with disabilities, older persons and those in vulnerable situations;
4. *Emphasizes* the contribution of low-emission, energy-efficient, quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient modes of transport to climate change mitigation and adaptation and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the importance of long-term strategies and multi-stakeholder partnerships in delivering such sustainable modes of transport;
5. *Calls for* efforts to promote regional and interregional economic integration and cooperation, including by improving the planning of transportation infrastructure mobility and logistics;
6. *Recognizes* the importance of cooperation in establishing safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport networks supported by inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and commits to enhancing the role of sustainable transport in job creation, mobility facilitation and improvement of the efficiency of logistics chains in connecting people and communities, particularly people in vulnerable situations, thus providing all with equal opportunities and leaving no one behind;
7. *Underlines* the importance of international cooperation between relevant modes of transport and transport-related industries to mitigate the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, including by exchanging information, scientific knowledge and best practices, as well as sharing experiences from the implementation of national transport development programmes and strategies as appropriate;
8. *Suggests* that, with the further development of quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure and multimodal transport corridors, the use of electronic unified transport documents based on the digital transmission of relevant data could be considered for their potential, as they could minimize human involvement in transport and border crossing processes and thus could enhance the resilience of transport and logistics chains;
9. *Emphasizes* the importance of support for the ongoing development of the existing required institutional, legal, technical and administrative capacity of developing countries to ensure consistent application of internationally agreed standards, as applicable, and an efficient multimodal transport system;
10. *Invites* all States that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the United Nations conventions and agreements on transport and transit facilitation, including the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods<sup>190</sup> and the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention);<sup>191</sup>
11. *Reaffirms* the importance of a worldwide effort to address and raise awareness of road safety for developing sustainable multimodal transport systems, encourages Member States to improve road safety and integrate it into sustainable active mobility and transportation infrastructure planning and design, and calls upon all relevant stakeholders to continue the activities aimed at supporting the implementation of the objectives of the Second Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021–2030 and the road safety-related targets in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;<sup>192</sup>

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<sup>190</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1409, No. 23583.

<sup>191</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1079, No. 16510.

<sup>192</sup> Resolution 70/1.

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12. *Encourages* States to maximize synergies in transport corridors and infrastructure planning and development by taking into account relevant international standards and by aiming to harmonize rules and technological standards, as applicable;

13. *Invites* the organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations, relevant international financing institutions, multilateral and bilateral donors and the private sector to further coordinate their efforts and to collaborate in mobilizing financial and technical assistance to developing countries for strengthening the links between all modes of transport to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals;

14. *Decides* to proclaim the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Transport for the 10-year period beginning on 1 January 2026, within existing structures and available resources, and calls upon the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, in collaboration with the United Nations regional economic commissions, within their respective mandates, to prepare an implementation plan for the Decade in consultation with Member States, specialized agencies, funds, programmes and bodies of the United Nations, as well as other intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and relevant stakeholders;

15. *Invites* the Secretary-General to consider convening the third United Nations Global Sustainable Transport Conference, for ensuring the implementation of the objectives of the first and second United Nations Global Sustainable Transport Conferences, and notes that such a conference would be funded through extrabudgetary resources;

16. *Encourages* Member States to indicate their interest in hosting the next United Nations Global Sustainable Transport Conference;

17. *Welcomes* the proposal of Turkmenistan to host the international celebrations to mark World Sustainable Transport Day on 26 November 2024.

#### RESOLUTION 78/149

Adopted at the 49th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/461, para. 53)<sup>193</sup>

#### **78/149. The pivotal role of reliable and stable energy connectivity in driving sustainable development**

*The General Assembly,*

*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,

*Stressing* the need for a coherent, integrated approach to energy issues and the promotion of synergies across the global energy agenda for sustainable development, with a focus on eradicating poverty and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Recalling* its resolutions 63/210 of 19 December 2008 and 67/263 of 17 May 2013 on reliable and stable transit of energy and its role in ensuring sustainable development and international cooperation,

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<sup>193</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Cambodia, Cameroon, China, Djibouti, Hungary, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Russian Federation, Singapore, Suriname, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Reliable and stable transit of energy and its role in ensuring sustainable development and international cooperation”,<sup>194</sup>

*Underlining* that reliable and stable energy connectivity is underpinned by the capacity of countries to transport, transmit, transform and store energy through different systems or networks,

*Noting* that stable, efficient and reliable energy connectivity, as a key factor of sustainable development, is in the interest of the entire international community,

*Recognizing* the need for continued international cooperation in determining ways of ensuring reliable and stable energy connectivity to deliver energy resources to international markets through various transportation systems,

*Highlighting* the synergies between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement,<sup>195</sup> and reiterating the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,<sup>196</sup>

#### Countries in special situations

*Underlining* that, without stable, resilient and reliable energy connectivity and transportation, developing countries, particularly least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, would face difficulties in meeting their own energy demand, taking into consideration the diversity of national situations, policies, specific needs and capacities of developing countries,

*Emphasizing* the importance of addressing the special needs of landlocked developing countries, inter alia, by establishing and promoting reliable and stable energy transportation systems, networks and market frameworks that link them to the regional and international markets,

*Stressing* the importance of enhancing inter-island connectivity and linking the economies of small island developing States to regional markets and global supply chains, including by integrating them into existing and emerging maritime and multimodal transport and economic corridors,

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*Recognizing* the important role of energy transportation hubs in the reliable and stable transit of energy to international markets,

*Welcoming* efforts at the national, bilateral, subregional, regional and international levels in supporting energy connectivity and transportation systems and facilitating the trade of energy to promote sustainable development,

*Noting* the establishment of the Expert Working Group on Energy Connectivity by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in its resolution 73/8 of 19 May 2017,

*Noting also* the outcome of the High-level Conference on Reliable and Stable Transit of Energy and Its Role in Ensuring Sustainable Development and International Cooperation, held in Ashgabat on 23 April 2009,<sup>197</sup> as well as the International Meeting of Experts on the Reliable and Stable Transit of Energy for Sustainable Development,<sup>198</sup> held in Ashgabat on 10 and 11 December 2014 in accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/263,

*Taking note* of the Sustainable Energy for All Forum held in Kigali from 17 to 19 May 2022, and taking note with appreciation of the generous proposal of the Government of Turkmenistan to host the Sustainable Energy for All Forum in 2026,

1. *Encourages* continued international cooperation in promoting reliable and stable energy connectivity at the national, regional and global levels to advance economic integration and sustainable development, in particular,

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<sup>194</sup> [A/69/309](#).

<sup>195</sup> Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.

<sup>196</sup> *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.

<sup>197</sup> See [A/63/843](#).

<sup>198</sup> See [A/69/725](#).

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to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 7, on ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all;

2. *Also encourages* efforts for resilient and secure cross-border energy infrastructure and energy connectivity;

3. *Takes note* of the high-level dialogue on energy held on 24 September 2021 to promote the implementation of the energy-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>199</sup> in support of the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All and the voluntary commitments in the form of 200 energy compacts, and also takes note of the Secretary-General's proposed road map for accelerated action on Goal 7, as described in the report of the Secretary-General on ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all submitted to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session,<sup>200</sup> and the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

4. *Also takes note* of the proposal of the Government of Turkmenistan to host an international meeting of experts early in 2024 to discuss strategies and foster collaboration on enhancing energy connectivity, recognizing its pivotal role in driving sustainable development and addressing the needs of countries with limited domestic energy resources;

5. *Invites* the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States and relevant entities of the United Nations system, including regional commissions, on issues relating to reliable and stable energy connectivity, as well as on possible ways to strengthen international cooperation in this sphere, and to communicate such views in a summary report of the Secretariat to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session for further consideration.

#### RESOLUTION 78/150

Adopted at the 49th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 128 to none, with 46 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/461, para. 53)<sup>201</sup>

\* *In favour:* Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam

*Against:* None

*Abstaining:* Algeria, Bahrain, Belarus, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Libya, Malaysia, Mauritania, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Yemen, Zimbabwe

<sup>199</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>200</sup> A/77/211.

<sup>201</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Namibia, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

**78/150. Achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls for realizing all Sustainable Development Goals**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution [77/181](#) of 14 December 2022 and all its other resolutions on women in 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,

*Welcoming and reaffirming* the commitments made in the 2030 Agenda to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including through Sustainable Development Goal 5 and all its targets, and that gender mainstreaming remains crucial to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda,

*Reiterating* that the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, including the means of implementation, are universal, indivisible and interlinked, balancing the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental,

*Reaffirming* its resolution [69/313](#) of 27 July 2015, by which it endorsed 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, reaffirming also its recognition that gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and women’s full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership in all spheres of life, including in the economy, are vital to the achievement of sustainable development and significantly enhance economic growth and productivity, and reiterating its commitment to enable women’s equal access to decision-making processes and leadership,

*Reaffirming also* the mutually reinforcing relationship among achieving gender equality, sustainable development and the empowerment of all women and girls,

*Noting* the importance of ensuring the respect, promotion and consideration of gender equality and the empowerment of women in the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change<sup>202</sup> and the Paris Agreement,<sup>203</sup> in accordance with the enhanced Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan, and recognizing that the full, meaningful and equal participation and leadership of women is vital for achieving long-term climate goals,

*Recognizing* that the feminization of poverty persists and that the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is an indispensable requirement for women’s economic empowerment and sustainable development, and recognizing also the mutually reinforcing links between the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the eradication of poverty,

*Deeply concerned* that, halfway through the 2030 Agenda, the world is failing to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls,

*Recognizing* that unpaid care and domestic work remains invisible, undervalued and unaccounted for in national statistics, and neglected in economic and social policymaking, and that women and girls, including adolescent girls, undertake a disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work from one generation to the next, as well as the need to adopt measures to reduce, redistribute and value unpaid care and domestic work by promoting the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men within the household and by prioritizing, inter alia, sustainable

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<sup>202</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

<sup>203</sup> Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.



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infrastructure, social protection policies and accessible, affordable and quality social services, including care services, childcare and maternity, paternity or parental leave,

*Reiterating* the need for gender mainstreaming in the formulation and implementation of all financial, economic, environmental and social policies and programmes,

1. *Reaffirms* that the commitment to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, that the achievement of full human potential and of sustainable development is not possible if all women and girls continue to be denied their human rights and opportunities, and that the systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>204</sup> is crucial;

2. *Invites* Member States to strengthen the capacity of national financial institutions to reach out to those who have no access to banking, insurance and other financial services, particularly women and women-led micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, sustainable and inclusive businesses, and digital entrepreneurs, in urban and especially in rural areas, as well as to develop and implement policies and programmes to support women's entrepreneurship, in particular opportunities for new women entrepreneurs;

3. *Calls upon* Member States to ensure women's equal opportunities in education, training, business, entrepreneurship and decent jobs, reduce gender barriers to employment, address the gender wage gap, reduce occupational segregation and increase the participation of people in vulnerable situations, including workers in the informal economy;

4. *Urges* Member States to take comprehensive, multisectoral, coordinated, effective and gender-responsive measures to prevent and eliminate all forms of gender-based violence and address structural and underlying causes and risk factors of gender inequalities;

5. *Calls upon* Member States to promote a gender-equitable division of unpaid care and domestic work, including through the promotion of the equitable sharing of responsibilities between women and men within the household and by prioritizing, inter alia, social protection policies and infrastructure development, bearing in mind that women spend 2.8 more hours than men on unpaid care and domestic work, a factor that contributes to greater time burdens on women and substantially limits their participation in the social, economic and political spheres, and considering that, on the current trajectory, the gap between the time spent by women and men on unpaid care will narrow slightly, but by 2050, women globally will still be spending 9.5 per cent more time or 2.3 more hours per day on unpaid care work than men;

6. *Urges* Member States to support efforts to enable all women to have leadership and decision-making roles at all levels, and work towards women's and youth's equal, full and meaningful participation, including in all spheres and levels of public and political life, bearing in mind that, at the current pace, women's share of workplace management positions will reach only 30 per cent by 2050;

7. *Reaffirms* the importance of identifying and eliminating all forms of discrimination against women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, in relation to land tenure security and access to, ownership of and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance, and ensuring women's and girls' access to justice and accountability for violations of their human rights, with particular attention given to older women, widows and young women;

8. *Also reaffirms* the need to strengthen the efforts to realize the right to education for all women and girls, eliminating barriers in this regard, ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education, training and skills development, promoting lifelong learning opportunities, and supporting women's and girls' participation in all sectors, especially those in which they are not equally represented, in particular science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and strengthening international cooperation on these issues;

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<sup>204</sup> Resolution 70/1.



9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the topic of the resolution, within an existing report in the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Issues Committee (Third Committee) of the General Assembly at its eightieth session.

#### RESOLUTION 78/151

Adopted at the 49th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/461/Add.1, para. 7)<sup>205</sup>

#### **78/151. Promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, building on Agenda 21**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,<sup>206</sup> Agenda 21,<sup>207</sup> the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,<sup>208</sup> the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development<sup>209</sup> and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation)<sup>210</sup> and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,<sup>211</sup> 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 recognizing also 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 reiterating that sustainable development is a key element of the overarching framework for United Nations activities,

*Recalling* the commitment to make fundamental changes in our consumption and production patterns, including by transitioning to sustainable economic and business models, the implementation of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns<sup>212</sup> and by providing support to developing countries to strengthen their scientific, technological and innovation capacity, and recognizing that local and national

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<sup>205</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee.

<sup>206</sup> *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.

<sup>207</sup> *Ibid.*, annex II.

<sup>208</sup> Resolution S-19/2, annex.

<sup>209</sup> *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.

<sup>210</sup> *Ibid.*, resolution 2, annex.

<sup>211</sup> Resolution 66/288, annex.

<sup>212</sup> A/CONF.216/5, annex.

zero-waste initiatives can contribute to achieving sustainable consumption and production, as outlined in the political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly,<sup>213</sup>

*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,

*Stressing* the need, in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, 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 and balancing 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, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,<sup>214</sup> the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,<sup>215</sup> the New Urban Agenda,<sup>216</sup> the Convention on Biological Diversity<sup>217</sup> and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,<sup>218</sup> as well as major outcome documents in relation to countries in special situations,

*Welcoming* the first part 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 the second part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to, held in Montreal, Canada, from 7 to 19 December 2022, and its outcomes, including the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and urging their early, inclusive and effective implementation,

*Recalling* its resolution [77/161](#) of 14 December 2022 entitled “Promoting zero-waste initiatives to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,

*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,

*Noting with concern* that the compounded effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, conflict and economic shocks, and climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, have exacerbated existing challenges in the international community’s efforts, especially for developing countries, to implement sustainable consumption and production and may further reverse progress towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, including Sustainable Development Goal 12, and therefore stressing the importance of promoting sustainable consumption and production in the context of sustainable and inclusive recovery strategies,

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<sup>213</sup> Resolution [78/1](#), annex.

<sup>214</sup> Resolution [69/313](#), annex.

<sup>215</sup> See [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21, annex.

<sup>216</sup> Resolution [71/256](#), annex.

<sup>217</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

<sup>218</sup> Resolution [69/283](#), annex II.

*Noting with concern also* the latest warnings by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, including on the vulnerability of ecosystems to climate change being strongly influenced by human society, including from unsustainable consumption and production, and further recognizing that the reduction of unsustainable consumption and production, including waste generation, will support progress in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 12, while stressing the importance of eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions and of reducing inequality, recognizing that eradicating poverty, changing unsustainable and promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are the overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development,

*Noting* the importance of transitioning to sustainable lifestyles and sustainable patterns of consumption and production in efforts to address climate change in accordance with 1/CMA.4,

1. *Takes note* of the 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”;<sup>219</sup>

2. *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, and reaffirms all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, as set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>220</sup> as well as the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012, entitled “The future we want”;

3. *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;

4. *Recognizes* that the 2030 Agenda 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;

5. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals: towards a rescue plan for people and planet”<sup>221</sup> and the 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report, which highlights, inter alia, that the world is not on track to achieve Goal 12 and its related targets by 2030 at the current rate of progress;

6. *Welcomes* the political declaration adopted at the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly (Sustainable Development Goals Summit), held in New York on 18 and 19 September 2023, and urges timely action to ensure its full implementation;

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 achieve 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, and that both the Framework and its multi-partner trust fund are tools for action on sustainable consumption and production, and in this regard reiterates the need for such initiatives to continue to share best practices and provide 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. *Welcomes* the decision of the Board of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns to approve the Global Strategy for Sustainable Consumption and Production

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<sup>219</sup> [A/78/208](#).

<sup>220</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>221</sup> [A/78/80-E/2023/64](#).

2023–2030,<sup>222</sup> following a consultative process involving Member States and stakeholders, and calls upon Member States, United Nations entities and stakeholders to support its implementation and resource mobilization as part of the international efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals and the objectives of the multilateral environmental agreements;

10. *Recognizes* that unsustainable patterns of consumption and production are key drivers of natural resource depletion, climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, malnutrition and land degradation, and therefore recommits to making fundamental changes in the way that societies produce and consume goods and services through the transition to sustainable economic and business models that promote sustainable consumption and production patterns as well as through policies, frameworks, partnerships, technological innovation and instruments that improve resource efficiency and the sustainable management of natural resources, including water-use efficiency, reduce waste, promote life-cycle approaches, encourage approaches such as the circular economy, life cycle and other approaches, as appropriate and taking into account national circumstance and capacities, enable consumers to make sustainable consumption choices, mainstream sustainability practices, encourage sustainable and environmentally sound bio-based products and increase resilience across all sectors of the economy, which will contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 12, and in this regard welcomes the extension by the General Assembly, in its resolution [76/202](#) of 17 December 2021, of the mandate of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns until 31 December 2030, and encourages the implementation of the Framework of Programmes, in accordance with target 12.1 of Goal 12;

11. *Also recognizes* the important role of the private sector in promoting and utilizing sustainable practices, including for multinational corporations and micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises that may face greater challenges in enhancing resource efficiency, and invites Member States to take measures, in cooperation with the private sector, to enhance the design of products, taking into account life-cycle assessments to contribute to resource efficiency;

12. *Acknowledges* the link between plastic waste and pollution and sustainable consumption and production patterns, and calls upon all Member States to continue to step up activities across the life cycle of plastic to prevent, reduce and eliminate plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, including through innovative approaches that foster environmentally sound management, including the reduction, repair, reuse and recycling of plastic waste and products;

13. *Welcomes* the decision by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its resumed fifth session, in resolution 5/14 of 2 March 2022,<sup>223</sup> to convene an intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, which could include both binding and voluntary approaches, based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastic, taking into account, among other things, the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, as well as national circumstances and capabilities, and underscores the importance of securing an ambitious international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, while acknowledging that some legal obligations arising out of a new instrument will require capacity-building and technical and financial assistance in order to be effectively implemented by developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and in this regard welcomes the commitment made by Heads of State and Government in the political declaration adopted during the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly to support the work of the intergovernmental negotiating committee, with the ambition of completing its work by the end of 2024;

14. *Also welcomes* the convening of the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development,” 2018–2028, from 22 to 24 March 2023;

15. *Urges* the international community to continue to support developing countries in strengthening their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production, and calls for enhanced support to developing countries by providing means of implementation;

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<sup>222</sup> See [A/77/607](#).

<sup>223</sup> [UNEP/EA.5/Res.14](#).

16. *Recognizes* the need for greater financing, capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms for developing countries to harness science, technology and innovation, including new and emerging technologies, including through scaling up the use of open science, affordable and open-source technology, research and development to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

17. *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;

18. *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;

19. *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;

20. *Strongly encourages* further accelerated actions and multi-stakeholder partnerships at all levels, including with the United Nations system and international financial system, to advance innovative pathways to achieving sustainable consumption and production, in line with United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/11 of 2 March 2022, entitled “Enhancing circular economy as a contribution to achieving sustainable consumption and production”,<sup>224</sup> as part of accelerated progress towards the 2030 Agenda, thereby creating job opportunities, promoting sustainable business practices and fostering more sustainable and stable global supply chains, and ensuring that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness about sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature, and in this respect recognizes the need for discussions to further promote sustainable consumption and production with a view to accelerating progress on Sustainable Development Goal 12 and related goals and targets;

21. *Stresses* the urgency of promoting sustainable consumption and production approaches, in which products and materials are designed in such a way that they can be reused, remanufactured or recycled and therefore retained in the economy for as long as possible, along with the resources of which they are made, the generation of waste is avoided or minimized and greenhouse gas emissions are prevented or reduced;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth 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, taking into account the impacts of, response to and recovery from COVID-19, and to recommend concrete actions to implement the 2030 Agenda in this regard;

23. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “Sustainable development”, the 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”.

#### RESOLUTION 78/152

Adopted at the 49th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/461/Add.3, para. 7)<sup>225</sup>

##### 78/152. Disaster risk reduction

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 77/164 of 14 December 2022 and all previous relevant resolutions,

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<sup>224</sup> UNEP/EA.5/Res.11.

<sup>225</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee.

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*Recalling also* its resolution [73/230](#) of 20 December 2018 on the effective global response to address the impacts of the El Niño phenomenon and all previous relevant resolutions, and recalling further the decision on this subject matter taken in decision 74/537 B of 11 August 2020,

*Recalling further* the Sendai Declaration<sup>226</sup> and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,<sup>227</sup>

*Recalling* the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,<sup>228</sup> Agenda 21,<sup>229</sup> the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,<sup>230</sup> the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development<sup>231</sup> and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),<sup>232</sup> and reaffirming the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,<sup>233</sup> in particular the decisions related to disaster risk reduction,

*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 New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016,<sup>234</sup> and recognizing the linkages between disaster risk reduction and sustainable urban development,

*Recognizing* the need for a broader and a more people-centred preventive approach to disaster risk, reflecting the 2030 Agenda, and that disaster risk reduction practices need to be multi-hazard and multisectoral, inclusive and accessible in order to be efficient and effective,

*Reiterating* the call in the Sendai Framework for the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries,

*Recalling* that the Sendai Framework applies to risks of small-scale and large-scale, frequent and infrequent, sudden- and slow-onset disasters caused by natural or human-made hazards, as well as related environmental, technological and biological hazards and risks,

*Expressing its deep concern* at the number and scale of disasters and their devastating impact this year and in recent years, which have resulted in massive loss of life, food insecurity, water-related challenges, displacement, humanitarian needs and long-term negative economic, social and environmental consequences for vulnerable

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<sup>226</sup> Resolution [69/283](#), annex I.

<sup>227</sup> *Ibid.*, annex II.

<sup>228</sup> *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.

<sup>229</sup> *Ibid.*, annex II.

<sup>230</sup> Resolution [S-19/2](#), annex.

<sup>231</sup> *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.

<sup>232</sup> *Ibid.*, resolution 2, annex.

<sup>233</sup> Resolution [66/288](#), annex.

<sup>234</sup> Resolution [71/256](#), annex.



societies throughout the world, and which hamper the achievement of their sustainable development, in particular that of developing countries,

*Recognizing* that disaster risk is increasingly complex and systemic and that hazards can trigger each other with cascading impacts across sectors and geographies, as well as at the local, national, regional and global levels, and that the interrelation of risks across multiple dimensions and scales and potential unintended negative consequences should inform development policies and investments, emphasizing that these policies should be oriented towards building resilience and achieving sustainability and the Sustainable Development Goals, and recalling in this regard the findings contained in the *Sustainable Development Goals Report 2023: Special Edition*, the *Global Sustainable Development Report* and the 2023 special report of the *Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction*, and stressing the importance of an integrated understanding of disaster risk in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement<sup>235</sup> and the Sendai Framework,

*Recognizing also* the importance of promoting policies and planning that build resilience and reduce displacement risk in the context of disasters, including through international, regional, subregional, transboundary and bilateral cooperation,

*Noting* that the El Niño phenomenon has a recurring character and can lead to extensive natural hazards with the potential to seriously affect humankind, recalling that the peak of the 2015/16 El Niño phenomenon was comparable in strength to the 1982/83 and 1997/98 events and, therefore, one of the strongest on record, and affected more than 60 million people during 2015 and 2016, in particular in developing countries, with significant short- and long-term impacts on the health of individuals, the economy and food production locally, regionally and globally, particularly affecting people whose livelihood depends on agriculture, fisheries and livestock activities, and noting the impacts of the protracted La Niña phase of the El Niño Southern Oscillation in recent years on heat and drought, wildfires, heavy rainfall and flooding, with implications for livelihoods and food security, and loss of biodiversity, which have combined with the impacts of climate change,

*Expressing deep concern* over developing 2023/24 El Niño phenomenon conditions setting the stage for a likely surge in global temperatures and disruptive weather and climate patterns, which could have far-reaching and profound environmental, economic and social impacts across the globe, particularly in developing countries,

*Reaffirming* the importance of strengthening international cooperation, in the face of natural and human-made hazards, including weather-related hazards, those driven by natural climate cycles such as the El Niño Southern Oscillation, and the adverse effects of climate change, to estimate and prevent major damage and ensure an adequate response, early action and attention to the affected populations in a timely manner in order to enhance resilience to their impacts, and recognizing in this regard the importance of developing risk-informed strategies, risk finance tools, including forecast-based financing approaches and disaster risk insurance mechanisms and coordinated multi-hazard early warning systems, including timely risk communication at the local, national and regional levels,

*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,

*Recognizing* that it is urgent and critical to anticipate, plan for and reduce disaster risk, expressing deep concern at the devastating impacts of COVID-19 and climate change on sustainable development, which have deepened vulnerabilities to disasters and exposure to hazards and have highlighted the urgency of implementing the Sendai Framework as an integral part of the 2030 Agenda, and noting in this regard that recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic will provide opportunities for and should be accompanied by policies and focused action to understand disaster risk, strengthen disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk, invest in disaster risk reduction for resilience

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<sup>235</sup> Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.



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and enhance disaster preparedness for effective response and to build back better in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction through a resilient, sustainable and inclusive recovery, as well as to address the underlying drivers of disaster risk and build resilience across systems, integrate systemic risk management and strengthen multisectoral and multi-hazard approaches to disaster risk reduction and disaster risk finance arrangements and support sustainable and inclusive recovery, addressing climate change as one of the drivers of disaster risk,

*Recalling* the Bangkok Principles for the implementation of the health aspects of the Sendai Framework as a contribution to the Sendai Framework to build resilient health systems,

*Recalling also* the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly (Sustainable Development Goals Summit) on 18 and 19 September 2023 and the commitment to promote resilience and reduce disaster risk contained in the adopted political declaration,

*Recognizing* climate change as one of the drivers of disaster risk and that the adverse effects of climate change, as contributors to environmental degradation and extreme weather events, in certain instances contribute, among other factors, to disaster-induced human mobility, and in this regard acknowledging the internationally agreed outcomes adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change<sup>236</sup> and the Paris Agreement,<sup>237</sup>

*Recognizing also* that disasters, many of which are exacerbated by climate change and are increasing in frequency and intensity, significantly impede progress towards sustainable development,

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

*Recalling* the holding of the Climate Action Summit convened by the Secretary-General on 23 September 2019,

*Noting* the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 6 to 20 November 2022, and looking forward to the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 30 November to 12 December 2023,

*Welcoming* the convening of the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028, from 22 to 24 March 2023,

*Highlighting* the synergies between the implementation of the Sendai Framework, the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement,<sup>238</sup>

*Noting with concern* the findings contained in the special report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, *Global Warming of 1.5°C*, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty, the findings contained in the special report of the Panel on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems, entitled *Climate Change and Land*, the findings contained in the special report of the Panel entitled *The Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate*, and the findings contained in the contribution of Working Groups I, II, and III, as well as the synthesis report for the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,

*Stressing* the urgent need to address the unprecedented global decline in biodiversity, recalling with concern the findings of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, and welcoming the first part 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 the second part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, held in Montreal, Canada, from 7 to 19 December 2022, and its outcomes, including

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<sup>236</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

<sup>237</sup> Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.

<sup>238</sup> Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.

the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and urging their early, inclusive and effective implementation,

*Recognizing* that disaster-prone developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and African countries, as well as middle-income countries facing specific challenges, warrant particular attention in view of their higher vulnerability and risk levels, including access to climate and disaster risk finance, which often greatly exceed their capacity to prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters, and recognizing also that similar attention and appropriate assistance should also be extended to other disaster-prone countries with specific characteristics, such as archipelagic countries, as well as countries with extensive coastlines,

*Recalling* the adoption of the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries<sup>239</sup> on 17 March 2022, recognizing that, guided by the principles of resilience-building and risk reduction, implementation of the Programme of Action can support the integration of disaster risk reduction into sustainable development policies and social protection strategies and international support to the least developed countries, and recalling the convening of the second part of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Qatar from 5 to 9 March 2023, to raise ambition and accelerate action to reduce disaster risk in the least developed countries,

*Looking forward* to the convening of the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, to be held in Antigua and Barbuda from 27 to 30 May 2024, and the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, to be held in Rwanda from 18 to 21 June 2024, both of which will, inter alia, provide an opportunity for the international community to scale up its support to small island developing States and landlocked developing countries in their efforts to reduce disaster risk,

*Reiterating* the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, and the wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

*Noting* the initiative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Environment Programme, in close cooperation with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, to develop and implement a Global Fire Management Hub to reduce the increasingly worrying impacts of wildfires,

*Noting also* the ongoing work of the United Nations system to develop a gender action plan for the implementation of the Sendai Framework,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution [77/164](#);<sup>240</sup>
2. *Urges* the effective implementation of the Sendai Declaration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030;
3. *Welcomes* the convening of the high-level meeting on the midterm review of the Sendai Framework on 18 and 19 May 2023, at which the General Assembly adopted the political declaration on the midterm review of the Sendai Framework;<sup>241</sup>
4. *Reiterates its call* for the prevention of new and the reduction of existing disaster risk through the implementation of integrated and inclusive economic, structural, legal, social, health, cultural, educational, environmental, technological, political, financial and institutional measures that prevent and reduce hazard exposure and vulnerability to disaster, increase preparedness for response and recovery and thus strengthen resilience;
5. *Underlines* the need to address the economic, social and environmental impacts of disasters caused by human-made or natural hazards, many of which are exacerbated by climate change, in this regard stresses the urgent need to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change and extreme weather events, and urges Member States to continue to engage in adaptation planning processes and to enhance cooperation in disaster risk reduction;

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<sup>239</sup> Resolution [76/258](#), annex.

<sup>240</sup> [A/78/267](#).

<sup>241</sup> Resolution [77/289](#), annex.

#### IV. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Second Committee

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6. *Stresses* the significant need to improve means of implementation and strengthen capacity-building, financial resources, data and technology and partnerships to assist developing countries in implementing the Sendai Framework, and recognizes in this regard the need for sustainable and predictable investment in disaster risk reduction in all sectors;

7. *Recognizes* the ongoing efforts of the Coalition for Disaster-Resilient Infrastructure, the Risk-Informed Early Action Partnership, the Early Warnings for All initiative and the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) initiative;

8. *Also recognizes* that in some cases the use of public debt and renewed external borrowing to absorb the impact of a disaster could lead to higher debt servicing for developing countries and constrain their growth and their capacity to invest in long-term resilience-building, and acknowledges that, with each new disaster, financial vulnerabilities may grow and domestic response capacities may weaken, and in that regard welcomes the development of climate resilient debt clauses, where appropriate, and the exploration of clauses that consider other catastrophic external shocks;

9. *Further recognizes* the need for the global community, including international financial institutions, development banks and the private sector, to enhance efforts to scale up disaster risk reduction financing instruments to meet the scale of financing needed by developing countries to prevent and reduce risks and build resilience against current and future shocks and hazards;

10. *Calls upon* all relevant actors to work towards the achievement of the global targets adopted in the Sendai Framework;

11. *Recognizes* progress made in achieving target (e) of the Sendai Framework and that the development and implementation of risk-informed strategic plans, policies, programmes and investments and national and local disaster risk reduction strategies are essential for sustainable development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

12. *Reaffirms* the importance of developing multi-hazard strategies at the local, national, subregional, regional and international levels, in line with the Sendai Framework, that aim to prevent, mitigate and repair the adverse economic, social and environmental impacts of natural climate cycles, such as the El Niño Southern Oscillation phenomenon, while recognizing ongoing national initiatives by affected countries to strengthen their capacities;

13. *Stresses* that, during neutral El Niño Southern Oscillation phenomenon years, it is critical to prepare for, build resilience to and reduce the risks of the next event, particularly in the context of existing climate-related impacts, including through integrated plans, and calls upon the international community to provide financial, technical and capacity-building support to countries affected by the El Niño Southern Oscillation phenomenon, prioritizing resources to developing countries;

14. *Urges* the international community to accelerate progress and allocate the resources necessary to support the development and implementation of inclusive, including gender-responsive, and participatory, multi-hazard national and local disaster risk reduction strategies with a broadened scope beyond preparedness and response to include a focus on risk reduction and prevention, in line with the Sendai Framework, with a particular focus on local strategies and programmes, to promote coherence and integration with sustainable development and climate change adaptation strategies including national adaptation plans, as well as sector-specific plans, to include the objective of preparing to build back better through sustainable, resilient and inclusive recovery in disaster risk reduction strategies and, where appropriate, to incorporate considerations regarding the risk of disaster displacement, in accordance with national circumstances, making use of practical guidance to support the achievement of target (e), and recalls in this regard the relevant voluntary “Words into action” guidelines;

15. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen national and local disaster risk governance by implementing the whole-of-government and all-of-society approaches through establishing or strengthening national platforms for disaster risk reduction, or similar mechanisms, for multisectoral and inter-institutional coordination, with clearly defined roles and responsibilities for disaster risk reduction across ministries and institutions and at the national, subnational and local levels, and by expanding disaster risk reduction beyond national disaster management and civil protection authorities, or equivalent agencies, to include all branches of government and all relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, and welcomes the “Making Cities Resilient 2030” initiative in support of local capacities for disaster risk governance;

16. *Expresses concern* that countries affected by protracted humanitarian crises and emergencies are among those most vulnerable to the impacts of disasters and are furthest behind in implementing the Sendai Framework, and recognizes that implementation of the Sendai Framework can address drivers of vulnerability and exposure to build resilience and reduce humanitarian impacts and needs, and in this regard recognizes the need for multidimensional and comprehensive risk assessment and the promotion of complementarity and coherence between humanitarian and development assistance, in accordance with respective mandates, which can contribute to strengthening resilience and climate change adaptation, for a more targeted and effective approach to prevention and resilience-building;

17. *Notes with appreciation* the voluntary national reports and reporting against the seven global targets through the Sendai Framework monitor, takes note of the outcomes of the global and regional platforms for disaster risk reduction, and also takes note of the report on the main findings and recommendations of the midterm review of the implementation of the Sendai Framework<sup>242</sup> and the report of the midterm review of the implementation of the Sendai Framework prepared by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction;<sup>243</sup>

18. *Recognizes* the importance of monitoring the Sendai Framework, encourages States to use the online monitor to report on progress against the Sendai Framework global targets by referring to the report of the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on indicators and terminology relating to disaster risk reduction,<sup>244</sup> also encourages States, while implementing the Sendai Framework, to systematically evaluate, record, share and publicly account for disaster losses and understand the economic, social, health, educational, environmental and cultural heritage impacts, as appropriate, in the context of event-specific hazard-exposure and vulnerability information, and enhance the development and dissemination of science-based methodologies and tools to record and share disaster losses and relevant disaggregated data and statistics, as well as to strengthen disaster risk modelling, assessment, mapping, monitoring and multi-hazard early warning systems, and in this regard further encourages efforts to create or enhance systems for data collection and to support the capacity of national statistical offices to integrate data from the Sendai Framework monitor into official national statistics to enhance and institutionalize its use in decision-making processes and investments across sectors and all relevant ministries and institutions, and to prioritize the collection and analysis of data on disaster loss and the establishment and strengthening of national disaster loss databases, and to develop baselines on current losses, working towards the collection of information on historical disaster losses going back, at least, to 2005, if feasible;

19. *Welcomes* the outcomes of the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the fourth Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, held in Sharm El-Sheikh, including the decision<sup>245</sup> on funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including a focus on addressing loss and damage;

20. *Urges* States to conduct inclusive and multi-hazard disaster risk assessments that consider climate change projections to support evidence-based disaster risk reduction strategies and guide risk-informed development investments by the private and public sectors, including comprehensive disaster risk reduction financing strategies, to support early action and recovery;

21. *Encourages* States to strengthen inter-institutional, inclusive coordination on disaster risk data and integrated analysis, investment in and the transfer of technology, on mutually agreed terms, to developing countries for the development of science and technology and in strengthening capacities for multidimensional and multi-hazard risk assessment, risk analytics, and strategic foresight and monitoring of systemic risk, and capitalize on the risk data and risk modelling capacity of the private sector, including development of tools for multi-hazard risk assessments, and in this regard takes note of the ongoing work on the Global Risk Assessment Framework and Risk Information Exchange;

22. *Also encourages* States to prioritize and enhance the allocation of and access to sustainable and predictable financing for disaster risk reduction at all levels, and technology transfer to developing countries, in particular for the

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<sup>242</sup> [A/77/640](#).

<sup>243</sup> United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, *The Report of the Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030* (Geneva, 2023).

<sup>244</sup> [A/71/644](#) and [A/71/644/Corr.1](#).

<sup>245</sup> Decision 2/CP.27 and 2/CMA.4.

least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and African countries, as well as middle-income countries facing specific challenges, on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, for the development and strengthening of their capacities, including to build resilient health, water, agriculture and food systems, cultural heritage, transport, energy and digital connectivity systems;

23. *Recognizes* the important contribution of healthy ecosystems to reducing disaster risk and building community resilience, encourages all States, United Nations entities and other relevant actors to promote nature-based solutions, ecosystem-based approaches and other management and conservation approaches, in line with United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/5 of 2 March 2022,<sup>246</sup> at all levels and across all phases of disaster risk reduction and management, and reiterates the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity as well as providing long-term and affordable investments in these approaches to reduce the impacts and costs of disasters, and ensure synergies between the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including by developing and updating national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

24. *Stresses* the need to foster better understanding and knowledge of the causes of disasters, as well as to build and strengthen coping capacities in developing countries through, inter alia, the exchange of best practices, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, educational and training programmes for disaster risk reduction, access to relevant data and information, the strengthening of institutional arrangements and the promotion of community participation and ownership through community-based disaster risk management approaches, and enhance understanding of risks posed by rapidly transforming, inter alia, economic, social, technological and ecological systems, including advancements in artificial intelligence;

25. *Acknowledges* the importance of community-driven disaster risk reduction and resilience efforts, and supports efforts to scale up community-level pre-disaster recovery and reconstruction planning;

26. *Also acknowledges* that water is essential to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, that water-related disasters and multidimensional hazards threaten lives, livelihoods, agriculture and basic service infrastructure and cause substantial socioeconomic damage and losses, and that sustainable, integrated disaster risk-informed water resource management is necessary for successful disaster preparedness, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, in this regard invites all countries to integrate land and water management, including for floods and droughts, into their national and subnational planning and management processes, and reiterates that the achievement of the water-related goals and targets would contribute to the successful implementation of the Sendai Framework;

27. *Urges* the incorporation of disaster risk management into post-disaster recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction processes, enhancing the development and dissemination of science-based and targeted methodologies and tools and facilitating cooperation among States for the sharing of experiences;

28. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations and other relevant organizations to take further steps to address the food and nutrition needs of affected populations, prioritizing tools that strengthen resilience to current crises and future shocks, and integrating a disaster risk reduction perspective aimed at improving food security and nutrition;

29. *Recognizes* that the Sendai Framework, including its core provision to “build back better”, provides guidance relevant to a sustainable recovery from COVID-19 and also to identify and address underlying drivers of disaster risk in a systemic manner, that biological hazards require strengthened systematic coordination, coherence and integration between disaster and health risk management systems in the areas of risk assessment, surveillance and early warning, and that resilient health infrastructure and strengthened health systems capable of implementing the International Health Regulations (2005),<sup>247</sup> as well as increasing the overall capacity of health systems, including through the application of the Bangkok Principles for the implementation of the health aspects of the Sendai Framework and other relevant initiatives, as appropriate, to reduce overall disaster risk and build disaster resilience, while also recognizing the value of integrated approaches, including the One Health approach and other holistic approaches that foster cooperation between human health, animal health and plant health as well as environmental and other relevant sectors;

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<sup>246</sup> [UNEP/EA.5/Res.5](#).

<sup>247</sup> World Health Organization, document WHA58/2005/REC/1, resolution 58.3, annex.

30. *Also recognizes* that disaster risk reduction requires a multi-hazard and systemic approach and inclusive risk-informed decision-making based on the open exchange and dissemination of data disaggregated by, inter alia, income, sex, age and disability, and analysis with an adequate understanding of how the information is to be interpreted and used, as well as on easily accessible, up-to-date, comprehensible, interoperable, science-based, non-sensitive risk information, for a wide range of users and decision makers, complemented by traditional knowledge, and in this regard encourages States to commence or, as appropriate, further enhance the collection and analysis of data on disaster loss and other relevant disaster risk reduction targets, disaggregated by income, sex, age and disability and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, and to strengthen inter-institutional, inclusive coordination on disaster risk data and integrated analysis, and invites Member States to mobilize national statistical and planning offices and other relevant authorities, and strengthen their capacity in the systemic collection, analysis and validation of disaster risk data to institutionalize its use in decision-making processes and investments across sectors;

31. *Welcomes* the political declaration adopted by the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly (Sustainable Development Goals Summit), held in New York on 18 and 19 September 2023,<sup>248</sup> and urges timely action to ensure its full implementation;

32. *Recognizes* the endorsement by the Economic and Social Council on 2 July 2018 of the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters,<sup>249</sup> as a guide for Member States to ensure the availability and accessibility of quality geospatial information and services across all phases of disaster risk reduction and management, and which contributes to the implementation of the Sendai Framework, and encourages enhanced support to developing countries for the application of space-based technologies and geospatial information systems as a cost-effective input to disaster risk assessments;

33. *Emphasizes* the importance of a broader and a more people-centred preventive approach to and systemic risk management of disaster risk reduction, reflecting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, recognizing that disaster prevention, preparedness, early and anticipatory actions, and resilience-building, in most cases, are significantly more cost-effective than emergency responses, stresses the importance of promoting the further development of and investment in effective, national and regional multi-hazard early warning mechanisms, where relevant, and facilitating the sharing and exchange of information across all countries, welcomes the call by the Secretary-General for a United Nations action plan to ensure that every person on Earth is protected by early warning systems within five years as an accelerator towards the achievement of target (g) of the Sendai Framework, recognizes the importance of the CREWS initiative in achieving that goal and takes note with appreciation of the findings of the *Global Status of Multi-hazard Early Warning Systems: Target (g)* report, and calls upon all relevant entities of the United Nations system to ensure a coordinated and integrated approach in the implementation of the early warning action plan presented at the twenty-seventh Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

34. *Recognizes* the increased official reporting through the online Sendai Framework monitor, and further encourages States to report on progress against the Sustainable Development Goals related to disaster risk to provide, inter alia, a comprehensive overview of progress to inform the deliberations and outcomes of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, and recalls the ongoing work towards integrated national climate change adaptation and national disaster risk reduction strategies as well as the Sendai Framework targets, and further recalls ongoing work under the Paris Agreement to apply the Sendai Framework targets in the context<sup>250</sup> of the global goal on adaptation;

35. *Encourages* countries to apply a comprehensive approach to disaster and climate risk management and to establish or strengthen policy, programmatic and financing coherence between national climate change adaptation and national disaster risk reduction strategies, as well as sector-specific plans, as appropriate, and apply the Sendai Framework for the effective implementation of all the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties made under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement;<sup>251</sup>

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<sup>248</sup> Resolution 78/1, annex.

<sup>249</sup> Economic and Social Council resolution 2018/14, annex.

<sup>250</sup> Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

<sup>251</sup> Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.



36. *Reaffirms* that the establishment of common indicators and shared data sets to measure the Sendai Framework global targets and the disaster risk reduction targets of Sustainable Development Goals 1, 11 and 13, as well as in the monitoring of the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,<sup>252</sup> are important contributions to ensure coherence, feasibility and consistency in implementation, the collection of data and reporting, calls for coherence between the Sendai Framework global targets and the monitoring of the Doha Programme of Action, and in this regard recognizes the importance of prioritizing capacity-building support to developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and African countries, as well as middle-income countries facing specific challenges;

37. *Encourages* States to give appropriate consideration to disaster risk reduction in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>253</sup> where it is reflected across several Goals and targets, including in their voluntary national reviews, inter alia, through the engagement of national Sendai Framework focal points early in the national review process, as appropriate, and stresses the importance of considering disaster risk reduction in the deliberations and outcomes of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and integrating disaster risk reduction across the work of the Economic and Social Council;

38. *Reiterates* its strong encouragement of and the need for effective coordination and coherence, as applicable, in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,<sup>254</sup> the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the Sendai Framework, as well as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity,<sup>255</sup> the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,<sup>256</sup> and the New Urban Agenda, while respecting the relevant mandates, in order to build synergies and resilience, translate integrated global policy frameworks, as appropriate, into national laws, policies or regulations defining roles and responsibilities across the public and private sectors, as well as into integrated multisectoral programmes at the national and local levels, and reduce disaster risk across sectors, and addressing the global challenge of eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty;

39. *Recognizes* the important work and contribution of regional and subregional organizations in advancing cooperation in disaster risk reduction at the regional level, encourages greater engagement and partnership between the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and regional and subregional organizations to accelerate the implementation of the Sendai Framework;

40. *Encourages* countries, the relevant United Nations bodies, agencies, funds and programmes and other relevant institutions and stakeholders to take into consideration the important role of coordinated, inclusive and participatory disaster risk governance across sectors for the achievement of sustainable development and, inter alia, the strengthening of disaster prevention as well as preparedness for effective response, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction, including through disaster risk reduction, early warnings systems that lead to early action, and response financing;

41. *Urges* that due consideration continue to be given to the review of the global progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework as part of the integrated and coordinated follow-up processes to United Nations conferences and summits, aligned with the Economic and Social Council, the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the quadrennial comprehensive policy review cycles, as appropriate, taking into account the contributions of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and regional and subregional platforms for disaster risk reduction and the Sendai Framework monitor;

42. *Reaffirms* that international cooperation for disaster risk reduction includes a variety of sources and is a critical element in supporting the efforts of developing countries to reduce disaster risk, and encourages States to strengthen international and regional information exchange and information-sharing, including through North-South cooperation complemented by South-South and triangular cooperation, establishing and networking risk management

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<sup>252</sup> Resolution 69/15, annex.

<sup>253</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>254</sup> Resolution 69/313, annex.

<sup>255</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

<sup>256</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.



centres, promoting critical science and technology research cooperation on disaster reduction and improving international coordination mechanisms to respond to large-scale disasters;

43. *Recognizes* that effective and meaningful global and regional partnerships and the further strengthening of international cooperation, including the fulfilment of respective commitments of official development assistance by developed countries, are essential for effective disaster risk management and the ability of developing countries, including those most vulnerable to disasters, to effectively enhance and implement national disaster risk reduction policies and measures, taking into account their respective national circumstances and capabilities;

44. *Reaffirms* the need for the enhancement of the means of implementation and the capacity and capability of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and African countries, as well as middle-income countries facing specific challenges, including the mobilization of support through international cooperation, for the provision of means of implementation to augment domestic efforts in accordance with their national priorities;

45. *Encourages* the incorporation of disaster risk reduction measures, as appropriate, into multilateral and bilateral development assistance programmes and infrastructure financing, including through North-South cooperation complemented by South-South as well as triangular cooperation, within and across all sectors related to sustainable development, and calls for international cooperation that is aligned with national disaster risk reduction strategies and more risk-informed and for alignment between national development cooperation policies and national disaster risk reduction strategies;

46. *Recognizes* that financing for disaster risk reduction requires greater attention, and in this regard encourages increased investments in disaster risk reduction, including resilient infrastructure, and calls upon the United Nations system and its entities, within the scope of their respective mandates, in partnership with international financial institutions, regional development banks and other relevant institutions and stakeholders, to support developing countries in developing comprehensive disaster risk reduction financing strategies in support of national and local disaster risk reduction strategies, and incentivizing investments in resilience, prevention and rehabilitation, and to explore the development of tailored financing mechanisms for disaster risk reduction, including forecast-based financing approaches and disaster risk insurance mechanisms;

47. *Encourages* States to allocate increased domestic resources to disaster risk reduction, including resilient infrastructure, to include disaster risk reduction in budgeting and financial planning across all relevant sectors, and to ensure that national financing frameworks and infrastructure plans are risk-informed, according to national plans and policies;

48. *Recognizes* that economic losses are rising as a result of the increasing number and value of assets exposed to hazards, encourages countries to conduct a disaster risk assessment of existing critical infrastructure, to ensure that infrastructure plans are aligned to national disaster risk reduction strategies and risk assessments, to support the publication of disaster risk assessments, to make multi-hazard disaster risk assessments a prerequisite for infrastructure, housing and real estate investments in all sectors, to routinely conduct stress testing of existing infrastructure and to strengthen regulatory frameworks for land-use planning and building codes, as appropriate, towards the achievement of target (d) of the Sendai Framework, and in this regard also encourages countries and other relevant stakeholders to integrate disaster risk reduction considerations into their social, economic and environmental investments;

49. *Encourages* all relevant stakeholders to collaborate with the private sector to enhance the resilience of businesses, as well as the societies within which they operate, by integrating disaster risk into their management practices, to facilitate private investments in disaster risk reduction and to promote risk-informed private investments and the disclosure of disaster risk in business operations and asset values, and also encourages the engagement of credit rating agencies, the insurance sector and the financial services sector in disaster risk reduction, to support countries in the development of innovative instruments, tools and guidelines for de-risking investments and to enhance financing available for disaster risk reduction;

50. *Reaffirms* that investing in national and local skills, systems and knowledge to build resilience and preparedness will save lives, reduce the risk of displacement in the context of disasters, strengthen the adaptive capacity of food production systems and enhance food security, cut costs and preserve development gains, and in this regard encourages exploring innovative ways, such as forecast-based financing approaches and disaster risk insurance mechanisms, to increase the availability of resources for Member States before a disaster is credibly expected to occur;

51. *Recalls* that the economic and environmental vulnerability index gives consideration to the impacts of disasters, recognizes the relevance of disaster risk and the impact of disasters in the process of graduation from the least developed country category, encourages the integration of disaster risk reduction into the smooth transition strategies of graduating countries in order to promote the sustainability of development progress, including the impact assessment of the likely consequences of graduation and the vulnerability profiles, and also encourages development and trading partners of graduating and recently graduated countries to support those countries in reducing disaster risk and building resilience;

52. *Recognizes* the importance of giving priority to the development of local and national disaster risk reduction capacity-building, policies, strategies and plans with the participation of all relevant stakeholders, in accordance with national practices and legislation;

53. *Also recognizes* that, while each State has the primary responsibility for preventing and reducing disaster risk, it is a shared responsibility between Governments and relevant stakeholders, and recognizes that non-State and other relevant stakeholders, including major groups, parliaments, civil society, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, non-governmental organizations, Indigenous Peoples and their organizations, national platforms for disaster risk reduction focal points for the Sendai Framework, local government representatives, scientific institutions and the private sector, as well as organizations and relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other relevant institutions and intergovernmental organizations, play an important role as enablers in providing support to States, in accordance with national policies, laws and regulations, in the implementation of the Sendai Framework at the local, national, regional and global levels, and that greater efforts are needed to mobilize multi-stakeholder partnerships for disaster risk reduction, according to national plans and policies;

54. *Encourages* Governments to promote the full, equal, effective and meaningful participation and leadership of women, as well as of persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations, the design, management, resourcing and implementation of gender-responsive and disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction policies, plans and programmes, and recognizes in this regard that women and girls are disproportionately exposed to risk, increased loss of livelihoods and even loss of life during and in the aftermath of disasters, and that disasters and the consequent disruption to physical, social, economic and environmental networks and support systems disproportionately affect persons with disabilities and their families;

55. *Stresses* the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective and the perspectives of persons with disabilities, as well as other people in vulnerable situations, into disaster risk management, and of engaging and appropriately drawing on the capacities of children, youth, including young professionals, as contributors in disaster risk management so as to strengthen the resilience of communities and reduce social vulnerabilities to disasters, and in this regard recognizes the need for the inclusive participation and contribution of women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, as well as the role of youth, volunteers, migrants, academia, scientific and research entities and networks, business, professional associations, private sector financing institutions and the media, in all forums and processes related to disaster risk reduction, in accordance with the Sendai Framework;

56. *Acknowledges* the continuous work of the entities of the United Nations system, in accordance with their respective mandates, in supporting the efforts of developing countries in the area of disaster risk reduction, including through the inclusion, where appropriate, of disaster risk reduction in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework as part of the common country assessment's multidimensional analysis, requests the relevant United Nations entities and United Nations country teams, and urges other relevant stakeholders, to continue to integrate disaster risk reduction and the implementation of the Sendai Framework into their work and to align their work with the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience: Towards a Risk-informed and Integrated Approach to Sustainable Development, guided by the Senior Leadership Group on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience convened by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, and notes the ongoing work of the Centre of Excellence on Climate and Disaster Resilience;

57. *Also acknowledges* the importance of the work of the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other relevant institutions in disaster risk reduction, the substantial increase in demands on the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the need for timely, stable, adequate and predictable resources necessary for supporting the implementation of the Sendai Framework, and in this regard encourages Member States to consider providing or augmenting voluntary contributions to the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction;

58. *Recognizes* the continued importance of voluntary funding, and urges existing and new donors to provide sufficient funding and, where possible, to augment financial contributions to the United Nations trust fund for disaster risk reduction to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework, including through unearmarked and, where possible, multi-annual contributions;

59. *Reaffirms* the importance of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and the regional and subregional platforms for disaster risk reduction as forums to assess and discuss progress on the implementation of the Sendai Framework and advance coherence between disaster risk reduction, sustainable development and climate change mitigation and adaptation, including financing, and recognizes their outcomes as contributions to the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

60. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Governments of Australia and Uruguay for hosting the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, from 19 to 22 September 2022, and the eighth Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean, from 28 February to 2 March 2023, respectively, events jointly organized with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, and looks forward to the regional platforms for disaster risk reduction to be convened in 2024 and encourages participation by all stakeholders, sectors and ministries at the highest level possible;

61. *Recognizes* the importance of the discussions that took place at the seventh session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Bali, Indonesia, and the eighth Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Nairobi, Kenya, the seventh Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction for the Americas and the Caribbean, held in Kingston, Jamaica, the fifth Arab Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Rabat, Morocco, the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Matosinhos, Portugal, and other regional platforms for disaster risk reduction in strengthening the commitment to achieving the targets of the Sendai Framework and as valuable inputs to the midterm review;

62. *Encourages* the eighth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction to include in its discussions ways to enhance preparedness, build resilience, promote early actions, reduce risks and to address the impacts of the El Niño/La Niña phenomenon, as appropriate, as well as to assess the progress made on the calls to action of the political declaration on the midterm review of the Sendai Framework;

63. *Stresses* the importance of promoting the incorporation of disaster risk knowledge, including disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness, financing, response, recovery, reconstruction and rehabilitation, in formal and non-formal education, as well as in civic education at all levels and in professional education and training, and of raising awareness and creating a culture of disaster prevention, resilience and responsible citizenship to foster all-of-society engagement in disaster risk reduction, and emphasizes the need for new and existing educational infrastructure, school facilities and teaching and learning practices to be risk-informed, resilient and fully accessible to all, which requires channelling financial and other resources towards strengthening these efforts;

64. *Recognizes* the need to promote traditional, local and Indigenous knowledge and wisdom that have been tested and improved through generations across the world, to further strengthen scientific practices and know-how and enhance efforts on awareness-raising and education on disaster risk reduction;

65. *Welcomes* the annual observance of the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction on 13 October and World Tsunami Awareness Day on 5 November, as well as World Water Day on 22 March and World Meteorological Day on 23 March, and encourages all States, United Nations bodies and other relevant actors to observe the Days to further raise public awareness of disaster risk reduction;

66. *Reaffirms* the commitment at the very heart of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind and commit to taking more tangible steps to support people in vulnerable situations and the most vulnerable countries and to reach the furthest behind first;

67. *Recognizes* that the findings of the midterm review of the Sendai Framework and the political declaration of the high-level meeting on the midterm review will be an input to the Summit of the Future in 2024, as well as the reviews of and successor frameworks to the Samoa Pathway and the Vienna Programme of Action and the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action, towards a risk-informed approach to sustainable development and climate action in all sectors and in all countries;

68. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, the effective global response to address the impacts of the El Niño

phenomenon and the implementation of the United Nations action plan to ensure that every person on Earth is protected by early warning systems within five years;

69. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council to jointly organize a one-day dedicated thematic event no later than April 2024, with the support of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, the World Meteorological Organization and other relevant entities of the United Nations system, to discuss action-oriented recommendations to address the socioeconomic and environmental impacts of the 2023/24 El Niño phenomenon on affected countries, in order to provide substantive input to the report of the Secretary-General to be submitted to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session;

70. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “Sustainable development”, the sub-item entitled “Disaster risk reduction”.

### RESOLUTION 78/153

Adopted at the 49th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/461/Add.4, para. 11)<sup>257</sup>

#### 78/153. Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 43/53 of 6 December 1988, 54/222 of 22 December 1999, 62/86 of 10 December 2007, 63/32 of 26 November 2008, 64/73 of 7 December 2009, 65/159 of 20 December 2010, 66/200 of 22 December 2011, 67/210 of 21 December 2012, 68/212 of 20 December 2013, 69/220 of 19 December 2014, 70/205 of 22 December 2015, 71/228 of 21 December 2016, 72/219 of 20 December 2017, 73/232 of 20 December 2018, 74/219 of 19 December 2019, 75/217 of 21 December 2020, 76/205 of 17 December 2021 and 77/165 of 14 December 2022 and other resolutions and decisions relating to the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of humankind,

*Recalling also* the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change<sup>258</sup> and the Paris Agreement,<sup>259</sup> acknowledging that they are the primary international, intergovernmental forums for negotiating the global response to climate change, expressing determination to address decisively the threat posed by climate change and environmental degradation, recognizing that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible international cooperation aimed at accelerating the reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions and addressing adaptation to the adverse impacts of climate change, and noting with concern the significant gap between the aggregate effect of parties’ mitigation pledges, in particular their nationally determined contributions, as appropriate, and aggregate emission pathways,

*Recalling further* the Paris Agreement, which, pursuant to article 2, paragraph 2, thereof, will be implemented to reflect equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances,

*Recalling* the outcomes of the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and of the sessions of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, as well as the outcomes of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, and urging their full implementation,

*Recalling also* the entry into force on 1 January 2019 of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer,<sup>260</sup> welcoming its ratification by 155 countries and one regional economic

<sup>257</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by Cuba (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China).

<sup>258</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

<sup>259</sup> Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

<sup>260</sup> UNEP/OzL.Pro.28/12, annex I.

integration organization, while encouraging further ratifications as soon as possible, and recalling the thirty-fifth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, held from 23 to 27 October 2023 in Nairobi,

*Recalling further* the United Nations Millennium Declaration,<sup>261</sup> the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development<sup>262</sup> and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),<sup>263</sup> the 2005 World Summit Outcome,<sup>264</sup> 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”,<sup>265</sup> the Political Declaration of the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, held in Antalya, Türkiye, from 27 to 29 May 2016,<sup>266</sup> the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, adopted at the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Vienna from 3 to 5 November 2014,<sup>267</sup> the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,<sup>268</sup> the Mauritius Declaration<sup>269</sup> and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,<sup>270</sup> the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,<sup>271</sup> the Sendai Declaration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,<sup>272</sup> the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,<sup>273</sup> the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016,<sup>274</sup> and the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the decade 2022–2031, adopted at the first part of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in New York on 17 March 2022,<sup>275</sup>

*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,

<sup>261</sup> Resolution 55/2.

<sup>262</sup> *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.

<sup>263</sup> *Ibid.*, resolution 2, annex.

<sup>264</sup> Resolution 60/1.

<sup>265</sup> Resolution 66/288, annex.

<sup>266</sup> Resolution 70/294, annex.

<sup>267</sup> Resolution 69/137, annex II.

<sup>268</sup> *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

<sup>269</sup> *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10–14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

<sup>270</sup> *Ibid.*, annex II.

<sup>271</sup> Resolution 69/15, annex.

<sup>272</sup> Resolution 69/283, annexes I and II.

<sup>273</sup> *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

<sup>274</sup> Resolution 71/256, annex.

<sup>275</sup> Resolution 76/258, annex.

*Noting with concern* that a prolonged economic downturn following the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic can adversely impact the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement and the ability of countries, especially developing countries, to adequately respond to the adverse impacts of climate change, and emphasizing that, in the response to the crisis, countries should keep the Sustainable Development Goals and climate commitments in focus,

*Noting with great concern* the severe negative impact on human health, safety and well-being caused by the 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,

*Recognizing* the negative impacts of climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic on efforts to achieve a substantial reduction in disaster-related mortality and disaster-related losses and the deepened vulnerabilities to disasters and exposure to hazards, recalling the contribution of various initiatives, including the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, as well as regional and subregional platforms for disaster risk reduction, and reaffirming the importance of coherence between disaster risk reduction, sustainable development and the response to the threat of climate change, and the findings of the 2023 *Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction*, and recognizing that disaster risk reduction efforts consistent with the Sendai Framework contribute to strengthening resilience and climate change adaptation and that the development and implementation of risk-informed strategic plans, policies, programmes and investments and national and local disaster risk reduction strategies are essential for sustainable development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and in this regard welcomes the convening of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, held in New York on 18 and 19 May 2023 and takes note of its political declaration,<sup>276</sup>

*Noting with concern* the findings contained in the special reports<sup>277</sup> of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the findings from the contributions of the Working Groups I, II and III, as well as the synthesis report of the sixth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel, which represents a more comprehensive and robust assessment of climate change than the fifth assessment report, recognizing the importance of the best available science for effective climate action and policymaking,

*Taking note* of the 2022 adaptation gap and emissions gap reports of the United Nations Environment Programme and recent global and regional reports of the World Meteorological Organization on the state of the climate,

*Acknowledging* that action on adaptation to climate change is an urgent priority and a global challenge faced by all countries, in particular developing countries, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, recognizing that the current need for adaptation is significant and that greater levels of mitigation can reduce the need for additional adaptation efforts, and recognizing also the importance of the adequacy and predictability of adaptation finance and of the Adaptation Fund and that the provision of scaled-up financial resources should be aimed at achieving a balance between adaptation and mitigation,

*Expressing deep concern* regarding the significant financial costs associated with loss and damage for developing countries resulting in a growing debt burden and impairing the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals,

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<sup>276</sup> Resolution 77/289, annex.

<sup>277</sup> *Global Warming of 1.5 °C, Climate Change and Land: An IPCC Special Report on Climate Change, Desertification, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Food Security, and Greenhouse Gas Fluxes in Terrestrial Ecosystems and The Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate.*

*Reiterating its support* for the objectives and guiding principles of the Green Climate Fund, including a gender-sensitive approach in its process and operations, and stressing its goal of ensuring efficient access to its resources through simplified approval procedures and enhancing readiness support, which will help to deliver outcomes in developing countries so as to limit or reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help them adapt to the impacts of climate change, and in that regard welcoming the new Strategic Plan 2024–2027 of the Green Climate Fund,

*Recalling with appreciation* the pledges made to the Green Climate Fund towards the first formal replenishment period of the Fund, resulting in a confirmed pledge of 9.87 billion United States dollars, and welcoming the second replenishment of the fund that, to date, has resulted in 9.3 billion United States dollars committed at the high-level pledging conference of the Green Climate Fund, held in Bonn, Germany, on 5 October 2023, and welcoming additional pledges,

*Recognizing* that climate change is a major and growing driver of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation and that the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and ecosystem functions and services, contribute significantly to climate change adaptation and mitigation, disaster risk reduction, the resilience of agriculture and food systems, and food security and nutrition,

*Welcoming* the first part 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 the second part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, held in Montreal, Canada, from 7 to 19 December 2022, under the presidency of China, and its outcomes, including the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and urging their early, inclusive and effective implementation,

*Noting* the need for enhanced coordination and cooperation at all levels among the parties to and 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,<sup>278</sup> and the Convention on Biological Diversity,<sup>279</sup> as appropriate, while respecting their individual mandates,

*Recalling* the initiative of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity at its fourteenth meeting to promote a coherent approach between the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (the Rio conventions), to address biodiversity loss, climate change and land and ecosystem degradation,

*Noting* the contribution of the United Nations Environment Assembly to addressing the challenge of, inter alia, climate change, within its mandate and in collaboration with other relevant organizations and stakeholders,

*Recalling with appreciation* the interactive dialogue on Harmony with Nature convened by the President of the General Assembly on 24 April 2023, in commemoration of International Mother Earth Day,

*Recalling* the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030,<sup>280</sup> and acknowledging that all types of forests contribute substantially to climate change mitigation and adaptation, and noting with appreciation recent forest-related declarations, pledges and developments, including but not limited to the forest-relevant contributions of the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use,

*Noting* that forests are addressed under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, noting also article 5 of the Paris Agreement, in particular the importance of taking action to implement and support, including through results-based payments, the Warsaw Framework for REDD-plus<sup>281</sup> and alternative policy approaches, such as joint mitigation and adaptation approaches for the integral and sustainable management of forests, recalling decision 9/CP.19 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,<sup>282</sup> and further recalling the relevant role of the Green Climate Fund in financing REDD-plus activities in developing countries,

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<sup>278</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

<sup>279</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

<sup>280</sup> See resolution 71/285.

<sup>281</sup> See [FCCC/CP/2013/10/Add.1](#), decisions 9/CP.19 to 15/CP.19; see also [FCCC/CP/2013/10](#) and [FCCC/CP/2013/10/Corr.1](#), para. 44.

<sup>282</sup> See [FCCC/CP/2013/10/Add.1](#).



*Reaffirming* its resolution [76/296](#) of 21 July 2022, entitled “Our ocean, our future, our responsibility”, in which it endorsed the political declaration of the 2022 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, held in Lisbon, recognizing its contribution to the implementation of Goal 14 in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, while underlining the interlinkages and potential synergies between Goal 14 and the other Goals, recognizing also that the implementation of Goal 14 can contribute significantly to the realization of the 2030 Agenda, and in this regard looking forward to the third Ocean Conference, co-hosted by Costa Rica and France to be held in Nice, France, in 2025,

*Noting with concern* that climate change is one of the factors that can exacerbate global water stress and the need for climate adaptation strategies to address water issues, acknowledging that disasters, many of which are exacerbated by climate change and are increasing in frequency and intensity, significantly impede progress towards sustainable development, welcoming the convening of the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028, in New York from 22 to 24 March 2023, referred to as the United Nations 2023 Water Conference, and recalling the adoption of its resolution [77/334](#),

*Noting* the convening of the Climate Ambition Summit on 20 September 2023,

*Stressing* that low greenhouse gas emission development can create employment opportunities and quality jobs, in accordance with nationally defined development priorities,

*Noting* the contributions of the International Civil Aviation Organization to global efforts to combat climate change, and noting also the contributions of the International Maritime Organization in this regard,

*Encouraging* Member States to pursue efforts to achieve sustainable consumption and production in line with United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/11 of 2 March 2022,<sup>283</sup>

*Recognizing* that, in undertaking its work, the United Nations should promote the protection of the global climate for the well-being of present and future generations of humankind,

1. *Reaffirms* that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, expresses profound alarm that the emissions of greenhouse gases continue to rise globally, remains deeply concerned that all countries, particularly developing countries, are vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change and are already experiencing an increase in such impacts, including persistent drought and extreme weather events, land degradation, sea level rise, coastal erosion, ocean acidification and the retreat of mountain glaciers, further threatening food security, water availability and livelihoods, and efforts to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions and achieve sustainable development, recognizes the substantial risks posed by climate change to health, and emphasizes in this regard that mitigation of and adaptation to climate change represent an immediate and urgent global priority;

2. *Urges* Member States to adopt a climate- and environment-responsive approach to COVID-19 recovery efforts, including by aligning investments and domestic policies with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>284</sup> and the goals of the Paris Agreement for its parties, and the ultimate objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in order to achieve a sustainable, resilient and inclusive recovery, and accelerate a transition to low-emission, climate-resilient, inclusive and sustainable economies and societies, in this regard stresses the need to strengthen the global response to climate change by increasing the ability of countries to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change, fostering resilience, accelerating the full implementation of all the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda and integrating climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning, urges parties to the Paris Agreement to communicate or update ambitious nationally determined contributions, noting that article 4, paragraph 3, of the Agreement states that each party’s successive nationally determined contribution will represent a progression beyond the party’s then current nationally determined contribution and reflect its highest possible ambition, reflecting its common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances, encourages parties to formulate and communicate long-term strategies on the basis of the best available scientific knowledge and with a view to achieving the purpose of the Agreement and make financial flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development,

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<sup>283</sup> [UNEP/EA.5/Res.11](#).

<sup>284</sup> Resolution [70/1](#).

and stresses the importance of mobilizing means of implementation from all sources, including adequate financial support, inter alia, for mitigation and adaptation, taking into account the specific needs and special circumstances of developing countries, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change;

3. *Encourages* all the parties to the Paris Agreement to fully implement the Agreement, and highlights the synergies between the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Agreement;

4. *Recalls* that the Paris Agreement, in enhancing the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including its objective, aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty, including by holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change, increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development in a manner that does not threaten food production, and making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development;

5. *Reaffirms* the Paris Agreement temperature goal of holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, recognizes that the impacts of climate change will be much lower at the temperature increase of 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared with 2 degrees Celsius, and resolves to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius, also recognizes that limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius requires rapid, deep and sustained reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions, including reducing global carbon dioxide emissions, by 43 per cent by 2030 relative to the 2019 level, and to net zero by or around mid-century, and further recognizes that this requires accelerated action in this critical decade, on the basis of the best available scientific knowledge and equity, reflecting common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities in the light of different national circumstances and in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty, and, in accordance with article 4 of the Paris Agreement, reiterates the aim to reach global peaking of greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible, recognizing that peaking will take longer for developing countries, and to undertake rapid reductions thereafter in accordance with best available science, so as to achieve a balance between anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases in the second half of this century, on the basis of equity, and in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty;

6. *Recalls*, in line with decisions 1/CMA.3 and 1/CMA.4,<sup>285</sup> the call to accelerate the development, deployment and dissemination of technologies and the adoption of policies to transition towards low-emission energy systems, including by rapidly scaling up the deployment of clean power generation and energy efficiency measures, including accelerating efforts towards the phase-down of unabated coal power and phase-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, while providing targeted support to the poorest and most vulnerable, in line with national circumstances, and recognizing the need for support towards a just transition;

7. *Looks forward* to the conclusion of the first global stocktake at the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, at the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to assess the collective progress towards achieving the purpose of the Paris Agreement and its long-term goals,<sup>286</sup> and recognizes the technical work conducted in 2022 and 2023;

8. *Welcomes* the nationally determined contributions submitted to date, and recalls that the regular updating of such contributions will reflect the highest possible level of ambition, in the light of different national circumstances, and provide the information necessary for clarity, transparency and understanding, in accordance with the relevant decisions;

9. *Notes with concern* that, according to the synthesis report on nationally determined contributions<sup>287</sup> published by the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the nationally

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<sup>285</sup> See [FCCC/PA/CMA/2021/10/Add.1](#) and [FCCC/PA/CMA/2022/10/Add.1](#).

<sup>286</sup> See [FCCC/PA/CMA/2018/3/Add.2](#), decision 19/CMA.1.

<sup>287</sup> [FCCC/PA/CMA/2022/4](#).

determined contributions presented thus far by the parties to the Paris Agreement are not sufficient and that action is needed to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, urges parties that have not yet communicated new or updated nationally determined contributions to do so as soon as possible, and encourages parties to communicate in 2025 nationally determined contributions with an end date of 2035, in 2030 a nationally determined contribution with an end date of 2040 and so forth every five years thereafter;

10. *Recalls* article 3 and article 4, paragraphs 3, 4, 5 and 11, of the Paris Agreement, requests countries to revisit and strengthen the 2030 targets in their nationally determined contributions, as necessary, to align with the Paris Agreement temperature goal by the end of 2023, taking into account different national circumstances, and urges parties that have not yet done so to communicate, as soon as possible, long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies referred to in article 4, paragraph 19, of the Paris Agreement towards just transitions to net-zero emissions by or around mid-century, taking into account different national circumstances, and to update the strategies regularly, as appropriate, in line with the best available science;

11. *Notes with serious concern* the findings from the synthesis report of the sixth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the contribution of Working Group I, in which the Intergovernmental Panel indicates that global warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius and 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels will be exceeded during the twenty-first century, unless deep, rapid and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions occur in this decade, from the contribution of Working Group II, in which the Intergovernmental Panel indicates that human-induced climate change has caused widespread adverse impacts in every region across the world and related losses and damages to nature and people reaching some adaptation limits and that adaptation plays a key role in reducing exposure and vulnerability to climate change, and the contribution of Working Group III, in which the Intergovernmental Panel stressed that accelerated and equitable climate action in mitigating and adapting to climate change impacts is critical to sustainable development;

12. *Emphasizes* the importance of just transition pathways as a means to enhance ambition and implementation and ensure the social and economic benefits of transitions, consistent with the Paris Agreement, and welcomes the establishment of the work programme on just transition pathways, in accordance with decisions 1/CP.27<sup>288</sup> and 1/CMA.4;

13. *Stresses* the urgent need to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change and extreme weather events, and in this regard urges Member States to continue to engage in adaptation planning processes and to enhance cooperation at all levels, including with regard to disaster risk reduction;

14. *Recalls* the Paris Agreement work programme, commonly referred to as the Katowice Rulebook, adopted at the third part of the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement,<sup>289</sup> and welcomes with appreciation the completion of the Paris Agreement work programme by the third session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, including the adoption of the decisions relating to article 4, paragraphs 10 and 12, article 6, paragraphs 2, 4 and 8, article 7, paragraph 12, and article 13;

15. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;<sup>290</sup>

16. *Emphasizes* the need for collective efforts to promote sustainable development in its three dimensions in an innovative, coordinated, environmentally sound, open and shared manner;

17. *Underlines* the need to address the economic, social and environmental impacts of climate change, emphasizes the need for action at all levels, to enhance efforts to build resilience through, inter alia, the conservation, restoration and sustainable management of ecosystems, and to build resilience to reduce the impacts and costs of climate-related disasters, and in that regard encourages Governments and relevant organizations to integrate nature-based solutions, ecosystem-based approaches and other management and conservation approaches, in line with

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<sup>288</sup> See [FCCC/CP/2022/10/Add.1](#).

<sup>289</sup> See [FCCC/CP/2018/10/Add.1](#).

<sup>290</sup> [A/78/209](#), sect. I.

United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/5 of 2 March 2022,<sup>291</sup> to climate change adaptation and mitigation and disaster risk reduction into their strategic planning, as appropriate, across sectors;

18. *Recognizes* that enhanced access to international climate finance is important to support mitigation and adaptation efforts in developing countries, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, and also recognizes the ongoing efforts in this regard;

19. *Reiterates* articles 2, 4 and 9 of the Paris Agreement, and highlights that about 4 trillion United States dollars per year need to be invested in clean energy technologies until 2030 to be able to reach net-zero emissions by 2050, and that, furthermore, a global transformation to a low-carbon economy is expected to require investment of at least 4 trillion to 6 trillion United States dollars per year;

20. *Highlights* that delivering such funding will require a transformation of the financial system and its structures and processes, engaging Governments, central banks, commercial banks, institutional investors and other financial actors;

21. *Notes with concern* the growing gap between the needs of developing country parties, in particular those due to the increasing impacts of climate change and their increased indebtedness, and the support provided and mobilized for their efforts to implement their nationally determined contributions, highlighting that such needs are currently estimated at 5.8 trillion to 5.9 trillion United States dollars for the pre-2030 period;

22. *Notes with deep regret* that the goal of developed country parties to mobilize jointly 100 billion United States dollars per year by 2020 in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation has not yet been met, while welcoming the increased pledges made by many developed country parties, and the “Climate finance delivery plan: meeting the US\$100 billion goal” and the collective actions contained therein, urges developed country parties to fully deliver on the goal of 100 billion United States dollars urgently and through to 2025, and emphasizes the importance of transparency in the implementation of their pledges;

23. *Recalls* the decisions to set a new collective quantified goal on climate finance from a floor of 100 billion United States dollars per year and prior to 2025, and welcomes the work of the ad hoc work programme for 2022–2024 for this purpose, under the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement;

24. *Notes with concern* that the current provision of climate finance for adaptation remains insufficient to respond to worsening climate change impacts in developing country parties, welcomes the recent pledges made by many developed country parties to increase their provision of climate finance to support adaptation in developing country parties in response to their growing needs, including contributions made to the Adaptation Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Green Climate Fund, which represent significant progress compared with previous efforts, and urges developed country parties to at least double their collective provision of climate finance for adaptation to developing country parties from 2019 levels by 2025, in the context of achieving a balance between mitigation and adaptation in the provision of scaled-up financial resources, emphasizes the urgency of scaling up action and support, including finance, capacity-building and technology transfer, to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change in line with the best available science, taking into account the priorities and needs of developing country parties, and in this regard recognizes the importance of the global goal on adaptation for effective implementation of the Paris Agreement, welcomes the launch of the comprehensive two-year Glasgow-Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the global goal on adaptation, and urges the finalization and adoption of a framework for the global goal on adaptation at the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement;

25. *Calls upon* multilateral development banks, other financial institutions and the private sector to enhance finance mobilization in order to deliver the scale of resources needed to achieve climate plans, particularly for adaptation, and encourages parties to continue to explore innovative approaches and instruments for mobilizing finance for adaptation from private sources;

26. *Recalls* that, in the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan, the shareholders of multilateral development banks and international financial institutions were called upon to reform multilateral development bank practices and priorities, align and scale up funding, ensure simplified access and mobilize climate finance from various sources, and encourages multilateral development banks to define a new vision and commensurate operational model, channels

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<sup>291</sup> [UNEP/EA.5/Res.5](#).

and instruments that are fit for the purpose of adequately addressing the global climate emergency, including deploying a full suite of instruments, from grants to guarantees and non-debt instruments, taking into account debt burdens, and to address risk appetite, with a view to substantially increasing climate finance;

27. *Welcomes* the consideration, for the first time, of matters relating to funding arrangements responding to loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including a focus on addressing loss and damage, by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, also welcomes the adoption of decisions 2/CP.27 and 2/CMA.4 on funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change,<sup>292</sup> including a focus on addressing loss and damage, and urges parties to come to agreement on the operationalization of the new funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage, including the fund referenced therein, at the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties;

28. *Also welcomes* the adoption of decisions 11/CP.27 and 12/CMA.4,<sup>293</sup> establishing the institutional arrangements of the Santiago network for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, which was established to catalyse technical assistance for the implementation of relevant approaches for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change at the local, national and regional levels in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, and affirms its determination to fully operationalize the Santiago network at the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, including by selecting the host of the secretariat and electing the members of the advisory board;

29. *Reiterates* the urgency of scaling up action and support, as appropriate, including finance, technology transfer and capacity-building, for implementing approaches for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change in developing country parties that are particularly vulnerable to these effects;

30. *Urges* Member States, taking into account that women and girls are often disproportionately affected by climate change owing to gender inequalities and the dependence of many women on natural resources for their livelihoods, to promote the integration of a gender perspective into environmental and climate change policies and to strengthen mechanisms and provide adequate resources towards achieving the full and equal participation of women in decision-making at all levels on environmental issues, stresses the need to address the challenges posed by climate change that affect women and girls in particular, and calls upon countries to strengthen the implementation of the enhanced Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its twenty-fifth session;<sup>294</sup>

31. *Notes* the ongoing work and potential of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, established for the exchange of experiences and sharing of best practices on mitigation and adaptation in a holistic and integrated manner, recalls decision 2/CP.23 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Platform's purpose and functions<sup>295</sup> and decision 16/CP.26 of the Conference of the Parties on the continuation of the mandate of the Facilitative Working Group of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform,<sup>296</sup> and also recalls decision 1/CMA.3 of the Conference of the Parties on the active involvement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in designing and implementing climate action;<sup>297</sup>

32. *Recognizes* the role of children and youth as agents of change in addressing and responding to climate change, also recognizing the importance of intergenerational equity and maintaining the stability of the climate system for future generations;

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<sup>292</sup> See [FCCC/CP/2022/10/Add.1](#) and [FCCC/PA/CMA/2022/10/Add.1](#).

<sup>293</sup> See [FCCC/CP/2022/10/Add.1](#) and [FCCC/PA/CMA/2022/10/Add.3](#).

<sup>294</sup> [FCCC/CP/2019/13/Add.1](#), decision 3/CP.25, annex.

<sup>295</sup> See [FCCC/CP/2017/11/Add.1](#).

<sup>296</sup> See [FCCC/CP/2021/12/Add.2](#).

<sup>297</sup> See [FCCC/PA/CMA/2021/10/Add.1](#).



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33. *Also recognizes* the invitation to the relevant work programmes and constituted bodies under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to consider how to integrate and strengthen ocean-based action in their existing mandates and workplans and to report on these activities within the existing reporting processes, as appropriate, and welcomes in this regard the second annual dialogue, held in Bonn, Germany, in June 2023;

34. *Recalls* that 147 countries and one regional economic integration organization have accepted or ratified the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol,<sup>298</sup> welcomes the entry into force of the Amendment on 31 December 2020, which was the end date of the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, and strongly urges countries that have accepted or ratified the Amendment to implement their pre-2020 commitments to the fullest extent as soon as possible;

35. *Welcomes* the convening of the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, presided over by the Government of Egypt in Sharm el-Sheikh, from 6 to 20 November 2022, and the adoption of their outcomes by parties, including the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan, and urge their full implementation;

36. *Looks forward* to the hosting by the Government of the United Arab Emirates of the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, from 30 November to 12 December 2023;

37. *Acknowledges* the work undertaken under the auspices of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action,<sup>299</sup> and encourages non-party stakeholders to scale up their efforts to address and respond to climate change;

38. *Recalls* the action plan for integrating sustainable development practices into Secretariat-wide operations and facilities management submitted by the Secretary-General,<sup>300</sup> as endorsed in resolution [72/219](#);

39. *Decides* to include in the United Nations calendar of conferences and meetings for the years 2024 and 2025 the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and its subsidiary bodies envisaged for the years 2024 and 2025;

40. *Invites* the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to report, through the Secretary-General, to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session, on the work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “Sustainable development”, the sub-item entitled “Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind”.

#### RESOLUTION 78/154

Adopted at the 49th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee ([A/78/461/Add.5](#), para. 7)<sup>301</sup>

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<sup>298</sup> See [FCCC/KP/CMP/2012/13/Add.1](#).

<sup>299</sup> See [FCCC/CP/2016/10/Add.1](#).

<sup>300</sup> [A/72/82](#).

<sup>301</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee.

**78/154. Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution [77/166](#) of 14 December 2022, as well as other resolutions relating to the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,<sup>302</sup>

*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, and 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,

*Recalling* that, in the 2030 Agenda, the international community committed to combating desertification, restoring degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and striving to achieve a land degradation-neutral world by 2030,

*Reaffirming* 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,

*Recognizing* that Sustainable Development Goal targets 15.3, 6.1 and 6.6 and the setting of voluntary land degradation neutrality targets have created strong momentum for accelerating the implementation of the Convention,

*Noting* that restoring degraded lands generates benefits for poor populations, brings more food to the hungry and to the markets, restores ecosystems and biodiversity and enhances resilience to climate change impacts, including by sequestering huge quantities of carbon from the atmosphere and bringing carbon into the soil,

*Recalling* that, in its decision 3/COP.15,<sup>303</sup> the Conference of the Parties to the Convention invited parties that have committed to voluntary land degradation neutrality targets to implement measures to accelerate the achievement thereof, by, inter alia, creating an enabling environment for the achievement of land degradation neutrality, including the responsible governance of land and tenure security, the engagement of stakeholders and the improved access of smallholders to advisory and financial services, in particular for women and those in vulnerable situations, therefore, taking note with appreciation of the pledge made by 131 countries to establish national voluntary targets and relevant measures to achieve land degradation neutrality by 2030, while 112 parties have successfully completed this voluntary process and 106 have already published their national reports on the website of the Convention,

*Noting* that combating desertification, land degradation and drought, including through the sustainable management of natural resources, can contribute to sustainable development for all and to easing displacement flows,

*Bearing in mind* its resolution [73/284](#) of 1 March 2019, in which it declared the decade 2021–2030 as the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration,

*Recalling* the adoption of the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the Convention,<sup>304</sup> including a new strategic objective on drought,

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<sup>302</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

<sup>303</sup> See [ICCD/COP\(15\)/23/Add.1](#).

<sup>304</sup> [ICCD/COP\(13\)/21/Add.1](#), decision 7/COP.13, annex, and [ICCD/COP\(15\)/23/Add.1](#), decision 7/COP.15.



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*Reaffirming* the Paris Agreement<sup>305</sup> 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 Change<sup>306</sup> that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

*Recognizing* that climate change, unsustainable agricultural and forestry practices, and land degradation, inter alia, are major and growing drivers of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation, and that conservation, restoration and the sustainable use of biodiversity, and ecosystem functions and services, sustainable land management approaches and technologies, including through nature-based solutions, ecosystem-based approaches and other management and conservation approaches, in line with resolution 5/5 of 2 March 2022 of the United Nations Environment Assembly,<sup>307</sup> contribute significantly to land degradation neutrality, climate change adaptation and mitigation, disaster risk reduction and food security and nutrition,

*Noting with concern* the findings of the second edition of *Global Land Outlook* and the findings of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services land degradation and restoration assessment and its *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*, the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change contained in its special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems, as well as the findings contained in the special report of the Panel entitled *Global Warming of 1.5°C*,

*Recognizing* the interdependencies between biodiversity loss, pollution, water scarcity, climate change, desertification, land degradation and drought and their interlinkages with food security and human well-being, including health,

*Deeply concerned* about the continuous trend in land degradation and the fact that the impacts of desertification, land degradation and drought are felt most strongly by people in vulnerable situations,

*Welcoming* the convening of the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028, in New York from 22 to 24 March 2023,

*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,

*Recognizing* that combating desertification, land degradation and drought is important for sustainable, inclusive and climate-resilient recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, that it is important to integrate land conservation, protection and restoration, sustainable land management, degraded soil and terrestrial ecosystems restoration, combating desertification and the aim of land degradation neutrality into the global agenda for sustainable development, and that careful targeting of the COVID-19 recovery investments, including land restoration, creates economic opportunities that contribute to environmental sustainability and poverty eradication,

*Recalling* the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030,<sup>308</sup> and acknowledging that all types of 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, that the sustainable management of forests and trees outside forests is vital to

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<sup>305</sup> Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.

<sup>306</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

<sup>307</sup> [UNEP/EA.5/Res.5](#).

<sup>308</sup> See resolution [71/285](#).

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the integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and that forests prevent land degradation and desertification and reduce the risk of floods, soil erosion, landslides and avalanches, droughts, sand and dust storms and other disasters,

*Reiterating its appreciation* to the Government of Côte d'Ivoire for hosting the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, held in Abidjan from 9 to 20 May 2022,

*Recalling* the establishment of a new intergovernmental working group on drought during the triennium 2022–2024, with a view to presenting its findings and recommendations to the parties for their consideration at the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,

*Reaffirming* the importance of government leadership, multi-stakeholder partnerships and increasing private engagement for the sustainable management, restoration and rehabilitation of ecosystems, biodiversity and land,

*Recognizing* the Global Initiative on Reducing Land Degradation and Enhancing Conservation of Terrestrial Habitats to prevent, halt and reverse land degradation adopted by the leaders of the Group of 20 in Riyadh in 2020, as well as the Riyadh Leader's Declaration,

*Recognizing also* the launch of the International Drought Resilience Alliance with a view to enhancing drought resilience,

*Highlighting* the importance of multi-stakeholder participation at the local, subnational, national and regional levels and from all sectors of society, including civil society organizations, local government and the private sector, as appropriate, in the implementation of the Convention and its 2018–2030 Strategic Framework,

*Recognizing* the value of knowledge, education, science and new technology to sustainable land management, including making use of, inter alia, the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, emphasizing the importance of science-based decision-making and that science and technology to combat desertification, land degradation and drought should therefore be further promoted, and acknowledging the work of the Science-Policy Interface of the Convention,

*Taking note with appreciation* of the global celebrations of the 2023 World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, under the theme “Her Land. Her Rights: Advancing gender equality and land restoration goals”, on 16 June 2023,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution [77/166](#) on the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;<sup>309</sup>
2. *Welcomes* the decisions of the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and stresses the importance of their effective implementation;
3. *Welcomes with appreciation* the offer made by the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to host the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, in Riyadh from 2 to 13 December 2024, and looks forward to its outcome;
4. *Welcomes* the first part 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 the second part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Montreal, Canada, from 7 to 19 December 2022 under the presidency of China, and its outcomes, including the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and urges their early, inclusive and effective implementation;
5. *Urges* the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the agreed intergovernmentally negotiated outcomes and decisions of the subsequent United Nations climate change conferences;
6. *Takes note* of the Abidjan Call, which urged giving the highest priority to the issue of drought prevention, resilience, impact mitigation and accelerating the implementation of existing national commitments, towards

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<sup>309</sup> [A/78/209](#), sect. II.

achieving land degradation neutrality by 2030 and raising ambition for investments in large-scale land restoration projects and programmes, which also help countries and communities to prepare for and mitigate the impacts of drought;

7. *Invites* Member States to support efforts to implement the strategic objectives of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;

8. *Welcomes* the voluntary commitment of the parties to the Convention to accelerate the restoration of 1 billion hectares of degraded land by 2030 by improving data gathering and monitoring to track progress against the achievement of land restoration commitments and establishing a new partnership model for large-scale integrated landscape investment programmes;

9. *Strongly encourages* the parties to the Convention to apply and align with the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the Convention in their national policies, programmes, plans and processes relating to desertification, land degradation and drought, and to implement the Strategic Framework, taking into account the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development;<sup>310</sup>

10. *Welcomes* the establishment of an intergovernmental working group to oversee the midterm evaluation process related to the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the Convention, which is to present its recommendations to the parties for their consideration at the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties;

11. *Reaffirms* that reducing land degradation and achieving land degradation neutrality has the potential to act as an accelerator and integrator for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and respond to the overall objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;<sup>311</sup>

12. *Encourages* Member States to pursue considering target 15.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals as an integrator and accelerator to achieve other Sustainable Development Goals;

13. *Reiterates* the need to combat desertification, reduce land degradation, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world, recalls with appreciation the voluntary land degradation neutrality target-setting programme consistent with the Convention and the work of the secretariat of the Convention and partners to assist parties to the Convention in carrying out voluntary target-setting activities, emphasizes the need for capacity-building and opportunities for parties that have yet to set land degradation neutrality targets, and in this respect reiterates its invitation to parties to the Convention that have not yet subscribed to the programme to do so;

14. *Recognizes* that sustainable land management approaches and technologies, including through nature-based solutions, ecosystem-based approaches and other management and conservation approaches, in line with resolution 5/5 of the United Nations Environment Assembly, constitute promising options to evaluate and consider in connection with sequestering carbon and enhancing the resilience of people and ecosystems affected by desertification, land degradation and drought, as well as the adverse effects of climate change and biodiversity loss;

15. *Also recognizes* the importance of applying new and innovative technologies and enabling policies and approaches, as well as sharing best practices, in combating desertification, land degradation and drought, as well as enhancing drought resilience, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to identify, as appropriate, those technologies, enabling policies and best practices in his report on the implementation of the present resolution;

16. *Affirms* that combating desertification, land degradation and drought and achieving land degradation neutrality through, inter alia, land conservation, protection and restoration, sustainable land management, degraded soil and terrestrial ecosystems restoration, sustainable afforestation and reforestation, which have emerged as a pathway to accelerating progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, will also contribute, among others, to safeguarding livelihoods, preventing and preparing for future pandemics and achieving a sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, and underlines the importance of integrating land conservation, protection and restoration, sustainable land management and degraded soil and terrestrial ecosystems restoration into post-COVID-19 recovery efforts, with particular emphasis on improving the

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<sup>310</sup> Resolution 69/313, annex.

<sup>311</sup> Resolution 70/1.

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livelihoods of the poorest, including rural communities and people in vulnerable situations, and recognizing and respecting Indigenous Peoples' connections to their traditional territories;

17. *Encourages* the entities of the United Nations system, when designing and implementing their programmes and projects, to take into account the role of achieving land degradation neutrality as a potential accelerator to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals;

18. *Underlines* the importance of comprehensive reporting, follow-up and review at the global, national and regional levels, as appropriate, in order to track progress in the implementation of the Convention;

19. *Reiterates* the invitation to parties to the Convention to take measures to ensure, as appropriate, that their relevant institutions adopt a proactive approach to drought management and integrate drought resilience and risk management, sustainable livestock and agricultural policies, drought forecasting work, sustainable water management and climate information and climate change impact assessments into relevant policymaking processes and initiatives;

20. *Reiterates its invitation* to the parties to the Convention to provide the Executive Secretary of the Convention with full support in the fulfilment of his mandate and in promoting the implementation of the Convention;

21. *Stresses* the urgent need to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change and extreme weather events, and in this regard urges Member States to continue to engage in adaptation planning processes and to enhance cooperation in disaster risk reduction;

22. *Invites* the United Nations Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms, which was formed at the twenty-fourth meeting of the senior officials of the Environment Management Group, in September 2018, and other relevant United Nations entities to continue their collaboration to assist affected country parties in developing and implementing national and regional policies on sand and dust storms;

23. *Recognizes* that gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls remain a crucial contribution to the effective implementation of the Convention, including its 2018–2030 Strategic Framework, and to the achievement of the Goals of the 2030 Agenda, stresses the importance of parties to the Convention and partners striving to ensure the equal participation of women and men in planning, decision-making and implementation at all levels and further achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, as well as women's full, equal, effective and meaningful participation in desertification, land degradation and drought-related policies and activities, and also stresses the importance of the effective implementation of the four priority thematic areas of the Gender Action Plan adopted by the parties to the Convention;

24. *Reiterates* the invitation to the secretariat and the Global Mechanism of the Convention to continue to collaborate and build partnerships with the secretariats of the other Rio conventions, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), other United Nations entities, international organizations and other relevant organizations to explore further ways of strengthening awareness-raising, improving the Gender Action Plan and developing further tools and guidelines for the use of parties in the thematic areas of the Gender Action Plan and the gender-responsive implementation of the Convention;

25. *Recalls* the invitation to parties to the Convention to legally recognize rights to equal use and ownership of land for women and the enhancement of women's equal access to land and land tenure security, as well as the promotion of gender-sensitive measures to combat desertification, land degradation and drought and achieve land degradation neutrality, taking into account the national context, and in this context notes the Abidjan Declaration on Achieving Gender Equality for Successful Land Restoration, which promotes all measures necessary to identify and eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, with particular attention to the rights of older women, widows, women with disabilities and young women;

26. *Encourages* parties to the Convention to follow the principles of implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security<sup>312</sup> in the implementation of activities to combat desertification, land degradation and drought;

27. *Encourages* the public and private sectors to continue to invest in developing, adapting and scaling up the application of technologies, enabling policies, methods and tools to combat desertification, land degradation and

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<sup>312</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document CL 144/9 (C 2013/20), appendix D.

drought in different regions, and to boost knowledge exchange, including of traditional knowledge with the consent of the knowledge holders, capacity-building and sharing of technologies on mutually agreed terms;

28. *Encourages* parties to the Convention to continue to promote the prevention of desertification, land degradation and drought with an integrated landscape approach by sustainably managing land and water resources, avoiding practices that degrade land and rehabilitating and restoring already degraded land;

29. *Encourages* developed countries party to the Convention and other relevant stakeholders to actively support the efforts of developing countries party to the Convention in promoting sustainable land management practices and in seeking to achieve a land degradation-neutral world by providing substantial financial resources from all sources facilitated access to appropriate technology on mutually agreed terms and other forms of support, including through capacity-building measures;

30. *Recognizes* the benefits gained from cooperation through the sharing of climate and weather information, forecasting and early warning systems related to desertification, land degradation and drought, while also taking account of sand and dust storms, at the global, regional and subregional levels, and in this regard likewise recognizes the need for further cooperation between parties to the Convention and relevant organizations in the sharing of related information, forecasting and early warning systems;

31. *Calls upon* the United Nations entities to mainstream drought resilience in their programmes when supporting countries prone to droughts or already affected, with an emphasis on enhancing preparation and resilience, noting the need for drought management through, inter alia, impactful policies, early warning systems, preparedness and mitigation, land restoration, sustainable agricultural and livestock policies and related actions to advance the neutrality of land degradation, in countries affected by drought and/or desertification;

32. *Encourages* all relevant entities of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to harness opportunities for leveraging synergies among the Convention on Biological Diversity,<sup>313</sup> the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, as well as the 2030 Agenda, and in this respect welcomes the ongoing efforts to strengthen synergies among the secretariats of the aforementioned conventions;

33. *Welcomes* the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification and the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, as well as the convening of the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit, underlines the importance of combating desertification and water scarcity and restoring degraded lands to ensure sustainable food production during the COVID-19 recovery period and recognizes the critical role that healthy land has in the global economy, calls for measures to explore and promote consumption and production patterns that conserve and protect land, advance land degradation neutrality and promote the conservation, protection, sustainable management and restoration of forests, taking note, inter alia, of the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use, and welcomes the convening of the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 6 to 20 November 2022;

34. *Notes with appreciation* the financial contributions that have been made by Member States and other donors towards the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund, and invites Member States and other donors to make further contributions to the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund and the drought initiative of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;

35. *Decides* to include, in the United Nations calendar of conferences and meetings for the year 2023 and subsequent years, the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and each of its subsidiary bodies, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to make provisions for those sessions in the proposed programme budgets;

36. *Acknowledges* the commitment of the parties to the Convention to boost drought resilience by identifying the expansion of arid, semi-arid, dry subhumid areas and drylands, improving national policies and early warning systems linked to early action, learning and sharing knowledge, building partnerships and coordinating action, and mobilizing drought finance to support a shift from reactive to proactive drought management, and welcomes the

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<sup>313</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

announcement by the Secretary-General of the Early Warnings for All initiative to ensure that every person on Earth is protected by early warning systems within five years;

37. *Takes note* of decision 22/COP.15,<sup>314</sup> which invites the parties to the Convention to promote sustainable territorial development, including multi-level governance and planning mechanisms, as appropriate, to strengthen urban-rural linkages, address desertification/land degradation and drought, including sand and dust storms, and create social and economic opportunities that reduce forced migration and displacement and increase rural resilience and livelihood stability;

38. *Acknowledges* the decision of the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth session with respect to promoting decent land-based jobs for youth and land-based youth entrepreneurship and strengthening youth participation in the processes relating to the Convention;

39. *Reaffirms* the continuation, for a further five-year period, of the current institutional linkage and related administrative arrangements with the United Nations Secretariat, to be reviewed by both the General Assembly and the Conference of the Parties no later than 31 December 2026;

40. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “Sustainable development”, the sub-item entitled “Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa”.

#### RESOLUTION 78/155

Adopted at the 49th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/461/Add.6, para. 7)<sup>315</sup>

#### **78/155. Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 77/167 of 14 December 2022 and its previous resolutions relating to the Convention on Biological Diversity,<sup>316</sup>

*Reaffirming* the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, including the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development<sup>317</sup> and its principles, the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,<sup>318</sup> and, inter alia, the commitments concerning biodiversity contained therein, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,<sup>319</sup> the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development<sup>320</sup> and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation)<sup>321</sup> and the outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals convened by the President of the General Assembly,<sup>322</sup>

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<sup>314</sup> See ICCD/COP(15)/23/Add.1.

<sup>315</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee.

<sup>316</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

<sup>317</sup> *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.

<sup>318</sup> Resolution 66/288, annex.

<sup>319</sup> Resolution S-19/2, annex.

<sup>320</sup> *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.

<sup>321</sup> *Ibid.*, resolution 2, annex.

<sup>322</sup> Resolution 68/6.



*Reaffirming also* 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 further* 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* the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito, Ecuador, from 17 to 20 October 2016,<sup>323</sup> and its vision for cities and human settlements that protect, conserve, restore and promote their ecosystems, water, natural habitats and biodiversity and minimize their environmental impact,

*Reaffirming also* the Paris Agreement<sup>324</sup> and encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change<sup>325</sup> that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

*Urging* the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the agreed intergovernmentally negotiated outcomes and decisions of the subsequent United Nations Climate Change Conferences,

*Welcoming* the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 6 to 20 November 2022, and looking forward to the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 30 November to 12 December 2023,

*Noting with serious concern* the findings from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in its special reports entitled *Global Warming of 1.5°C*, *The Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate* and *Climate Change and Land: An IPCC Special Report on Climate Change, Desertification, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Food Security, and Greenhouse Gas Fluxes in Terrestrial Ecosystems*, as well as the contribution of Working Groups I, II and III and the synthesis report of the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, in which the Intergovernmental Panel highlights the linkages between climate change and extreme weather events and slow-onset events and their negative impacts on people and nature, and highlighting the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, such as heatwaves, droughts and heavy precipitation,

*Recalling* the convening of the summit on biodiversity on 30 September 2020, in order to highlight the urgency of action at the highest levels in support of a global biodiversity framework that contributes to the 2030 Agenda and places the global community on a path towards realizing the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, “Living in harmony with nature”,

*Taking note with appreciation* of the interactive dialogue on Harmony with Nature convened by the President of the General Assembly on 24 April 2023, in commemoration of International Mother Earth Day,

*Recalling* its resolution [76/300](#) of 28 July 2022 on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment,

*Recalling also* its resolutions [71/312](#) of 6 July 2017 and [76/296](#) of 21 July 2022, in which it endorsed the declarations adopted by the first and second United Nations Conferences to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for

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<sup>323</sup> Resolution [71/256](#), annex.

<sup>324</sup> Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.

<sup>325</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.



sustainable development, demonstrating the collective will to take action to conserve and sustainably use our oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, as well as to halt and reverse the decline in the health and productivity of our ocean and its ecosystems and to protect and restore its resilience and ecological integrity, recognizing the important contributions of the dialogues and voluntary commitments made in the context of those Conferences to the effective and timely implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14, and looking forward to the third United Nations Ocean Conference, to be held in 2025,

*Taking note* of voluntary initiatives to support efforts to achieve the conservation and protection of at least 30 per cent of the world's land and ocean by 2030, which can further contribute to halt and reverse biodiversity loss,

*Recalling* its resolution 73/284 of 1 March 2019, in which it proclaimed 2021–2030 the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, with the aim of supporting and scaling up efforts to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide and raise awareness of the importance of successful ecosystem restoration,

*Recalling also* the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030,<sup>326</sup> and recognizing that forests are home to an estimated 80 per cent of all terrestrial species and that forests, including boreal, temperate and tropical, contribute substantially to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to the conservation of biodiversity,

*Recalling further* the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, in which it was highlighted that none of the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets were fully achieved, although six were partially achieved (targets 9, 11, 16, 17, 19 and 20),

*Noting with concern* that the Sustainable Development Goal targets with a 2020 deadline have not been fully achieved,

*Recognizing* that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and other pandemics underscore the need to conserve, restore and sustainably use biodiversity, on land and below water, to reduce the risk of the economic, social and environmental impacts of disasters and future pandemic outbreaks, many of which are exacerbated by biodiversity loss, the increased scale of poaching and the illegal use of and trade in wildlife and wildlife products, desertification, land degradation and drought, climate change and plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, and emphasizing the need to support and invest at all levels, to enhance efforts to build resilience, to reduce the likelihood of zoonotic infections and to avoid or minimize adverse impacts on biological diversity in order to achieve the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and to achieve a sustainable, resilient and inclusive recovery,

*Recalling with appreciation* the intergovernmentally agreed outcomes of the meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the meetings of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meetings of the Parties to the Protocols to the Convention,

*Recalling* that the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be pursued in accordance with its relevant provisions, are the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources, by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies, and by appropriate funding,

*Recognizing* that the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity is crucial for sustainable development, poverty eradication, food security and the improvement of human health and well-being, and a major factor underpinning the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals,

*Reaffirming* that, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, States have the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental policies and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction,

*Reaffirming also* the intrinsic value of biological diversity, as well as the ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic values of biological diversity, and its critical role in

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<sup>326</sup> See resolution 71/285.

maintaining ecosystems that provide essential functions and services, which are critical foundations for sustainable development, and human health and well-being,

*Encouraging* parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to integrate nature-based solutions, ecosystem-based approaches and other management and conservation approaches, in line with resolution 5/5 of 7 March 2022 of the United Nations Environment Assembly,<sup>327</sup> to climate change adaptation and mitigation and disaster risk reduction into their strategic planning, as appropriate, across sectors,

*Recognizing* that the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of Indigenous Peoples and local communities that are relevant to the Convention make a key contribution to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and that their wider application can support social well-being and sustainable livelihoods,

*Recalling* the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its thirteenth and fourteenth meetings, on article 8 (j) and related provisions,<sup>328</sup> decision CBD/CP/MOP/VIII/19<sup>329</sup> and decision CBD/NP/MOP/DEC/2/7,<sup>330</sup> as well as of the work done by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-sessional Working Group on Article 8 (j) and related provisions,

*Noting with profound concern* the findings of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*,

*Recalling* the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples<sup>331</sup> and the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples,<sup>332</sup>

*Recognizing* the vital role that women play in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and reaffirming the need for their full, equal, effective and meaningful participation at all levels of policymaking and implementation for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, as well as ecosystem restoration,

*Recognizing also* the important role of other biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, regional agreements and initiatives in contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity,

*Recognizing further* the important role of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora<sup>333</sup> in contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and in ensuring that no species entering into international trade is threatened with extinction, recognizing also the economic, social and environmental impacts of poaching and trafficking in wildlife,

*Welcoming* the convening of the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028, from 22 to 24 March 2023,

*Recognizing* the importance of the outcomes of the resumed fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, held in Nairobi from 28 February to 2 March 2022, and the first special session of the United Nations Environment Assembly to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme, held in Nairobi on 3 and 4 March 2022, recognizing also the importance of the international meeting entitled “Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity”, held in Stockholm on 2 and 3 June 2022, at which the global interconnectedness of the environment was emphasized, and looking forward to the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, to be held in Nairobi from 26 February to 1 March 2024,

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<sup>327</sup> [UNEP/EA.5/Res.5](#).

<sup>328</sup> United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/13/25, decisions XIII/18 and 14/12, 14/13, 14/14, 14/15, 14/16 and 14/17 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

<sup>329</sup> Adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety at its eighth meeting (see United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/CP/MOP/8/17).

<sup>330</sup> Adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization at its second meeting (see United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/NP/MOP/2/13).

<sup>331</sup> Resolution [61/295](#), annex.

<sup>332</sup> Resolution [69/2](#).

<sup>333</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 993, No. 14537.

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*Welcoming* the decision by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its resumed fifth session, in resolution 5/14 of 2 March 2022,<sup>334</sup> to convene an intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, and welcoming also the decision taken by the Environment Assembly at its resumed fifth session to strengthen global action on the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution, in line with Environment Assembly resolutions 5/2, 5/7 and 5/8 of 2 March 2022,<sup>335</sup>

*Recognizing* the importance of the outcomes of the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire from 9 to 20 May 2022,

*Noting* the adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, at its tenth meeting, of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity,<sup>336</sup> the objective of which is the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies, and by appropriate funding, and acknowledging the role of access to genetic resources and equitable benefit-sharing arising from their utilization in contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, poverty eradication and environmental sustainability, and thereby to the achievement of sustainable development,

*Noting also* that 195 States and 1 regional economic integration organization are parties to the Convention and that 140 States and 1 regional economic integration organization are parties to the Nagoya Protocol, noting further that 172 States and 1 regional economic integration organization are parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity<sup>337</sup> and that 53 States and 1 regional economic integration organization are parties to the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,<sup>338</sup> and recalling the entry into force of the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on 5 March 2018,

*Taking note with appreciation* of the initiative launched at the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to promote a coherent approach between the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa<sup>339</sup> (the Rio conventions) to address biodiversity loss, climate change and land and ecosystem degradation,

*Stressing* that adequate, predictable and easily accessible financial resources from all sources will be key to place the global community on a path towards realizing the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity of living in harmony with nature,

*Reiterating* the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, and the wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity;<sup>340</sup>

2. *Welcomes* the convening of the first part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as the Meetings of the Parties to the Protocols to the Convention, held in Kunming, China, from 11 to 15 October 2021 under the theme proposed by the Presidency “Ecological civilization: building a shared future for all life on Earth”, and the second part, held in Montreal, Canada, under the presidency of China, from 7 to 19 December 2022, with the support of Canada, and its outcomes, looks forward to the sixteenth

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<sup>334</sup> [UNEP/EA.5/Res.14](#).

<sup>335</sup> [UNEP/EA.5/Res.2](#), [UNEP/EA.5/Res.7](#) and [UNEP/EA.5/Res.8](#).

<sup>336</sup> United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27, annex, decision X/1.

<sup>337</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2226, No. 30619.

<sup>338</sup> See United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/5/17, annex, decision BS-V/11.

<sup>339</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

<sup>340</sup> [A/78/209](#), sect. III.

meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the meetings of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meetings of the Parties to the Protocols to the Convention, and encourages all Parties in a position to do so to consider hosting;

3. *Also welcomes* the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>341</sup> to the 2030 mission to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030 and to place the global community on a path towards realizing the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, and urges Parties and invites other Governments, with the support of United Nations entities and the participation of all other stakeholders, to ensure the early, inclusive and effective implementation of the Framework and all other decisions adopted by the Parties;

4. *Calls for* the provision and mobilization of new and additional means of implementation to support the full implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and further emphasizes the importance of urgently increasing the mobilization of financial resources from all sources, domestic and international, public and private, with a view to closing the biodiversity financing gap and making adequate and predictable resources available in a timely manner for the effective implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

5. *Welcomes* the adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its fifteenth meeting of the strategy for resource mobilization for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in support of the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention;

6. *Emphasizes* that the successful implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework requires responsibility and transparency, which will be supported by effective mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review, including through revising or updating national biodiversity strategies and action plans, in alignment with the Framework, its goals and its targets, in line with decision 15/6 adopted at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

7. *Requests* the continuation of efforts made by the secretariat of the Convention, parties to the Convention and the Global Environment Facility, as the financial mechanism of the Convention, in conjunction with United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, as well as other entities, in organizing capacity-building activities to support countries in the updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, with a view to enhancing capacity and addressing the need for human, technical and financial resources to implement the Convention and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in particular for developing countries;

8. *Welcomes* the establishment by the Global Environment Facility of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

9. *Calls for* continued capitalization and timely operationalization of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund commensurate with the targets of the Framework, from all sources, including, inter alia, international financial resources from developed countries, philanthropic organizations and the private sector, and to progress towards implementation as soon as possible;

10. *Welcomes* the decision to establish, as part of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, a multilateral mechanism for benefit-sharing from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources, including a global fund, and recognizing the ongoing process towards its operationalization;

11. *Acknowledges* the important roles and contributions of Indigenous Peoples and local communities as custodians of biodiversity and as partners in its conservation, restoration and sustainable use, stresses that the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework must ensure that the rights, knowledge, including traditional knowledge associated with biodiversity, innovations, world views, values and practices of Indigenous Peoples and local communities are respected, and documented and preserved with their free, prior and informed consent,<sup>342</sup> including through their full and effective participation in decision-making, in accordance with relevant national legislation, international instruments, including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and human rights law, and takes note with appreciation of the goal of providing up to 20 per cent of the programming share of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund by 2030 to support action by Indigenous Peoples and local communities for the conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management of biodiversity;

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<sup>341</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>342</sup> In this framework, free, prior and informed consent refers to the tripartite terminology of “prior and informed consent” or “free, prior and informed consent” or “approval and involvement”.

12. *Welcomes* the political declaration adopted by the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly (Sustainable Development Goals Summit),<sup>343</sup> held in New York on 18 and 19 September 2023, and urges timely action to ensure its full implementation;

13. *Urges* parties to the Convention to ensure the coherence and complementarity of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework with other existing or upcoming international processes, in particular with regard to the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and other related processes, frameworks and strategies, and reiterates the invitation to the other multilateral environmental agreements, including biodiversity-related conventions and the Rio conventions, relevant international organizations and their programmes, and other relevant processes to actively participate in their implementation;

14. *Encourages* support for the Sharm el-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People, which is aimed at collecting, coordinating and celebrating actions in support of biodiversity conservation and its sustainable use, encourages all relevant stakeholders, including Indigenous Peoples and local communities and the private sector, to consider developing biodiversity commitments, and invites relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other relevant institutions and intergovernmental organizations, where relevant, to support the implementation of the Action Agenda;

15. *Urges* parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and all other relevant stakeholders to mainstream biodiversity into COVID-19 response and recovery efforts, to fully implement and support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other international development goals, including by strengthening approaches to enhance resilience, protecting wild flora and fauna and other living species reversing the trends in environmental degradation, through the conservation, sustainable use and restoration of ecosystems, sustainably managing water resources at all levels, preventing the retreat of mountain glaciers and permafrost thaw, sustainably managing all types of forests and halting deforestation and forest degradation, as well as by integrating the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization into relevant national decision-making, emphasizes that biodiversity and health linkages should be addressed holistically, including through a biodiversity-inclusive One Health approach, among other approaches, and recalls in this regard decision 14/4 of 30 November 2018 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and resolutions 3/4 of 30 January 2018, 5/1 of 2 March 2022 and 5/6 of 7 March 2022 of the United Nations Environment Assembly;<sup>344</sup>

16. *Notes* that the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated pre-existing inequalities and challenges for the implementation of the Convention and further highlighted that the loss and degradation of biodiversity increases the risk of zoonotic disease spillover from wildlife to people and that biodiversity should continue to be mainstreamed in COVID-19 recovery plans and in plans aimed at reducing the risk of future pandemics, emphasizes the importance of a One Health approach and other holistic approaches that deliver multiple benefits to the health and well-being of people, and planet, that would further strengthen the capacity to address biodiversity loss, prevent and respond to the emergence of diseases, including zoonotic infections, and future pandemics, and contribute to reducing the adverse impacts of climate change, calls for transformative actions from all relevant stakeholders and adequate and sufficient means of implementation, particularly for developing countries, to ensure the full implementation of the Convention to halt and reverse biodiversity loss, and welcomes the financial commitments and initiatives that have been announced from governments, organizations and the private sector that contribute to biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use and maintain the political momentum for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

17. *Notes with concern* the limited progress made in the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention, namely, the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources;

18. *Recalls* with appreciation the entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity on 12 October 2014, and notes with particular concern the limited progress made in the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol;

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<sup>343</sup> Resolution 78/1.

<sup>344</sup> [UNEP/EA.3/Res.4](#), [UNEP/EA.5/Res.1](#) and [UNEP/EA.5/Res.6](#).



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19. *Notes* the limited progress made in mainstreaming article 8 (j) of the Convention and related provisions into various areas of work under the Convention, takes note with appreciation of decision 15/10 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to develop a new programme of work on article 8 (j) and other provisions of the Convention related to Indigenous Peoples and local communities aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, with the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and in this regard invites the secretariat of the Convention, through the Secretary-General, to report on the progress made by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-sessional Working Group on Article 8 (j) and related provisions when reporting on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly;

20. *Encourages* the respective parties, in close collaboration with relevant stakeholders, to take concrete measures towards achieving the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Protocols thereto, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol, requests the parties, in close collaboration with relevant stakeholders, to coherently and efficiently implement the obligations and commitments under the Convention and the Protocols, and in this regard emphasizes the need to comprehensively address at all levels the difficulties that may impede their implementation;

21. *Reaffirms* the importance of continuing to pursue more efficient and coherent implementation of the three objectives of the Convention, and calls upon parties and stakeholders to strengthen international cooperation measures for the fulfilment of obligations contained in the Convention;

22. *Highlights* the importance of parties raising high-level political engagement for the achievement of the objectives of the Convention and the related Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda;

23. *Invites* all parties, relevant departments of the Secretariat, the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and the regional commissions to continue to contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Convention;

24. *Notes* the important role of the United Nations Environment Management Group in enhancing inter-agency coordination to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

25. *Stresses* the importance of mainstreaming biodiversity for achieving the objectives of the Convention, the 2050 Vision and 2030 mission for Biodiversity in order to achieve the transformational change required throughout societies and economies, including changes in behaviour and decision-making at all levels, and urges all relevant stakeholders to mainstream biodiversity in all relevant sectors;

26. *Calls upon* Governments and all stakeholders to take appropriate measures to mainstream consideration of the socioeconomic impacts and benefits of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and its components, as well as ecosystems that provide essential services, into relevant programmes and policies at all levels, in accordance with national legislation, circumstances and priorities;

27. *Stresses* the importance of mainstreaming biodiversity in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda as part of national implementation plans for the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular all biodiversity-related Goals and targets;

28. *Recognizes* that integrating biodiversity considerations into sectoral and cross-sectoral policies, plans and programmes at all levels is critical for harnessing the benefits of enhanced synergies and policy coherence;

29. *Stresses* the critical importance of mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society in order to achieve the objectives of the Convention, and the urgent need to mainstream biodiversity in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

30. *Welcomes* the decisions of the parties to the Convention to better mainstream biodiversity and to take specific actions tailored to national needs and circumstances, and in line with other relevant international agreements, including in key sectors, such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism, as well as health, energy, mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing sectors, which are crucial for addressing biodiversity loss, bearing in mind the impact of these sectors on biodiversity;

31. *Recalls* its resolution [77/321](#) of 1 August 2023 entitled “Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction”;

#### IV. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Second Committee

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32. *Emphasizes* the importance of ending illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and welcomes the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies reached at the Twelfth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization;

33. *Notes* the critical role of biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services for climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction, including by adding resilience to fragile ecosystems and making them less vulnerable, and that continued climate change will have predominantly adverse and often irreversible impacts on many ecosystems and their functions and services, with significant negative social, cultural and economic consequences;

34. *Urges* the parties to the Convention to facilitate the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms for the effective implementation of the Convention in accordance with article 16 and other relevant provisions of the Convention, and in this regard welcomes the decision to establish an informal advisory group on technical and scientific cooperation, to provide strategic advice on practical measures, tools and opportunities to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation in accordance with the terms of reference contained in annex III to decision 15/8 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

35. *Urges* parties and invites other Governments and relevant organizations to recognize the important role of, and to promote, science, technology and innovation in supporting the implementation of the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework towards achieving the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity of living in harmony with nature;

36. *Welcomes* decision 15/11 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, entitled “Gender Plan of Action”, which recognizes the importance of advancing efforts to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and of supporting and advancing gender mainstreaming and gender-responsive implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and encourages parties to promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in developing, implementing and revising their national, and where appropriate, regional and subnational biodiversity strategies and action plans and equivalent instruments in implementing the three objectives of the Convention, and also recognizes the need to enhance cooperation on capacity-building in order to support parties in this process;

37. *Invites* countries that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Convention;

38. *Invites* parties to the Convention to ratify or accede to the Nagoya Protocol, and invites the Executive Secretary of the Convention and the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate as the financial mechanism of the Convention, in collaboration with relevant organizations, to continue to support capacity-building and development activities to support the ratification and implementation of the Protocol;

39. *Also invites* parties to the Convention to consider, as appropriate, ratifying or acceding to the Cartagena Protocol;

40. *Invites* parties to the Cartagena Protocol to consider, as appropriate, ratifying or acceding to the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;

41. *Stresses* the urgent need to halt the global decline of biodiversity, which is unprecedented in human history, including its main indirect and direct drivers, in particular changes in land and sea use, direct exploitation of organisms, climate change, pollution and invasion of alien species;

42. *Notes* the findings of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in its assessment report on the diverse values and valuation of nature, and stresses that achieving a sustainable and just future requires institutions that enable a recognition and integration of the diverse values of nature and nature’s contributions to people, and that the transformative change needed to address the global biodiversity crisis relies on shifting away from predominant values that currently overemphasize short-term and individual material gains to nurturing sustainability-aligned values across society;

43. *Takes note* of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services assessment reports on the sustainable use of wild species and on invasive alien species and their control, and stresses that the impacts of invasive alien species are increasing rapidly and are predicted to continue rising in the future, whereas they can be prevented and mitigated through effective management, with closer collaboration across sectors and countries;



44. *Notes* that increasing investments in nature-based solutions, ecosystem-based approaches and other management and conservation approaches, in line with resolution 5/5 of the United Nations Environment Assembly, has the potential to cost-effectively support biodiversity conservation, restoration and its sustainable use, to help advance climate mitigation and adaptation and to reduce adverse impacts of climate change and to slow, halt and even reverse some aspects of biodiversity and ecosystem loss, and therefore invites all relevant stakeholders to consider the opportunities it presents;

45. *Stresses* the importance of engaging Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women, youth, civil society, local governments and authorities, academia, the business and financial sectors and other relevant stakeholders to support action towards the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity and the three objectives of the Convention, and invites them to align their practices more explicitly with the objectives of the Convention, including through partnerships, in accordance with national legislation, circumstances and priorities;

46. *Encourages* the private sector, in particular business and financial institutions, to progressively reduce negative impacts on biodiversity, increase positive impacts, reduce biodiversity-related risks to business and financial institutions, and promote actions to ensure sustainable patterns of production, in this regard stresses the importance of the work of the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity, and notes other related and complementary initiatives;

47. *Notes* the ongoing work of the Joint Liaison Group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention to Combat Desertification and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, acknowledges the importance of improving coherence in the implementation of those conventions, recognizes the importance of enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions and agreements, without prejudice to their specific objectives, in this regard notes the contribution of the United Nations Environment Assembly, as reflected in its resolution 2/17 of 27 May 2016,<sup>345</sup> and the outcomes of its fourth session, held in Nairobi from 11 to 15 March 2019,<sup>346</sup> in particular its ministerial declaration, and encourages the conferences of the parties to the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements to consider strengthening efforts in this regard, taking into account relevant experiences and bearing in mind their respective independent legal status and mandates;

48. *Reaffirms* the commitment at the very heart of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind and commit to taking more tangible steps to support people in vulnerable situations and the most vulnerable countries and to reach the furthest behind first;

49. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its seventy-ninth session, a report on the implementation of the present resolution, progress in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “Sustainable development”, the sub-item entitled “Convention on Biological Diversity”.

#### RESOLUTION 78/156

Adopted at the 49th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/461/Add.7, para. 7)<sup>347</sup>

#### **78/156. Education for sustainable development in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 76/209 of 17 December 2021 and other previous resolutions on education for sustainable development,

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<sup>345</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/71/25)*, annex.

<sup>346</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/74/25)*, annex I.

<sup>347</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee.

*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 [75/233](#) of 21 December 2020 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system and its general guidelines and principles, as well as its resolution [72/279](#) of 31 May 2018 and Economic and Social Council resolution [2020/23](#) of 22 July 2020, and welcoming the efforts of the Secretary-General to better position the United Nations operational activities for development to support countries in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda,

*Reaffirming further* the commitment made in the 2030 Agenda to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all,

*Noting with concern* that, despite the considerable progress on education access and participation over the past years, 250 million children and youth aged 6 to 17 were still out of school in 2022, more than half of children and adolescents are not meeting minimum proficiency standards in reading and mathematics and teacher shortages persist, with an estimated global gap of 44 million additional qualified teachers, that, while rapid technological and digital changes present opportunities and challenges, the learning environment, the capacities of teachers and the quality of education have not kept pace, with only half of countries having standards for developing teachers’ information and communications technology skills, while, globally, only 40 per cent of primary, 50 per cent of lower secondary and 65 per cent of upper secondary schools are connected to the Internet, and that refocused efforts are needed to improve learning outcomes for the full life cycle, especially for women, girls and people in vulnerable situations,

*Reaffirming* the commitment made in the 2030 Agenda to ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development,

*Noting* the Transforming Education Summit, convened by the Secretary-General in New York from 16 to 19 September 2022, as well as its Pre-Summit, hosted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in Paris from 28 to 30 June 2022, as a contribution towards the acceleration of progress in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 4,

*Reaffirming* 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,

*Acknowledging* the importance for achieving sustainable development of delivering quality education to all girls and boys, which will require reaching children living in extreme poverty and rural areas, children with disabilities, migrant and refugee children and those in conflict and post-conflict situations, Indigenous people and children in vulnerable situations and providing safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all, and recognizing the importance of scaling up investments and international cooperation to allow all children to complete free, equitable, inclusive and quality early childhood, primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes, including by scaling up and strengthening initiatives, such as the Global Partnership for Education, as part of the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as well as the six Partnerships launched at the 2022 Transforming Education Summit, and by upgrading education facilities that are child-, disability- and gender-sensitive and increasing the percentage of qualified teachers in developing countries, including through international cooperation, especially in the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and middle-income countries,

*Recognizing* that, despite gains in providing access to education, girls are still more likely than boys to remain excluded from education owing to gendered barriers,

*Acknowledging* the importance of ensuring that all children, youth and adults achieve literacy and numeracy skills by 2030,

*Acknowledging also* the importance of adopting science, technology and innovation strategies as integral elements of national sustainable development strategies to help to strengthen knowledge-sharing and collaboration and the importance of scaling up investments in science, technology, engineering and mathematics and digital literacy education and enhancing technical, vocational and tertiary education, distance education and training and of ensuring equal access for women and girls and encouraging their participation therein,

*Acknowledging further* the importance of education for achieving sustainable development, including in the context of the 2030 Agenda, and building on the Millennium Development Goals, Agenda 21,<sup>348</sup> the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),<sup>349</sup> the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development, organized by the Government of Japan and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, in 2014, the World Education Forum 2015, held in Incheon, Republic of Korea, the Education 2030 Framework for Action, adopted on 4 November 2015 by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its thirty-eighth session, the framework entitled “Education for Sustainable Development: towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals” (ESD for 2030), endorsed by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its fortieth session, and the World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development, organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Government of Germany, held online from Berlin from 17 to 19 May 2021,

*Recalling* the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development,<sup>350</sup> the Aichi-Nagoya Declaration on Education for Sustainable Development, adopted at the World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development,<sup>351</sup> and the Incheon Declaration of the World Education Forum 2015,<sup>352</sup>

*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,

*Noting with great concern also* the unprecedented global school closures caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which have affected more than 1.5 billion children and youth worldwide, resulting in significant learning losses and increased dropout rates disproportionately impacting teachers and students in vulnerable situations, particularly girls and women, and exacerbated pre-existing inequities between and within education systems, as education is a primary driver across all 17 Sustainable Development Goals, bearing in mind the impact that the pandemic has had on students’ and teachers’ mental health and well-being, emphasizing the importance of investing in accessible learning platforms, digital hybrid learning, including through safe, better, universal, affordable and equal access to the Internet, stronger

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<sup>348</sup> *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 II.

<sup>349</sup> *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 2, annex.

<sup>350</sup> See [A/69/76](#), annex.

<sup>351</sup> [A/70/228](#), annex.

<sup>352</sup> Incheon Declaration: Education 2030 – towards inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all (see United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Final Report of the World Education Forum 2015, Incheon, Republic of Korea, 19–22 May 2015* (Paris, 2015)).

parental or guardian support, targeted teacher capacity-development programmes and the development of online learning platforms and resources, reaffirming the importance of safely reopening schools as soon as possible, and of supporting all children to return to school, and noting with appreciation the action of the Global Education Coalition, launched by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to support countries in their efforts to mitigate the impact of school closures, address learning losses and adapt education systems, as well as that of the School Meals Coalition as a joint initiative by Governments, development agencies, academia and the private sector to address the nutrition gap caused by school closures worldwide,

*Acknowledging* the important lessons that were drawn from the COVID-19 pandemic in health, culture, education, science, technology and innovation and digital transformation for sustainable development,

*Acknowledging also* the importance of implementing safe, nutritious and sufficient school feeding programmes as an effective and affordable platform for the inclusion, development and re-engagement of children and youth in schools, and taking note of the convening of the first global summit of the School Meals Coalition, in Paris on 18 and 19 October 2023,

*Reaffirming* its resolution 73/25 of 3 December 2018, by which it proclaimed 24 January the International Day of Education,

*Recognizing* the importance of promoting a holistic approach to education for sustainable development and of encouraging the reinforcement of the interdisciplinary linkages of the three pillars of sustainable development, economic, social and environmental, including different branches of knowledge,

*Recognizing also* the role of education for sustainable development in promoting and enhancing public awareness of the eradication of poverty, of sustainable consumption and production, of combating climate change, of conserving biodiversity and ecosystems, of building disaster-resilient communities and of promoting a culture of peace and non-violence, among other things,

*Reiterating* the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, and the wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

*Deeply concerned* about the annual estimated 97 billion United States dollar financing gap for low- and lower-middle-income countries to achieve by 2030 the Sustainable Development Goal 4 targets that they have set for themselves, which already fall short of the universal global Goal 4 aspiration, with African countries accounting for the largest share of this financial gap, concerned also about the overall impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on levels of public spending on education in low- and lower-middle-income countries, a situation compounded by increasing fiscal pressures, and taking note of efforts such as those of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Sustainable Development Goal 4-Education 2030 High-level Steering Committee and the multilateral financing of education initiative to increase education financing, including through a strategic dialogue on the strengthening of the multilateral education financing system for greater coherence, impact and accountability,

*Deeply concerned also* about the risk of education being underfunded and the impact of disrupted educational services during humanitarian emergencies on efforts to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all, and recognizing the need to support early childhood education, as well as to promote tertiary education, skills training and vocational education in conflict and crisis situations, where higher education serves as a powerful driver for change, shelters and protects a critical group of young men and women by maintaining their hopes for the future, fosters inclusion and non-discrimination and acts as a catalyst for the recovery and rebuilding of post-conflict countries,

*Looking forward* to the holding of the first ESD-Net 2030 global meeting in Tokyo in December 2023, and taking note of the previous ESD-Net regional meetings, held in Addis Ababa, Bali, Indonesia, Beirut, Paris and Santiago by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

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1. *Takes note* of the report of the Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on education for sustainable development,<sup>353</sup> which provided a review of the implementation of education for sustainable development in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;<sup>354</sup>
2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the Berlin Declaration on Education for Sustainable Development, the outcome statement of the World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development, held from 17 to 19 May 2021 online from Berlin, organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Government of Germany;<sup>355</sup>
3. *Reaffirms* education for sustainable development as a vital means of implementation for sustainable development, as outlined in the Aichi-Nagoya Declaration on Education for Sustainable Development and the Berlin Declaration on Education for Sustainable Development, and as an integral element of the Sustainable Development Goal on quality education and a key enabler of all the other Goals, and welcomes the increased international recognition of education for sustainable development in quality education and lifelong learning;
4. *Calls upon* the international community to provide inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels – early childhood, primary, secondary, tertiary and distance education, including technical and vocational training – so that all people, irrespective of sex, age, race or ethnicity, and persons with disabilities, migrants, Indigenous people, children and youth, especially those in vulnerable situations, may have access to lifelong learning opportunities that help them to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to exploit opportunities to participate fully in society and contribute to sustainable development;
5. *Reaffirms* the commitment at the very heart of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind and commit to taking more tangible steps to support people in vulnerable situations and the most vulnerable countries and to reach the furthest behind first;
6. *Calls for* the scaling up of efforts by relevant stakeholders to better collaborate to strengthen implementation of the framework entitled “Education for Sustainable Development: towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals” (ESD for 2030) at the global, regional and national levels, as well as to promote education responses to sustainable development challenges in all three pillars;
7. *Encourages* Governments and other relevant stakeholders to commit to building resilient, inclusive, quality education systems by (a) providing increased support to teachers and educational personnel, including through targeted professional development for digital and pedagogical skills; (b) investing in skills development, including social and emotional learning and well-being, and psychosocial support, and mental health for inclusive recovery, sustainable development, decent work and enhanced employability, and full and productive employment; (c) eradicating poverty, combating inequality and bridging the digital divide through open education resources and equitable, affordable and inclusive technology-supported learning, based on critical thinking and sustainability principles with a proper assessment of risks and benefits and by ensuring that the access, development and use of technologies are responsive, safe, equitable and inclusive; (d) building emergency preparedness and response capacity of education systems; and (e) building more inclusive education by ensuring gender equality and non-discrimination in access to knowledge and skills;
8. *Encourages* Governments and other stakeholders concerned to scale up education for sustainable development action through the implementation of the “Education for Sustainable Development: towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals” (ESD for 2030) framework and its road map;
9. *Encourages* Governments to increase efforts to systemically integrate and institutionalize education for sustainable development in the education sector and other relevant sectors, as appropriate, including through, inter alia, the provision of financial resources, the inclusion of education for sustainable development in relevant policies and the development of the capacities of policymakers, institutional leaders and educators, as well as through the strengthening of research and innovation, and monitoring and evaluation on education for sustainable development in order to support the scaling up of good practices;

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<sup>353</sup> [A/78/219](#).

<sup>354</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>355</sup> [A/76/228](#), annex.

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10. *Reaffirms* the commitment to continue to increase investment in inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all, including early childhood education, youth and adult literacy programmes and initiatives, digital education, cultural education, education for sustainable development, digital technologies for education, skills enhancement, affordable higher education and vocational training, education in emergencies and teachers' continuous professional development, recognizes that early childhood education and care can generate substantial benefits for children, and reaffirms the commitment to address barriers to girls' education, gender and disability gaps and to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in and through education and safe, healthy and stimulating learning environments that enable all learners to achieve their full potential and physical, mental and emotional well-being;

11. *Encourages* all countries, intergovernmental bodies, organizations of the United Nations system, relevant non-governmental organizations and all other relevant stakeholders to enhance international cooperation in supporting the efforts of developing countries towards the realization of the full potential of education for sustainable development;

12. *Emphasizes* the importance of further developing and implementing educational and public awareness programmes, training scientific, technical and managerial personnel, fostering access to information and promoting public participation in addressing climate change challenges;

13. *Decides* to continue to give consideration, as appropriate, to the contribution of education for sustainable development in the follow-up and review framework of the 2030 Agenda;

14. *Notes* Member States' engagement throughout the Transforming Education Summit process, including through national consultations, and invites the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and relevant stakeholders, including the Sustainable Development Goal 4-Education 2030 High-level Steering Committee, to support Member States, upon their request, in the country-level implementation of their national commitments made during the Transforming Education Summit process, as well as other relevant national strategies for transforming education and accelerate national efforts towards Goal 4;

15. *Reaffirms* the mandated role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as the specialized United Nations agency for education, to lead and coordinate the Education 2030 agenda; including through the strengthened Sustainable Development Goal 4-Education 2030 High-level Steering Committee, and encourages the High-Level Steering Committee to take all steps necessary to achieve maximum cooperation and coordination in order to make effective progress towards Goal 4;

16. *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as the lead agency for education for sustainable development, to continue to coordinate the implementation of the framework entitled "Education for Sustainable Development: towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals" (ESD for 2030) through its road map, in cooperation with Governments, United Nations organizations, funds and programmes, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders, and to continue to advocate the importance of ensuring adequate resources for education for sustainable development, and calls upon the United Nations system to increase efforts to mainstream a gender perspective into the implementation of the framework;

17. *Invites* the organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to continue to provide support and assist States, upon their request, in developing their national capacities to promote education for sustainable development, including through knowledge-sharing and standard-setting, youth empowerment and mobilization, the exchange of best practices, data collection, research and study;

18. *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other relevant United Nations bodies to continue to assess, in consultation with Member States, progress towards the achievement of education for sustainable development;

19. *Encourages* all countries, relevant intergovernmental bodies, organizations of the United Nations system, relevant non-governmental organizations and all other relevant stakeholders to give due consideration to the contribution of education to the achievement of sustainable development in the formulation of national, regional and international development policies and international cooperation instruments;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its eightieth session an action-oriented report on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its



eightieth session, under the item entitled “Sustainable development”, the sub-item entitled “Education for sustainable development”.

### RESOLUTION 78/157

Adopted at the 49th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/461/Add.8, para. 7)<sup>356</sup>

#### **78/157. Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 53/7 of 16 October 1998, 54/215 of 22 December 1999, 55/205 of 20 December 2000, 56/200 of 21 December 2001, 58/210 of 23 December 2003, 60/199 of 22 December 2005, 62/197 of 19 December 2007, 64/206 of 21 December 2009, 66/206 of 22 December 2011, 69/225 of 19 December 2014, 70/201 of 22 December 2015, 71/233 of 21 December 2016, 72/224 of 20 December 2017, 73/236 of 20 December 2018, 74/225 of 19 December 2019, 75/221 of 21 December 2020, 76/210 of 17 December 2021 and 77/170 of 14 December 2022, as well as its resolutions 65/151 of 20 December 2010 on the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All and 67/215 of 21 December 2012, in which it decided to declare 2014–2024 the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All,

*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 Agreement<sup>357</sup> and its early entry into force, and encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change<sup>358</sup> that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

*Recalling* the Climate Ambition Summit convened by the Secretary-General on 20 September 2023,

*Taking note* of the *World Investment Report 2023*, entitled *Investing in Sustainable Energy for All*,

*Noting* the establishment by the Secretary-General of the Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance,

*Highlighting* the synergies between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement,

*Recalling* the ministerial declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development<sup>359</sup> held in 2022, which took note of the Secretary-General’s proposed global road map for accelerated Sustainable Development Goal 7 action and reaffirmed the need to continuously engage on the implementation of Goal 7,

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<sup>356</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee.

<sup>357</sup> Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

<sup>358</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

<sup>359</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-seventh Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/77/3)*, chap. VI, sect. D.



*Recalling also* its resolution [77/327](#) of 25 August 2023, in which it proclaimed 26 January as the International Day of Clean Energy,

*Expressing concern* that, at current rates of progress, none of the global energy targets of the Sustainable Development Goals will be achieved by 2030,

*Reaffirming* the United Nations Millennium Declaration,<sup>360</sup> the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development<sup>361</sup> and Agenda 21<sup>362</sup> and the principles set out therein, and recalling the recommendations and conclusions contained in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation)<sup>363</sup> and the outcome documents of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,<sup>364</sup> the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, entitled “SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway”,<sup>365</sup> the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, entitled “Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024”,<sup>366</sup> the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, entitled “Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020”,<sup>367</sup> and the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, entitled “Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries”<sup>368</sup> for the decade 2022–2031, as well as the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016,<sup>369</sup> which underlines, inter alia, the importance of energy for cities,

*Reaffirming also* that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized in the achievement of sustainable development, and recognizing the need for the creation of an enabling environment at all levels and across all sectors for the achievement of sustainable development,

*Reaffirming further* the sovereign rights of countries over their energy resources and their right to define appropriate policies for the production and use of energy, recognizing that the 2030 Agenda shall be implemented for the full benefit of all, for today’s generation and for future generations,

*Emphasizing* that universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all is an integral part of poverty eradication and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, and that the increased use and promotion of clean technologies and renewable energy, including in off-grid and decentralized systems, and energy efficiency could make a significant contribution in that regard,

*Reaffirming* the commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 7, which aims at ensuring affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, and stressing the universality of access to energy, in line with the 2030 Agenda pledge that no one will be left behind,

*Deeply concerned* that, while progress towards the achievement of Goal 7 has been made in some regions of the world, efforts remain well below the scale required to meet the Goal by 2030,<sup>370</sup>

*Deeply concerned also* that 2.3 billion people in developing countries, especially in rural areas, rely on traditional biomass, coal and kerosene for cooking and heating, with disproportionate health and workload impacts

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<sup>360</sup> Resolution [55/2](#).

<sup>361</sup> *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.

<sup>362</sup> *Ibid.*, annex II.

<sup>363</sup> *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 2, annex.

<sup>364</sup> Resolution [66/288](#), annex.

<sup>365</sup> Resolution [69/15](#), annex.

<sup>366</sup> Resolution [69/137](#), annex II.

<sup>367</sup> *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* ([A/CONF.219/7](#)), chap. II.

<sup>368</sup> Resolution [76/258](#), annex.

<sup>369</sup> Resolution [71/256](#), annex.

<sup>370</sup> See [A/77/211](#).

on women, children and people in vulnerable situations, including an estimated 4 million premature deaths annually, that, while the global population without access to electricity has fallen below 1 billion, close to 675 million people are still without access to electricity, that reliability and affordability remain challenges in many countries, even as the number of household connections increases, that Africa accounts for more than half of both access figures and that, even when energy services are available, millions of poor people are unable to pay for them,

*Noting with concern* that energy represents less than 1 per cent of overall United Nations expenditure on the Sustainable Development Goals, despite its critical importance also in achieving other goals,

*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,

*Emphasizing* the critical socioeconomic benefits of affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy and the need to reframe the understanding of energy from a technical unit to a requirement for basic social services, including health care, economic development, and poverty eradication,

*Recognizing* that affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy services are essential for effectively responding to and achieving sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and socioeconomic crises, including for powering health-care and educational facilities, supplying safe drinking water and water for sanitation, including hand-washing, as well as water for agriculture and food production, supporting sustainable food systems and providing communications and digital services to connect people, share information and facilitate education, and further recognizing that ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all contributes to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the implementation of other relevant intergovernmentally agreed frameworks in the economic, social and environmental fields and that reaching Sustainable Development Goal 7 by the end of the decade requires an urgent and steep rise in investment in and financing of affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy and energy efficiency, while noting that the unprecedented crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic will have serious impacts on progress towards fulfilling the commitment on ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all by 2030, and economic disruptions related to the COVID-19 crisis have made it even harder for developing countries to reach Goal 7, noting the announcement of Governments aiming to achieve net-zero emissions, and taking note of the findings, in the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>371</sup> to put the world on track for reaching this objective,

*Welcoming* the convening of the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028, in New York from 22 to 24 March 2023,

*Highlighting* the importance of the empowerment of developing countries to achieve universal access through the rapid expansion of affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy worldwide,

*Highlighting also* the significant efforts made in developing countries that contributed to an increase in the global electrification rate to 91 per cent in 2021, and stressing the need to further close the electrification gap in many difficult-to-reach populations, in particular in sub-Saharan Africa,

*Recognizing* that each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that this will include the mobilization of financial resources, as well as capacity-building and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on mutually agreed terms, including concessional and preferential terms,

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<sup>371</sup> [A/77/211](#).

*Noting with concern* that lack of energy access has remained a challenge for developing countries and that sustainable and resilient and inclusive development would be unachievable without ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all,

*Welcoming* the increase in the share of renewable energy as a part of total final energy consumption over the past decade and the significant reductions in the cost of renewable energy, the sector's net positive job contributions and the rapid expansion of renewable energy capacity additions, which are now greater than those of other resources in the electricity sector, and noting that the levelized cost of solar and wind energy in many regions of the world is fully competitive with or undercuts traditional energy resources,

*Noting with appreciation* the work of the International Renewable Energy Agency, which facilitates the widespread and increased adoption and sustainable use of all forms of renewable energy,

*Noting* the work of multi-stakeholder partnerships, including Sustainable Energy for All, which has given strong momentum to the promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency, the initiatives of the Global Climate Action Agenda, the Small Island Developing States Lighthouses Initiative, SIDS DOCK, the Energy Efficiency Hub and others that can contribute to reaching the objective of ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all,

*Noting with appreciation* that the transformation of the world's energy systems is being accelerated by advances in technology, rapid declines in the cost of renewable energy, the deployment of least-cost decentralized solutions, policy support, new business models and the sharing of best practices, and noting the continuing work of the International Renewable Energy Agency and the International Solar Alliance,

*Stressing* the need for a coherent, integrated approach to energy issues and the promotion of synergies across the global energy agenda, with a focus on eradicating poverty and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Reiterating* the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, and the wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

*Noting* that the transitions to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all should be just, inclusive, equitable and secure, in line with national circumstances, in order to achieve universal access by 2030, while recognizing the need to increase the share of renewable and clean energy, including as a cooking source in urban areas, to significantly reduce negative health impacts and contribute to decreased greenhouse gas emissions and to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>372</sup>

2. *Also takes note* of the role and activities of the International Renewable Energy Agency, in its capacity as an observer of the General Assembly in accordance with resolution 66/110 of 9 December 2011, encouraging the Agency to continue to support its members in the achievement of their renewable energy objectives, as well as the contributions of the International Solar Alliance, including in its capacity as an observer of the General Assembly in accordance with resolution 76/123 of 9 December 2021, and encouraging its work to collectively address key common challenges to the scaling up of solar energy, as well as the contributions of other international and regional organizations and forums to the global energy agenda;

3. *Welcomes* the political declaration adopted by the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly (Sustainable Development Goals Summit),<sup>373</sup> held in New York on 18 and 19 September 2023, and urges timely action to ensure its full implementation;

4. *Notes with concern* the continued decline in international financial flows to developing countries in support of clean, sustainable, affordable, reliable, just and inclusive energy transitions, recognizes that the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 7 requires an urgent and steep rise in energy investment and finance, including investments in clean technologies and quality infrastructure, and in that regard calls upon countries, public and private financial institutions and other stakeholders to scale up the provision of finance for developing countries;

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<sup>372</sup> A/78/201.

<sup>373</sup> Resolution 78/1.

5. *Strongly encourages* Governments and other relevant stakeholders to take actions to achieve universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy, increase the global share of renewable energy, improve the inclusion of developing countries in energy sector cooperation, where relevant, and increase the rate of improvement in energy efficiency for a clean, low-emission, low-carbon, climate-resilient, safe, efficient, modern, affordable, reliable and sustainable energy system, given the systemic sustainable development benefits, while taking into consideration the diversity of national situations, priorities, policies, specific needs and challenges and capacities of developing countries, including their energy mix and energy systems;

6. *Calls for* ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, as such services are an integral part of poverty eradication measures, human dignity, quality of life, economic opportunity, the combating of inequality, the promotion of health and the prevention of morbidity and mortality, access to education, safe drinking water and sanitation, food security, nutrition, disaster risk reduction and resilience, climate change mitigation and adaptation, environmental impact reduction, social inclusion and gender equality, including for persons affected by humanitarian emergencies;

7. *Underscores* the importance of access to cleaner and more efficient and sustainable cooking and heating methods, welcomes ongoing efforts, and in this regard calls for the promotion of an enabling environment at the national and international levels for the increased usage of sustainable, cleaner and more efficient cooking and heating methods in all countries, in particular developing countries;

8. *Acknowledges* that means of implementation must be significantly strengthened, to enable decisive action and focusing in particular on additional finance and investment in line with target 7.a of the Sustainable Development Goals, and agrees that, without a strong push on innovation, new technologies, capacity-building and quality data, global efforts to achieve Goal 7 are bound to fail;

9. *Encourages* Governments, the United Nations system and relevant stakeholders to leverage the cost-competitiveness of renewable energy, especially in off-grid areas, in order to achieve universal energy access, such as by establishing policy frameworks, facilitating investment by domestic and foreign banks and educating students, communities, investors and entrepreneurs on renewable energy, energy efficiency and conservation, among other activities, where feasible and appropriate;

10. *Recognizes* the role that natural gas can play in supporting transitions towards lower-emission energy systems, and calls upon Governments to enhance and collaborate on energy security, including through the sharing of best practices and knowledge for the security of gas supply and demand, in the broader context of the transition towards lower-emission energy systems;

11. *Also recognizes* the vital role of energy storage, in particular battery energy storage, in supporting transitions towards lower-emission energy systems, by integrating energy sources as well as enhancing grid flexibility, resilience and off-grid energy affordability, and calls upon Governments to collaborate to overcome barriers and accelerate the deployment of these essential technologies while ensuring the sustainable expansion and transition of industries, including that of critical minerals, and to facilitate technology transfer on mutually agreed terms to developing countries;

12. *Supports* energy access in accordance with the national needs of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, to tackle their energy access challenges according to the specific needs of each country by mobilizing technical and financial assistance and tools to deploy affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy solutions to tackle the energy access deficit;

13. *Calls upon* Governments to expand the use of renewable energy beyond the power sector, taking into account national priorities and constraints, to industry, heating and cooling, construction and infrastructure and, in particular, the transport sector, including through sustainable sector coupling, energy storage, carbon capture, utilization and storage, sustainable and modern bioenergy and hydrogen in the context of sustainable development, including climate change, and calls for supportive policy initiatives and investments at the national and international levels;

14. *Recognizes* that current global progress in improving energy efficiency falls well below the pace necessary to double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency by 2030, and encourages, in accordance with national laws and regulations, the promotion of widespread energy efficiency initiatives in all economic sectors, the adoption and updating of building performance codes and standards, energy efficiency labelling, the promotion of energy management systems, the retrofitting of existing buildings and public procurement policies on energy, among other

modalities, as appropriate, as well as the prioritization of smart grid systems, district energy systems and community energy plans to improve synergies among clean and effective use of traditional resources, renewable energy, energy efficiency and energy storage, which aim to promote the interconnectivity of clean and renewable energy infrastructure and improve energy efficiency;

15. *Also recognizes* the vast investment needs and the significant challenges developing countries face to attract investment for affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, including the high cost of capital, and calls for multilateral development banks and other international financial institutions to strengthen their support for just and inclusive energy transitions by, inter alia, mobilizing additional financing and funds, providing technical assistance, and facilitating knowledge-sharing on mutually agreed terms and capacity-building to assist developing countries, and strengthening public-private partnerships, in the context of poverty eradication and achieving sustainable development;

16. *Calls for* strengthened cooperation at the regional level to promote innovation and facilitate financing, support regional cross-border power grid connectivity, as appropriate, to advance economic integration and sustainable development and share best practices that are responsive to regional needs with regard to Sustainable Development Goal 7 and its interlinkages with the other Goals, and in this regard encourages Governments to reinforce their energy interconnections, connecting regional energy markets and increasing energy security at the global level;

17. *Calls upon* Governments, as well as relevant international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders, to combine, as appropriate, the increased use of clean technologies and renewable energy technologies, other low- or zero-emissions solutions, more efficient use of energy, energy storage and greater reliance on advanced energy technologies, including technologies that avoid, abate and remove greenhouse gas emissions, such as carbon capture, utilization and storage technologies;

18. *Encourages* Governments, relevant international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders to promote investments in developing sustainable, reliable, modern, inclusive and equitable energy systems, inter alia, by strengthening energy systems through cross-border grid connections, as appropriate, and to consider incorporating decentralized renewable energy solutions in energy planning, as appropriate, and recognizes that energy transitions will take different paths in different parts of the world;

19. *Encourages* Governments and all relevant stakeholders to increase investment and actions to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 7, and to integrate affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy solutions to enhance responses to and recovery from COVID-19, in line with resilient, inclusive and sustainable development pathways, and to ensure energy security, and urges developed countries, relevant international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders to support the efforts of developing countries, especially the poorest and most vulnerable, taking into consideration the different national circumstances and in line with the national development priorities of developing countries, including through multi-stakeholder partnerships, in order to fulfil the commitment on ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all by 2030, recognizing that increased investments in affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy solutions and accelerated action beyond a business-as-usual recovery will aid countries in responding to the pandemic and economic crisis, for a sustainable, resilient and inclusive recovery, including by reducing emissions, creating jobs and promoting resource efficiency, and in advancing long-term resilience and the Sustainable Development Goals, which are integrated and interrelated;

20. *Encourages* Governments, relevant international organizations and other relevant stakeholders to use and promote an integrated resource planning and management approach in their energy strategies that considers energy choices in the context of linked sectors, inter alia, water, waste, air quality and food, taking into account national circumstances;

21. *Recognizes* that sustainable energy access and its deployment can be both improved and accelerated by gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and calls upon Governments, the United Nations development system and other stakeholders to increase educational and capacity-building programmes for women in the sector, further advance equal pay and leadership and other opportunities for women in the energy sector, promote women's full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership in the design and implementation of energy policies and programmes, mainstream a gender perspective in such policies and programmes and ensure women's full and equal access to and use of sustainable energy to enhance their economic and social empowerment, including employment and other income-generating opportunities;

22. *Encourages* Governments, with the support of relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, to accelerate the transition towards sustainable economies, according to national policies and plans, through mitigation and adaptation strategies that improve energy efficiency and create more and better employment opportunities for all, including young people and women, in wage and self-employment;

23. *Emphasizes* the potential of sustainable energy use to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, recognizes that increasing the deployment of clean and renewable energy and enhancing energy efficiency are components of many countries' nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and urges effective and timely support for the full implementation of all those contributions, as applicable;

24. *Notes* that the impacts of climate change can also threaten access to and the supply of energy, and also notes the importance of increasing the resilience of the energy sector to climate change, which can be facilitated by the expansion of renewable energy and supporting resilient associated supply chains;

25. *Emphasizes*, while noting progress, that the large-scale deployment of clean energy technologies has been insufficient and uneven, and that support is required to realize their potential, along with appropriate policy initiatives and investments at the national and international levels, with Governments working in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including the private sector;

26. *Also emphasizes* the value of regional and interregional approaches, which can, among other advantages, enhance the deployment of renewable and sustainable energy by facilitating the sharing of experiences, reduce transaction costs, leverage economies of scale, enable greater cross-border interconnectivity to promote energy system reliability and resilience and augment domestic capacity-building, and recognizes the work of organizations and initiatives in that regard;

27. *Invites* all relevant funding institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as regional funding institutions, the private sector and non-governmental organizations, to continue ongoing efforts and take further action to provide financial resources, as appropriate, to support efforts aimed at ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, including low-emission, low-carbon, climate-resilient clean technologies and renewable resources of energy of demonstrated viability, especially focused on energy access and economic development in both urban and rural areas, while noting the potential catalytic effect of concessional and other finance and taking fully into account the development structure of energy-based economies of developing countries;

28. *Encourages* the development, dissemination, diffusion and transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on mutually agreed terms, including concessional and preferential terms, and highlights the importance of integrating sustainable energy in the Technology Facilitation Mechanism;

29. *Stresses* the importance of strategies and contributions by Governments and relevant stakeholders to multi-stakeholder partnerships in ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, and encourages coordination and collaboration between the United Nations and relevant multi-stakeholder partnerships and international organizations, such as Sustainable Energy for All;

30. *Recognizes* the catalytic effect of the sharing of knowledge and experience, capacity-building and technical assistance on sustainable energy deployment, and encourages existing and new efforts to enable Governments of developing countries and relevant stakeholders to plan, finance, implement and monitor sustainable energy projects to further strengthen their national institutions and capacities;

31. *Encourages* the development of viable market-oriented strategies that could result in further rapid reductions in the cost of new technologies and renewable resources of energy and could further increase the competitiveness of those technologies, including through the adoption, as appropriate, of public policies for research, development and market deployment, including phasing out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption while providing targeted support to the poor and most vulnerable, in accordance with national circumstances;

32. *Emphasizes* the value of education, academia, technology and entrepreneurship in developing solutions to face energy challenges and achieve energy sustainability, as well as the importance of investing in research and development and demonstrations in sustainable and clean energy technologies, and also emphasizes in this context the urgent need to enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology,

including renewable energy, energy efficiency, hydrogen, energy storage, carbon capture, utilization and storage, bioenergy with carbon capture and storage, and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technologies, including technologies that avoid, abate and remove greenhouse gas emissions, and improved infrastructures for supplying affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all;

33. *Calls for* national efforts to promote access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all and strengthened local engagement to complement current approaches, and reaffirms the commitment to supporting subnational and local efforts, taking advantage of their direct control, where applicable, of local infrastructure and codes to foster uptake in end-use sectors, such as residential, commercial and industrial buildings, industry, agriculture, transport, waste and sanitation;

34. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue efforts to promote the provision of stable, adequate and predictable financial resources and technical assistance for sustainable energy and to enhance the effectiveness, coordination and full utilization of appropriate international funds for the effective implementation of national and regional high-priority projects for ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, and recalls the convening of the high-level dialogue on the midpoint review of the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All (2014–2024), held on 23 and 24 May 2019;

35. *Takes note* of the high-level dialogue on energy held on 24 September 2021 to promote the implementation of the energy-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>374</sup> in support of the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All and the voluntary commitments in the form of 200 energy compacts, and also takes note of the Secretary-General's proposed road map for accelerated action on Sustainable Development Goal 7, as described in the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>375</sup> and the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

36. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue engagement with Member States on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 7 in a comprehensive and evidence-based manner, as a follow-up to the high-level dialogue on energy and the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All;

37. *Recalls its request* for the President of the General Assembly to convene a global stocktaking, funded from extrabudgetary resources, to be held in 2024, marking the completion of the ongoing efforts to implement the plan of action of the Decade, and building on the follow-up to the high-level dialogue on energy, to further accelerate the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 7 of the 2030 Agenda;

38. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly, supported by the Secretariat and in collaboration with UN-Energy and relevant United Nations system entities, to support the preparations for the global stocktaking, including through regional and thematic consultations financed through voluntary contributions, so as to facilitate intergovernmental dialogues on energy and spur further action and partnerships to accelerate the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 7;

39. *Calls upon* the United Nations development system to work through existing initiatives and resources and within its mandate with relevant stakeholders, such as international financial institutions, along with development partners, such as multilateral and regional development banks and the private sector, to address capacity and funding gaps, particularly in developing countries, to scale up energy-related investments and to provide support to countries in need so as to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all;

40. *Encourages* UN-Energy to support coherence and coordination among the energy-related activities of the entities of the United Nations development system, within their respective mandates, and with existing resources in line with the implementation of resolutions 71/243 of 21 December 2016, 72/279 of 31 May 2018 and 74/297 of 11 August 2020 and Economic and Social Council resolution 2019/15 of 8 July 2019, in order to assist countries, in particular at the country level, inter alia, through normative support and expertise to the resident coordinator system, upon request by their Governments, by leveraging partnerships with other international organizations, donors and relevant stakeholders, including in their efforts to achieve universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all and to accelerate its deployment;

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<sup>374</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>375</sup> A/77/211.



41. *Reaffirms* the commitment at the very heart of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind and commit to taking more tangible steps to support people in vulnerable situations and the most vulnerable countries and to reach the furthest behind first;

42. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to promote renewable energy, energy efficiency and related sustainable practices in all United Nations facilities and operations around the world, where appropriate and economically viable;

43. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including activities carried out to mark the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “Sustainable development”, the sub-item entitled “Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all”.

#### RESOLUTION 78/158

Adopted at the 49th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 176 to 3, with no abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/461/Add.9, para. 7)<sup>376</sup>

\* *In favour:* Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, 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, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against:* Israel, Nauru, United States of America

*Abstaining:* None

#### 78/158. Combating sand and dust storms

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 70/195 of 22 December 2015, 71/219 of 21 December 2016, 72/225 of 20 December 2017, 73/237 of 20 December 2018, 74/226 of 19 December 2019, 75/222 of 21 December 2020, 76/211 of 17 December 2021 and 77/171 of 14 December 2022 on combating sand and dust storms,

*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,

<sup>376</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by Cuba (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China).

*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 Agreement<sup>377</sup> and its early entry into force, and encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change<sup>378</sup> that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

*Highlighting* the synergies between the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement, noting with concern the findings contained in the special report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change entitled *Global Warming of 1.5°C*, noting with concern also the findings of the report of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific entitled *Sand and Dust Storms Risk Assessment in Asia and the Pacific* and the report of the United Nations Environment Programme entitled *Impacts of Sand and Dust Storms on Oceans: A Scientific Environmental Assessment for Policy Makers*, in addition to the World Health Organization global air quality guidelines and the World Meteorological Organization report entitled *2020 State of Climate Services: Risk Information and Early Warning Systems*, noting the holding of the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, hosted by the Government of Egypt in Sharm el-Sheikh from 6 to 20 November 2022, and looking forward to the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in the United Arab Emirates from 30 November to 12 December 2023,

*Recalling* United Nations Environment Assembly resolutions 1/7 of 27 June 2014 on strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in promoting air quality,<sup>379</sup> 2/21 of 27 May 2016 on sand and dust storms<sup>380</sup> and 4/10 of 15 March 2019 on innovation on biodiversity and land degradation,<sup>381</sup>

*Acknowledging* the work done by the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,<sup>382</sup> towards mitigating sand and dust storm issues at source, and acknowledging also the continuing support of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for countries affected by sand and dust storms through the promotion of sustainable land use management, agroforestry, shelter belts, afforestation/reforestation and land restoration programmes, which all contribute to sand and dust storm source mitigation,

*Recalling* its resolutions 71/229 of 21 December 2016, 72/220 of 20 December 2017, 73/233 of 20 December 2018, 74/220 of 19 December 2019, 75/218 of 21 December 2020, 76/206 of 17 December 2021 and 77/166 of 14 December 2022 on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,

*Welcoming* the convening of the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from 9 to 20 May 2022, noting the adoption of the Abidjan Call as well as the Abidjan Legacy Programme, to address drought and preserve and restore the terrestrial ecosystem, reverse land degradation and halt the loss of biodiversity, noting also decision 26/COP.15 of 20 May 2022,<sup>383</sup> in which the Conference urged a proactive approach to enhance cooperation at all levels to address the causes and impacts of sand and dust storms and called for the organization, as appropriate, of a science-policy dialogue to contribute to the development of further guidance and policies to address sand and dust storms, and welcoming the

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<sup>377</sup> Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

<sup>378</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

<sup>379</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/69/25)*, annex.

<sup>380</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/71/25)*, annex.

<sup>381</sup> UNEP/EA.4/Res.10.

<sup>382</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

<sup>383</sup> See ICCD/COP(15)/23/Add.1.

offers made by the Government of Saudi Arabia and the Government of Mongolia to host the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions, in 2024 and 2026, respectively,

*Welcoming also* the first part 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 the second part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, held in Montreal, Canada, from 7 to 19 December 2022, and its outcomes, including the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and urges their early, inclusive and effective implementation,

*Recalling* its resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, in which it endorsed the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,

*Noting* the adoption, by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its seventy-second session, of resolution 72/7 of 19 May 2016 on regional cooperation to combat sand and dust storms in Asia and the Pacific, and taking note of the Regional Plan of Action on Sand and Dust Storms in Asia and the Pacific of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management of the Commission,<sup>384</sup>

*Noting also* the endorsement by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its seventy-fifth session of the recommendation by the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management to establish a subregional cooperation mechanism for slow-onset hazards with a focus on sand and dust storms in South-West and Central Asia, and noting the endorsement by the Commission at its seventy-eighth session of the Regional Plan of Action on Sand and Dust Storms in Asia and the Pacific, which provides a strategic framework and reference for countries in the region to take action at the national and regional levels, in the context of multi-hazard disaster risk reduction, to reduce the negative impact of sand and dust storms and identify anthropogenic measures that could contribute to or mitigate their formation and intensity,

*Taking note* of the Regional Programme to Combat Sand and Dust Storms of the United Nations Environment Programme, and of other initiatives, including the ministerial meeting on sand and dust storms held in Nairobi on 21 February 2013 on the margins of the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme,

*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 and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/283 of 3 June 2015, and recognizing that one of the priorities for action of the Framework is an understanding of disaster risk for prevention and mitigation and for the development and implementation of appropriate preparedness and effective response to disasters, which continue to undermine efforts to achieve sustainable development, recalling also the convening of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, and its political declaration,<sup>385</sup>

*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,

*Stressing* the need for cooperation at the global and regional levels with a view to managing and mitigating the effects of sand and dust storms through the enhancement of early warning systems and the sharing of climate and weather information to forecast sand and dust storms, and affirming that resilient action to combat and prevent sand and dust storms requires a better understanding of the severe multidimensional impacts of sand and dust storms, including the deterioration of the health, well-being and livelihood of people, increased desertification and land

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<sup>384</sup> ESCAP/78/12/Add.1.

<sup>385</sup> Resolution 77/289, annex.

degradation, deforestation, loss of biodiversity and land productivity, and their impact on sustainable economic growth,

*Recognizing* that sand and dust storms are an issue of international concern, the costs of which are measured in economic, social and environmental terms, and that sand and dust storms continue to grow and negatively affect the achievement of 11 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and their means of implementation, expressing deep concern about the devastating impacts of COVID-19 on human health and well-being, while taking into consideration that the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the challenges faced by people in vulnerable situations, noting with concern that sand and dust storms may exacerbate the symptoms of respiratory diseases such as COVID-19 and may complicate and prolong the recovery from the disease, in addition to the other negative impacts that can be associated with respiratory disorders such as asthma, tracheitis, pneumonia and silicosis, which may lead to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and cardiovascular and heart disorders, in addition to eye and skin irritation, and can also spread other diseases, such as meningitis, and taking into account that a reduction in cardiovascular and respiratory disease, as comorbidities linked to COVID-19-related deaths, can produce significant health benefits, when mitigating measures are taken,

*Emphasizing* the relevance of the efforts and cooperation of Member States at the regional and international levels to control and reduce the negative impacts of sand and dust storms on human settlements in vulnerable regions, recalling its resolutions [72/225](#) and [77/171](#), in which it noted the first International Conference on Combating Sand and Dust Storms, held in Tehran from 3 to 5 July 2017, and the second International Conference on Combating Sand and Dust Storms, held in Tehran on 9 and 10 September 2023, welcoming the holding of other meetings with the active participation of all countries, and taking note with appreciation of other ongoing initiatives to combat sand and dust storms, at the national, regional and global levels,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>386</sup>
2. *Recognizes* that sand and dust storms and the unsustainable land management, soil, agricultural and livestock practices, among other factors, that can cause or exacerbate these phenomena, including climate change, pose a serious challenge to the sustainable development of affected countries and regions, also recognizes that, in the past few years, sand and dust storms have inflicted substantial economic, social and environmental damage on the inhabitants of the world's arid, semi-arid and dry subhumid areas, especially in Africa and Asia, and underscores the need to treat them and to promptly take measures to address those challenges;
3. *Recalls* the convening of a high-level interactive dialogue on sand and dust storms, held at Headquarters in New York on 16 July 2018, bringing together Member States, observer States and observers of the General Assembly, United Nations system entities, regional commissions and other stakeholders to discuss action-oriented recommendations and address the challenges faced by the affected countries, including ways to improve policy coordination at the global level to tackle those challenges in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals, during which the continuing need to confront the challenges presented by sand and dust storms was highlighted;
4. *Welcomes* the operationalization of the United Nations Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms, which is pursuing efforts, within its mandate and resources, to move to the implementation stage, and aims, inter alia, to promote and coordinate a collaborative United Nations system response to the growing issue of sand and dust storms on a local, regional and global scale, ensuring that unified and coherent action is taken, and to facilitate the capacity-building of Member States, raise their awareness and enhance their preparedness and response to sand and dust storms in critical regions;
5. *Once again invites* the Secretary-General to consider designating a relevant agency or entity with adequate capacity to act as a focal point on sand and dust storms in the United Nations system to follow up the decisions in the relevant resolutions and the United Nations Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms;
6. *Recognizes* the importance of new and innovative technologies and best practices in combating sand and dust storms, as well as their sharing and transfer on mutually agreed terms;
7. *Encourages* regional, subregional and interregional organizations and processes to continue to share best practices, policies, experiences and technical expertise in combating and preventing sand and dust storms to address the root causes and mitigate the impacts of sand and dust storms, including through improved implementation of

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<sup>386</sup> [A/78/237](#).

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sustainable land management, soil, agricultural and livestock practices, and to promote regional cooperation in this matter to reduce the risks and impact of future sand and dust storms and to provide affected countries with capacity-building and technical support from the relevant United Nations organizations, such as the World Meteorological Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization, within their respective mandates, to this end;

8. *Takes note* of the convening of the second International Conference on Combating Sand and Dust Storms, in Tehran on 9 and 10 September 2023;

9. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to convene, at the seventy-ninth session of the Assembly, a high-level meeting on sand and dust storms, through voluntary contributions and without duplication of effort, in collaboration with the United Nations Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms, to be held in the General Assembly Hall, at United Nations Headquarters in New York, in the context of the International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms, and encourages the participation of countries at the highest level possible, to discuss the challenges faced by affected countries to further practical actions at the regional and global levels;

10. *Invites* all affected Member States as well as relevant entities of the United Nations development system, regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders to endeavour to meet the objectives set out in the present resolution;

11. *Takes note* of the establishment of a regional and global trust fund for the West Asia and African region to combat sand and dust storms, supported by voluntary contributions from interested countries, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and other donors, the private sector, civil society and regional development banks, to undertake the implementation of regional and subregional programmes and action plans without prejudice to the possibility that this fund may include other regions in the future, while respecting international frameworks and any relevant documents on combating sand and dust storms to ensure coordinated action at a global scale;

12. *Reaffirms* that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time and, among other factors, is a serious challenge to the sustainable development of all countries, including those affected by sand and dust storms, and emphasizes that, among other factors, climate change is an important potential contributor to future wind erosion and the risk of sand and dust storms, especially the occurrence of more extreme wind events worsening drought conditions and the movement towards drier climates, although reverse effects are possible;

13. *Recognizes* that sand and dust storms cause numerous human health problems in different regions around the world, especially in arid, semi-arid and dry subhumid regions, and that there is a need to reinforce protective strategies to reduce the negative impacts of sand and dust storms on human health, invites the World Health Organization, with the cooperation of other relevant United Nations system entities, as appropriate, to support affected countries in combating health problems caused by sand and dust storms, within their respective mandates, recognizes the formation of a working group on sand and dust storms to discuss emerging issues and share information under the technical advisory group on global air pollution and health of the World Health Organization, and also recognizes the publication of a dedicated section on the health effects of sand and dust storms as part of the World Health Organization global air quality guidelines released in September 2021, and the development of standard operating procedures to assess and address the short-term health effects of desert dust by the World Health Organization, in collaboration with experts from the World Meteorological Organization;

14. *Emphasizes* that sand and dust storm issues will continue to constitute important components of the global coalition on health, environment and climate change launched in May 2018 by the World Health Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organization to improve coordination and reduce deaths that are attributed to environmental risks, such as air pollution;

15. *Commends* the United Nations Environment Assembly on its commitment to addressing sand and dust storms, and in this regard notes Environment Assembly resolution 2/21 on sand and dust storms, adopted during its second session, and resolution 4/10 on innovation on biodiversity and land degradation, adopted during its fourth session;

16. *Takes note* of the convening of the regional ministerial meeting on environmental cooperation for a better future held in the Islamic Republic of Iran on 12 July 2022 to find solutions for regional environmental challenges, especially the issue of sand and dust storms;

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17. *Recalls* the convening of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly in Nairobi from 28 February to 2 March 2022, under the theme “Strengthening actions for nature to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”, and also recalls its ministerial declaration;<sup>387</sup>

18. *Commends* the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, on its efforts to develop both a global base map of sand and dust storm sources, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organization, and the *Sand and Dust Storms Compendium: Information and Guidance on Assessing and Addressing the Risks*, in collaboration with the Science-Policy Interface of the Convention and other relevant United Nations system entities, as a comprehensive collation of material designed to provide information and guidance on how to assess and address the risks posed by sand and dust storms and plan actions to combat their recurrence and impacts;

19. *Also commends* the World Meteorological Organization for achieving several improvements to the observation and modelling systems that are part of its Sand and Dust Storm Warning Advisory and Assessment System, which provides sand and dust storm forecasts for early warning systems in various countries, and encourages the World Meteorological Organization and all relevant stakeholders to broaden the regional domains of this system to cover the highly affected regions and to continue making technical improvements to it;

20. *Welcomes* the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, held in Abidjan from 9 to 20 May 2022, takes note of the Abidjan Call and other relevant decisions adopted by the parties during the Conference, namely decision 26/COP.15, and reaffirms the importance of addressing sand and dust storms under the Convention;

21. *Encourages* the relevant entities of the United Nations, including the World Health Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Meteorological Organization, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, within their respective mandates and resources, and donors to continue to provide capacity-building and technical assistance for combating and preventing sand and dust storms and to continue to support the implementation of the national, regional and global action plans of the affected countries;

22. *Recalls* its resolution [77/294](#) of 8 June 2023, in which 12 July of each year was proclaimed as International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms, to further raise international awareness of sand and dust storms, and stresses the need for global and regional cooperation to manage and mitigate their effects;

23. *Decides* to consider during the seventy-eighth session of the General Assembly the measures required to proclaim the International Decade for Combating Sand and Dust Storms, within existing structures and available resources;

24. *Acknowledges* the global assessment of sand and dust storms prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme in collaboration with other relevant United Nations system entities, including the World Meteorological Organization and the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, which sets out proposals for consolidated and coordinated technical and policy options for responding to sand and dust storms;

25. *Takes note with appreciation* of the efforts made by the World Health Organization so far in conducting and its willingness to conduct further studies regarding the common effects of both COVID-19 and sand and dust storms on public health, and invites the United Nations Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms, within its existing mandate and resources, to continue its efforts to prepare recommendations on mitigating the common effects of both COVID-19 and sand and dust storms on the respiratory systems of infected people, to be included in the report of the Secretary-General to be submitted to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to further encourage the United Nations Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms to conduct its priority activities as identified by the Coalition’s five working groups, which are knowledge-sharing, capacity-building, training, awareness-raising and support for the formulation of national, regional and interregional plans, to mitigate and prevent sand and dust storm hazards, to encourage the Coalition to enhance resource mobilization efforts so as to increase voluntary contributions to the Coalition and its member

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<sup>387</sup> [UNEP/EA.5/HLS.1](#).



agencies, and invites the Coalition to consider the possibility of broadening the scope of the concept note to include other sectors affected by sand and dust storms, in order to align with the workplan of the Coalition;

27. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, while including best practices aimed at adapting, mitigating, controlling and combating sand and dust storms in collaboration with the affected nations and other countries, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “Sustainable development”, the sub-item entitled “Combating sand and dust storms”.

#### RESOLUTION 78/159

Adopted at the 49th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/461/Add.10, para. 7)<sup>388</sup>

#### **78/159. Strengthening cooperation for integrated coastal zone management for achieving sustainable development**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,<sup>389</sup> Agenda 21,<sup>390</sup> the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,<sup>391</sup> the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development<sup>392</sup> and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation)<sup>393</sup> and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,<sup>394</sup> as well as the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,<sup>395</sup> and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,<sup>396</sup>

*Reaffirming* the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,<sup>397</sup> which provides the legal framework for ocean activities, and emphasizing its fundamental character, conscious that the problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and need to be considered as a whole through an integrated, interdisciplinary and intersectoral approach,

*Recalling* the ecosystem approach advocated in the Convention on Biological Diversity,<sup>398</sup> which is described as a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way,

*Welcoming* the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity,

<sup>388</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Tajikistan, Togo, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam.

<sup>389</sup> *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.

<sup>390</sup> *Ibid.*, annex II.

<sup>391</sup> Resolution S-19/2, annex.

<sup>392</sup> *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.

<sup>393</sup> *Ibid.*, resolution 2, annex.

<sup>394</sup> Resolution 66/288, annex.

<sup>395</sup> *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

<sup>396</sup> Resolution 63/239, annex.

<sup>397</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.

<sup>398</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.



*Welcoming also* the outcomes of the twenty-seventh Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 6 to 20 November 2022, including the adoption of the decisions<sup>399</sup> to establish new funding arrangements, including a fund for assisting developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, in responding to loss and damage, and urging Parties to come to agreement on their operationalization at the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-eighth session,

*Reaffirming* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, and, inter alia, the commitments concerning the coastal and marine environment contained therein,

*Reaffirming also* 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 further* 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* the Paris Agreement<sup>400</sup> 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 Change<sup>401</sup> that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

*Noting with concern* the findings contained in the special reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, entitled *Global Warming of 1.5°C, The Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate* and *Climate Change and Land*, and the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, entitled *Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report*, as well as the findings of the second World Ocean Assessment,

*Recalling* the importance of strengthening the sustainable management and protection of the marine and coastal ecosystems, of restoring, where necessary, the resilience of coastal ecosystems to avoid adverse impacts and of achieving healthy and productive oceans,

*Recalling also* the commitments contained in Agenda 21, including those related to the integrated management and sustainable development of coastal areas while noting that integrated coastal management under national jurisdiction has been widely recognized since then, which offers the opportunity to strengthen international cooperation in this field,

*Stressing* the importance of the priorities outlined in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,<sup>402</sup> in particular with regard to building resilience and reducing disaster risk in coastal management, and welcoming the convening of the high-level meeting on the midterm review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, held in New York on 18 to 19 May 2023, at which the General Assembly adopted the political declaration of the high-level meeting on the midterm review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015–2030),<sup>403</sup>

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<sup>399</sup> See FCCC/CP/2022/10/Add.1, decision 2/CP.27, and FCCC/PA/CMA/2022/10/Add.1, decision 2/CMA.4.

<sup>400</sup> Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

<sup>401</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

<sup>402</sup> Resolution 69/283, annex II.

<sup>403</sup> Resolution 77/289, annex.

*Noting* that coastal hazards preparedness, responses and recovery are important components of integrated coastal zone management,

*Recognizing* the work on integrated coastal zone management conducted by the United Nations Environment Programme and the regional seas conventions and their protocols and action plans,

*Recalling* resolutions related to integrated coastal zone management adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme, including resolution 2/10 on oceans and seas<sup>404</sup> and resolution 4/11 on the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities,<sup>405</sup>

*Noting* that area-based management approaches, including integrated coastal zone management, are used to deliver a range of policies that align with the Sustainable Development Goals and associated targets and that can include societal engagement, conservation, sustainable management of natural resources, food security and climate change adaptation,

*Recognizing* the contribution of the integrated coastal zone management approach in the promotion of sustainable development in various areas, including sustainable tourism,

*Recognizing also* that integrated coastal zone management can contribute to poverty eradication,

*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,

*Emphasizing* that effective integrated coastal zone management strategies can enhance climate adaptation and create enabling conditions to improve human health, promote food security and reduce poverty among those whose livelihoods depend on coastal resources,

*Noting* that coastal and marine resources contribute significantly to the economy and that maintaining a high-quality coastal and marine environment provides ecosystem functions and services in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and, in particular, Sustainable Development Goal 14, and in this regard welcoming the political declaration of the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, held in Lisbon from 27 June to 1 July 2022, and looking forward to the third United Nations Ocean Conference, co-hosted by France and Costa Rica, to be held in 2025,

*Recalling* its resolution [77/321](#) of 1 August 2023 entitled “Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction”,

*Emphasizing* the importance of strengthening and adapting area-based management tools based on the best available scientific knowledge, such as marine protected areas, marine spatial planning, integrated land-use planning or integrated coastal zone management, in order to prevent or mitigate the negative and cumulative impacts of socioeconomic activities and to protect coastal resources from damage caused by land-based activities, as well as conserving coastal resources, enhancing cultural heritage and supporting the transition to sustainable consumption and production approaches as a lever for the development of coastal areas,

*Recognizing* the efforts and actions that Member States, together with other stakeholders, are undertaking to address the threats and problems for coastal and marine areas originating from land-based activities,

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<sup>404</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/71/25)*, annex.

<sup>405</sup> [UNEP/EA.4/Res.11](#).

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*Welcoming* the convening of the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028, in New York from 22 to 24 March 2023,

*Welcoming also* the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly (Sustainable Development Goals Summit) in September 2023, which adopted a political declaration in which the Assembly, *inter alia*, committed to conserving and sustainably using oceans and seas, freshwater resources, as well as forests, mountains and drylands and protecting biodiversity, ecosystems and wildlife,<sup>406</sup>

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>407</sup>

2. *Emphasizes* that the use and implementation of the integrated coastal zone management approach and other area-based management approaches can contribute significantly towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and their targets;<sup>408</sup>

3. *Also emphasizes* that coastal areas are an essential ecological and economic resource, that their management and planning from a sustainable development perspective need an integrated management approach, and that integrated coastal zone management is an important vehicle for sustainable development, sustainable ocean-based economy and poverty eradication;

4. *Calls upon* Member States and other actors at the local, national, regional and international levels, including in the private sector, civil society and academia, to address the problem of marine pollution and litter, including plastic litter and microplastics, which impacts coastal management, and encourages all stakeholders operating in this field, in their response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, to prioritize life-cycle approaches, to promote resource efficiency and to incorporate biodiversity and coastal ecosystem services in their integral management, building on existing initiatives and instruments, science, international cooperation and multi-stakeholder engagement, and in this regard calls upon Member States to prevent, reduce and control marine pollution of all kinds through improving understanding of their sources, pathways and impacts on marine ecosystems, to reduce the level of pollution of coastal areas, to protect marine ecosystems and coastal areas in the long term and to develop partnerships allowing the exchange of good practices in integrated coastal zone management, marine spatial planning and the implementation of sustainable economic models and approaches, bearing in mind that international cooperation for the implementation of marine spatial planning can contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources and the maintenance of ecosystem integrity and can improve the economic profitability of marine management and the use of resources;

5. *Welcomes* the holding of the first and the second sessions of the intergovernmental negotiating committee, established by the United Nations Environment Assembly in its resolution 5/14 of 2 March 2022<sup>409</sup> at its resumed fifth session to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, and in this regard welcomes the commitment made by Heads of State and Government in the political declaration adopted during the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit to support the ongoing work of the intergovernmental negotiating committee, with the ambition of completing its work by the end of 2024;

6. *Underlines* that integrated coastal zone management is a dynamic process for the sustainable management and use of coastal zones, taking into account at the same time the fragility of coastal ecosystems and landscapes, the diversity of activities and uses, their interactions, the maritime orientation of certain activities and uses and their impact on both the marine and land parts;

7. *Encourages* Member States to consider the definition and implementation of an integrated coastal zone management approach, including through appropriate national planning tools and an ecosystem approach that integrates land, sea and watershed areas, and to consider investing in long-term planning to address barriers to integrated coastal zone management implementation;

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<sup>406</sup> Resolution 78/1, annex.

<sup>407</sup> A/78/293.

<sup>408</sup> See resolution 70/1.

<sup>409</sup> UNEP/EA.5/Res.14.

8. *Also encourages* Member States to consider strengthening or, where applicable, establishing coordinating mechanisms for the integrated management and sustainable development of coastal and marine areas and their resources, at the local, national and regional levels;

9. *Further encourages* Member States to take concrete measures to integrate poverty eradication, quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, sustainable transport, science, technology and innovation into integrated coastal zone management;

10. *Stresses* the importance of policies and plans for disaster risk reduction, including adaptation, and hazards preparedness, such as early warning systems, to build resilience and reduce the impacts and costs of natural disasters, also stresses the importance of biodiversity conservation, restoration, and sustainable use and nature-based solutions, ecosystem-based approaches and other management and conservation approaches, in line with United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/5 of 2 March 2022,<sup>410</sup> including for the delivery of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and encourages Member States to incorporate, in a more targeted manner, these elements as part of their approach to integrated coastal zone management;

11. *Also stresses* the importance of promoting coordination at the national and local levels with regard to coastal areas, with the aim of ensuring policy coherence, as well as the effectiveness of coastal management measures, while ensuring the participation of all relevant stakeholders, including people in vulnerable situations;

12. *Emphasizes* the importance of scaling up climate adaptation finance, in line with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, including in the context of coastal resilience, through the application of integrated coastal zone management to enable national-level adaptation planning, urges developed country parties to at least double their collective provision of climate finance for adaptation to developing country parties from 2019 levels by 2025, in the context of achieving a balance between mitigation and adaptation in the provision of scaled-up financial resources, emphasizes the urgency of scaling up action and support, including finance, capacity-building and technology transfer, to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change, and calls upon the shareholders of multilateral development banks and international financial institutions to reform the practices and priorities of multilateral development banks, align and scale up funding, ensure simplified access and mobilize climate finance from various sources;

13. *Also emphasizes* the importance of partnerships, of bringing together multi-stakeholder actors to enable the integration of different interests and knowledge into planning processes or strategies and helping to ensure that area-based management approach design is based on the best available science and other knowledge systems, such as traditional knowledge, innovations and practices;

14. *Further emphasizes* that international and regional cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, and capacity-building and technical support for developing countries and public-private partnerships, are an important factor in the promotion and implementation of the integrated coastal zone management approach by, inter alia, promoting peer learning and cooperation, developing the necessary coastal systematic observation, research and information management systems and developing technologies, the science-policy interface and technological capacities, as well as building effective linkages among global, regional, subregional and national processes, as appropriate, to advance the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

15. *Reaffirms* the importance of strong regional cooperation and economic integration among countries to advance sustainable ocean-based economy and implement effective integrated coastal zone management policies and strategies, which can unlock mutual benefits;

16. *Calls upon* the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant United Nations entities, within their mandates and existing resources, to support the efforts of Member States in promoting and implementing the integrated coastal zone management approach, as well as in mobilizing partnerships and initiatives at the local, national and regional levels;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its eightieth session an action-oriented report on the implementation of the present resolution, within existing resources, compiled from the inputs of Member States, within available resources, regarding the practical and context-specific challenges, barriers and enabling conditions for the effective development and implementation of integrated coastal zone management, and

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<sup>410</sup> [UNEP/EA.5/Res.5](#).

decides to include in the provisional agenda of its eightieth session, under the item entitled “Sustainable development”, the sub-item entitled “Strengthening cooperation for integrated coastal zone management for achieving sustainable development”.

### RESOLUTION 78/160

Adopted at the 49th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/462/Add.1, para. 7)<sup>411</sup>

#### 78/160. Science, technology and innovation for sustainable development

*The General Assembly,*

*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 Agreement<sup>412</sup> 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 Change<sup>413</sup> that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

*Recalling* its resolution 76/213 of 17 December 2021 on science, technology and innovation for development and its previous resolutions on the issue,<sup>414</sup>

*Taking note* of Economic and Social Council resolution 2023/4 of 7 June 2023 on science, technology and innovation for development and previous Council resolutions on the issue,<sup>415</sup> and taking note also of Council resolution 2021/30 of 22 July 2021 on open-source technologies for sustainable development,

*Recalling with appreciation* its resolution 77/320 of 25 July 2023 on the impact of rapid technological change on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets,

*Recalling* the World Summit on the Information Society and its outcomes,<sup>416</sup> as well as other relevant intergovernmentally agreed outcomes,

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<sup>411</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee.

<sup>412</sup> Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

<sup>413</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

<sup>414</sup> Resolutions 58/200, 59/220, 60/205, 61/207, 62/201, 64/212, 66/211, 68/220, 70/213, 72/228 and 74/229.

<sup>415</sup> Economic and Social Council resolutions 2006/46, 2009/8, 2010/3, 2011/17, 2012/6, 2013/10, 2014/28, 2015/27, 2016/23, 2017/22, 2018/29, 2019/25, 2020/13, 2021/29 and 2022/16.

<sup>416</sup> See A/C.2/59/3 and A/60/687.

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*Taking note* of the reports of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its fourteenth to twenty-sixth sessions,<sup>417</sup>

*Taking note also* of the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>418</sup>

*Recalling* its resolution [76/307](#) of 8 September 2022 and its decision 77/568 of 1 September 2023 on the modalities and the scope of the Summit of the Future to be held on 22 and 23 September 2024, mandating a concise, action-oriented outcome document entitled “A Pact for the Future”, including a chapter on science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation,

*Looking forward to* the elaboration of a Global Digital Compact including to bridge the digital divides, and to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and to strengthen digital cooperation,

*Recalling* its resolution [77/326](#) of 25 August 2023 proclaiming the period 2024–2034 the International Decade on Sciences for Sustainable Development, which highlighted the critical role that sciences play in the pursuit of sustainable development in its three dimensions as one of the key means of implementation,

*Taking note* of the work of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination on the impact of new and emerging technologies and on promoting innovation to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Recognizing* that science, technology and innovation, including environmentally sound technologies and information and communications technologies, are critical in the pursuit of sustainable development and are one of the key means of implementation of the intergovernmentally agreed development outcomes, including the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals,

*Noting* that the *2023 Global Sustainable Development Report* identifies science, technology and innovation as one of the levers for transformation to accelerate progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, that its strategic deployment has the potential to resolve and minimize trade-offs among the Goals and targets, and recognizes that technology transfer to developing countries on mutually agreed terms will be critical to scale up and accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and advocates for science that is multidisciplinary, equitably and inclusively produced, openly shared, trusted and relevant to society,

*Taking note* of the June 2019 report of the Secretary-General’s High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation entitled “The age of digital interdependence”, and the May 2020 report of the Secretary-General entitled “Road map for digital cooperation”,<sup>419</sup> and of the high-level thematic debate on digital cooperation and connectivity convened by the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session on 27 April 2021, as well as the establishment of the Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Technology,

*Emphasizing* that science, technology and innovation play a key role in accelerating the pace of economic diversification and transformation, improving productivity and competitiveness, as well as enabling the full participation of developing countries in the global economy,

*Acknowledging* the contribution of science, technology and innovation to accelerate sustainable and inclusive development and the transition to resilient, knowledge-based societies and economies, including in low and middle-income countries, and, in that context, acknowledging the importance of the provision of the necessary means of implementation to developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacities, including in the field of higher education, research and innovation,

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<sup>417</sup> *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2011, Supplement No. 11 (E/2011/31);* *ibid.*, 2012, *Supplement No. 11* and corrigendum (E/2012/31 and E/2012/31/Corr.1); *ibid.*, 2013, *Supplement No. 11* and corrigendum (E/2013/31 and E/2013/31/Corr.1); *ibid.*, 2014, *Supplement No. 11 (E/2014/31);* *ibid.*, 2015, *Supplement No. 11 (E/2015/31);* *ibid.*, 2016, *Supplement No. 11 (E/2016/31);* *ibid.*, 2017, *Supplement No. 11 (E/2017/31);* *ibid.*, 2018, *Supplement No. 11 (E/2018/31);* *ibid.*, 2019, *Supplement No. 11 (E/2019/31);* *ibid.*, 2020, *Supplement No. 11 (E/2020/31);* *ibid.*, 2021, *Supplement No. 11 (E/2021/31);* *ibid.*, 2022, *Supplement No. 11 (E/2022/31);* and *ibid.*, 2023, *Supplement No. 11 (E/2023/31).*

<sup>418</sup> [A/78/232](#).

<sup>419</sup> [A/74/821](#).



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*Reaffirming* that the creation, development and diffusion of new innovations and technologies and associated know-how, including the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms, are powerful drivers of economic growth and sustainable development,

*Underscoring* that rapid technological change brings enormous opportunities to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, while it also poses new challenges, including perpetuating divides within and between countries,

*Noting* that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, with persistent negative effects worldwide and especially in developing countries, has demonstrated the importance of science, technology and innovation, of scientific collaboration and the need to strengthen global solidarity, of international cooperation, and of providing the required means of implementation for developing countries to prevent, prepare and respond to future pandemics and other health emergencies, taking into account lessons learned from the pandemic, reaffirming that the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online, and emphasizing that adaptation to rapid technological change should be considered not only as a function of sustainable development and the spreading of information and communications technologies, but also with respect to the realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

*Noting also* the multilateral and regional initiatives aimed at promoting social prosperity through inclusive participation and growth across the digital economy, including, inter alia, the establishment of the Digital Cooperation Organization in 2020,

*Recognizing* that new technologies increase the demand for digital skills and competencies and that, at the same time, developing countries are experiencing higher numbers of young people entering the labour market and a widening gap between their knowledge, skills and abilities and those sought by employers, and expressing concern that the share of women in specialist information and communications technology occupations remains low, especially in developing countries,

*Recognizing also* that education, training and capacity-building in science, technology and innovation can provide new skills and so widen employment opportunities, while addressing market needs,

*Calling upon* the international community and all stakeholders to support efforts by developing countries to provide opportunities for science, technology, engineering and mathematics education and research for all, including youth and women, and particularly in the emerging technologies, and to provide suitable working conditions and opportunities in order to prevent brain drain and ensure human resources adaptation to technological change, including through upskilling and reskilling programmes for the workforce,

*Recognizing* that innovation, such as pro-poor, inclusive, grass-roots and social innovation that seeks to solve problems, is not always addressed by markets,

*Recognizing also* the importance of utilizing science, technology and innovation in a manner relevant to specific national and local situations and needs,

*Recognizing further* the importance of data protection and privacy, in particular for developing countries in the context of science and technology for development, especially regarding the adoption of new technologies,

*Taking note* of the *Technology and Innovation Report 2023* of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, which highlights that innovation and frontier technologies can drive the transformative solutions needed, and the need to explore ways for developing countries to use, improve, adopt and adapt such technologies and to take up the opportunities to harness frontier technologies, as well as the potential for frontier technologies to address existing inequalities and foster sustainable development, and recalling the *Digital Economy Report 2021* of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, which examines the role of growing cross-border data flows for development,

*Recognizing* that realizing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress across all of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, and recognizing also that there is a need to ensure full and equal access to and participation in science, technology and innovation for women of all ages, as well as to target science, technology and innovation strategies to address women's empowerment and inequalities, including the gender digital divide,



*Recalling* the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work, adopted at its sixty-first session,<sup>420</sup> which, inter alia, highlighted the need to manage technological and digital change for women's economic empowerment, particularly to strengthen the capacities of developing countries, so as to enable women to leverage science and technology for entrepreneurship and economic empowerment in the changing world of work and to support women's access, throughout their life cycle, to skills development and decent work in new and emerging fields by expanding the scope of education and training opportunities in, inter alia, science, technology, engineering and mathematics, information and communications technology and digital fluency, and to enhance women's and, as appropriate, girls' participation as users, content creators, employees, entrepreneurs, innovators and leaders, and further recalling the agreed conclusions of the sixty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women on the theme "Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls",<sup>421</sup> and underlining the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective into the policies and programmes related to innovation and technological change and to education in the digital age, with the aim of achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls,

*Expressing concern* that many developing countries still face serious challenges in building or improving their national science, technology and innovation base and ecosystems, and a lack of digital skills and affordable and equitable access to information and communications technologies, and that, for the poor, the promise of science, technology and innovation remains unfulfilled, and that more efforts have to be deployed to increase the benefits of science, technology and innovation for all,

*Taking note with appreciation* of the United Nations Technology Innovation Labs, in their efforts to facilitate and stimulate innovation for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda,

*Recognizing* that science, technology and innovation cooperation and collaboration with, as well as foreign direct investment in and trade with and among, developing countries, as well as international support, are fundamental to enhancing developing countries' ability to benefit from technological advances and to produce, nurture, access, comprehend, select, adapt and use science, technology and innovation knowledge,

*Recognizing also* the importance of supporting national strategies, policies and activities of developing countries in the fields of science, technology and innovation through international cooperation for development, including multilateral, North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, while recalling that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation, in the areas of financial and technical assistance, capacity-building and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms,

*Reaffirming* its resolution 73/291 of 15 April 2019, in which it endorsed the Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation,<sup>422</sup> and renewing the call for its implementation,

*Recognizing* the need to mobilize and scale up the means of implementation, including financing, for science, technology and innovation, especially in developing countries, in support of the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Welcoming* the increase in official development assistance targeting the development of science, technology and innovation capacities in developing countries in the past two decades, however, remaining concerned that official development assistance for science, technology and innovation capacities directed to the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and African countries has remained at about the same levels for the past decade,

*Recognizing* the central role that the Commission on Science and Technology for Development plays, as the United Nations focal point for science, technology and innovation for sustainable development, in analysing how science, technology and innovation, including information and communications technologies, serve as enablers of the 2030 Agenda by acting as a forum for strategic planning, sharing lessons learned and best practices, providing

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<sup>420</sup> *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2017, Supplement No. 7 (E/2017/27)*, chap. I, sect. A.

<sup>421</sup> *Ibid.*, 2023, *Supplement No. 7 (E/2023/27)*, chap. I, sect. A.

<sup>422</sup> Resolution 73/291, annex.

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foresight about critical trends in science, technology and innovation in key sectors of the economy, the environment and society, and drawing attention to emerging and disruptive technologies,

*Reaffirming* the need to enhance the science, technology and innovation programmes of the relevant entities of the United Nations system, and in this regard recalling the mandate of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism on science, technology and innovation for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals to promote coordination, coherence and cooperation within the United Nations system,

*Recognizing* the need to strengthen the collaboration and exchange between policymakers and scientific and technological communities,

*Welcoming* the convening of the first to eighth annual multi-stakeholder forums on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, noting with appreciation the ongoing work of the United Nations inter-agency task team on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, including the Global Pilot Programme on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals Road Maps (STI for SDGs road maps), and noting the expanded operationalization of the 2030 Connect online platform, as the three components of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, that can help to advance the 2030 Agenda,

*Noting* the ongoing efforts of the World Intellectual Property Organization to assist Member States in establishing intellectual property strategies and national ecosystems that promote innovation and creativity and support the flow of knowledge and technical expertise,

*Noting also* the existing efforts and contributions of the regional commissions on science, technology and innovation for sustainable development,

*Recalling* the importance of supporting the African Union's Agenda 2063, as well as its 10-year plan of action, as a strategic framework for ensuring a positive socioeconomic transformation in Africa within the next 50 years, and its continental programme embedded in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the New Partnership for Africa's Development and regional initiatives, and in this context noting the Declaration of Sharm el-Sheikh, adopted by the African Union in October 2019, which commits to work towards an integrated and inclusive Digital Society and Economy in Africa that improves the quality of life of Africa's citizens, as well as the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2024 of the African Union,

*Reiterating* the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, and the wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

*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. *Reaffirms its commitments* made in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development<sup>423</sup> on, inter alia, science, technology and innovation, as an important action area for sustainable development;

2. *Also reaffirms its commitment* to continue promoting the use of science, technology and innovation, including through evidence-based policymaking, in facilitating efforts to address global challenges, and to accelerate progress on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, such as efforts to eradicate poverty, including extreme poverty; achieve food security and nutrition; increase agricultural productivity; enhance access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all; fight diseases; improve education; protect the environment and address

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<sup>423</sup> Resolution 69/313, annex.

climate change; foster disaster preparedness and strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of disaster resilience-building;

3. *Emphasizes* that applying science to solve complex global challenges calls for cross- and trans-disciplinary collaboration and a strong science-policy-society interface in order to build trust in science and evidence;

4. *Reaffirms its commitment* to the actions agreed upon by the least developed countries and development partners on science, technology and innovation, as outlined in the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries,<sup>424</sup> and takes note of the Doha Political Declaration, adopted during the second part of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Doha, from 5 to 9 March 2023;<sup>425</sup>

5. *Notes* the central role of Governments, with active contribution from stakeholders from the private sector, civil society, academia and research institutions, appropriate United Nations entities, relevant international entities and forums, in creating and supporting an enabling environment at all levels, including enabling regulatory and governance frameworks, in accordance with national priorities, to nurture science, innovation, entrepreneurship and the dissemination of knowledge and technologies that is on mutually agreed terms, particularly to micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as industrial diversification and value added to commodities;

6. *Underscores* the need to adopt science, technology and innovation strategies as integral elements of national sustainable development plans and strategies that help to strengthen knowledge-sharing on mutually agreed terms and collaboration and scale up investment in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education, and enhance technical, vocational and tertiary education and training;

7. *Acknowledges* the contribution of science, technology and innovation to industrial development in developing countries and as a critical source of economic growth, economic diversification and value addition;

8. *Recognizes* the importance of addressing the gap in capabilities across and between countries, sectors and segments of society so that all parts of society, especially people in vulnerable situations and the poor, can adapt and benefit from technological changes;

9. *Also recognizes* the importance of the creation of a conducive environment that attracts and supports private investment, entrepreneurship and corporate social responsibility, including an efficient, adequate, balanced and effective intellectual property framework, while encouraging access to science, technology and innovation by developing countries;

10. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen and foster investment in research and development for environmentally sound technologies and to promote the involvement of the business and financial sectors in the development of those technologies, and invites the international community to support those efforts;

11. *Encourages* all stakeholders, in an effort to prepare for existing and future opportunities and challenges presented by technological change, including the fourth industrial revolution among others, to explore ways and means of conducting inclusive national, regional and international technology assessment and foresight exercises on existing, new and emerging technologies to help to evaluate their development potential and mitigate possible negative effects and risks;

12. *Requests* the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, through the Economic and Social Council, to continue to consider, in a coordinated manner within their respective mandates and existing resources, the impact of rapid technological changes and frontier technologies on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, and to align this endeavour with the follow-up cycle of the high-level political forum on sustainable development in order to support the efforts of all countries towards the attainment of the Goals, including through forging partnerships with other relevant stakeholders, organizations, initiatives and forums, such as the Partnership in Action on STI for SDGs Road Maps, initiated by the United Nations inter-agency task team on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, and the dissemination of advances and best practices to facilitate cooperation towards this end;

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<sup>424</sup> Resolution 76/258, annex.

<sup>425</sup> *Report of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, New York, 17 March 2022, and Doha, 5–9 March 2023 (A/CONF.219/2023/3)*, chap. I, resolution 2.

13. *Welcomes* the support by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the Economic Commission for Africa for the establishment of the Coalition on Science, Technology, and Innovation for Africa's Development during the eighth multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals to create pathways for African countries to develop, deploy and expand their use of science, technology and innovation in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals;

14. *Encourages* Member States, individually and collectively, to support policies that increase financial inclusion, including through making use of financial technology, with a view to deepening and diversifying the sources of financing and of direct investments towards science, technology and innovations that address the Sustainable Development Goals;<sup>426</sup>

15. *Also encourages* Member States to promote local innovation capabilities for inclusive and sustainable economic development by bringing together local scientific, vocational and engineering knowledge, mobilizing resources from multiple channels, improving information and communications technology and supporting infrastructure development;

16. *Further encourages* Member States to promote digital inclusion and literacy and to consider incorporating digital competencies into the education system, with a special focus on encouraging girls and enhancing digital skills and competences development, including through investment in digital qualification, specialization in digital technologies, digital infrastructure, public policies and institutional development and multi-stakeholder and international collaboration;

17. *Underlines* that addressing persistent barriers to equal access for women and girls to science, technology and innovation, and their meaningful participation in learning, as well as workforce opportunities for women requires a systematic, comprehensive, integrated, sustainable, multidisciplinary and multisectoral approach, in this regard urges Member States to mainstream a gender perspective in legislation, policies and programmes, encourages decision makers to create supportive workplace and educational settings, and also encourages efforts to promote, mentor, attract and retain women and girls in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education and research and to support women in leveraging science and technology for entrepreneurship and economic empowerment in the changing world of work;

18. *Emphasizes* the importance of the participation of women and girls in science, technology and innovation, and further encourages the United Nations development system to support efforts to reduce gender disparity in these areas, with the cooperation of Member States and international collaborative research organizations;

19. *Also emphasizes* that efforts to close all digital divides and ensure that no one is left behind in the digital transformation and digital economy should be expanded and grounded in digital inclusion, and encourages all relevant stakeholders to promote equal, equitable and affordable access to digital skills and online services, including through digital public goods and digital government;

20. *Notes* the importance of facilitating access to and sharing accessible and assistive technologies, through the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms and other actions, to advance disability-inclusive development, ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities and promote their empowerment;

21. *Also notes* the critical role of science, technology and innovation in accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and that in order to facilitate a more robust and resilient recovery, a strong global financing framework for development in science, technology and innovation, should be considered to bridge the digital divides, promote sustainable development and ensure flexibility and resilience in the face of future disruptions, highlighting how open-source technology could facilitate knowledge-sharing on mutually agreed terms and respond to common challenges across countries, reaffirming the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) as amended, also reaffirming the 2001 World Trade Organization Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which recognizes that intellectual property rights should be interpreted and implemented in a manner supportive of the right of States to protect public health and, in particular, to promote access to medicines for all, and reaffirms the need for appropriate incentives in the development of new health products;

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<sup>426</sup> See resolution [70/1](#).

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22. *Encourages* efforts to increase the availability of data to support the measurement of national innovation systems (such as the existing Global Innovation Index) and empirical research on innovation and development to assist policymakers in designing and implementing innovation strategies in order to measure the impact of digital technologies for sustainable development;

23. *Emphasizes* the need to effectively harness technology to bridge the digital divides within countries and between developed and developing countries;

24. *Calls for* action to be taken to enhance the ability of developing countries to benefit from science, technology and innovation and address the major structural impediments to accessing new and emerging technologies, including through scaling up the use of open science, affordable and open-source technology, research and development, including through strengthened partnerships, strengthening their productive capacities and aiming to increase funding for Sustainable Development Goal-related research and innovation and build capacity in all regions to contribute to and benefit from this research;

25. *Encourages* enhanced capacity-building support for developing countries in order to generate the use of high-quality, timely and reliable disaggregated data, and also encourages international cooperation, including through technical and financial support, to strengthen the capacity of national statistical systems;

26. *Also encourages* existing arrangements and the further promotion of international, regional, subregional and interregional joint multi-stakeholder research and development projects, as well as training programmes and university-to-university collaborations where feasible, by mobilizing scientific and research development resources, facilities and equipment;

27. *Calls upon* Member States and the United Nations development system, and encourages other stakeholders, as appropriate, to continue to initiate, implement and support measures to improve the level of participation of scientists and engineers from developing countries in international collaborative research, science, technology and innovation projects;

28. *Also calls upon* Member States and the United Nations development system, and encourages other stakeholders, as appropriate, to continue to strengthen their support for the different science, technology and innovation partnerships with developing countries in primary, secondary and higher education, vocational education and continuing education; business opportunities for the private sector; science, technology and innovation infrastructure; and science, technology and innovation advice for developing countries;

29. *Requests* the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to continue to assist the Economic and Social Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and to continue its science, technology and innovation activities;

30. *Encourages* the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to discuss and explore innovative financing models, such as impact investment, as a means of attracting new stakeholders, innovators and sources of investment capital for science, technology, engineering and innovation-based solutions, in collaboration with other organizations, where appropriate;

31. *Encourages* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in collaboration with relevant partners, such as the World Intellectual Property Organization, the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations University, to continue to undertake science, technology and innovation policy reviews, with a view to assisting developing countries, upon request, in identifying the measures needed to integrate science, technology and innovation policies into their national development strategies and ensuring that they are supportive of national development agendas, as appropriate, and in this regard takes note of the new science, technology and innovation policy review framework developed by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;

32. *Emphasizes* the importance of better coordination and coherence among existing mechanisms, including the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, United Nations agencies and international organizations in providing support to Member States in the field of science, technology and innovation directed towards development priorities and needs;

33. *Invites* the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the Technology Facilitation Mechanism to strengthen synergies and mutually reinforce their work on science, technology and innovation, and

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invites the Secretariat to coordinate the dates of their meetings in order to avoid overlap and to ensure coherence and coordination between both entities;

34. *Continues to encourage* the United Nations inter-agency task team on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals to further refine and update its mapping of science, technology and innovation activities in the United Nations system with a view to guiding further efforts at collaboration and capacity-building and formulating coherent advice for Member States advancing national science, technology and innovation frameworks within the 2030 Agenda, including through scaling up the Global Pilot Programme on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development Goals Road Maps;

35. *Reiterates its call for* voluntary contributions for resources from both the private and the public sectors to support the full operationalization of all components of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism;

36. *Encourages* the World Intellectual Property Organization to continue to undertake technical support activities, including helping countries to design, develop and implement national intellectual property and innovation strategies aligned with their development strategies;

37. *Welcomes* the operationalization of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries, and calls upon Member States and other stakeholders to provide voluntary funding to the trust fund of the Technology Bank so that it can pursue its objectives in the area of science, technology and innovation for the least developed countries;

38. *Notes with deep concern* the existing disparities between developed and developing countries in terms of conditions, possibilities and capacities to produce new scientific and technological knowledge, and in this regard urges developed countries to urgently mobilize means of implementation such as technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, technical assistance, capacity-building and financing through new, additional and predictable resources in relation to the needs of developing countries, as appropriate, for the production of new scientific and technological knowledge, in accordance with developing countries' national needs, policies and priorities;

39. *Notes with concern* that unfair practices could hinder technological development and innovation worldwide, in particular in developing countries, and calls upon the international community to foster an open, fair and inclusive environment for scientific and technological development;

40. *Continues to encourage* the United Nations system to take an active role in forging a closer link with national and multilateral science advisory bodies to optimally leverage science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, and looks forward to receiving updates and outcomes of the actions through the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development;

41. *Calls upon* the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, the international community and international institutions, at the request of Member States, to support the efforts of the countries of the South to develop and strengthen their national science, technology and innovation systems through North-South, regional and international cooperation, including South-South and triangular cooperation, on access to science, technology, innovation and knowledge-sharing on mutually agreed terms;

42. *Recognizes* the importance of creating synergies, developing expertise and boosting resources in various regions and institutions, and in this regard takes note of the Summit on Science, Technology and Innovation of the Group of 77, held in Havana in September 2023, as an effort to boost cooperation in this field;

43. *Reiterates its call for* continued collaboration between United Nations entities and other international organizations, civil society and the private sector in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society;

44. *Reaffirms* the commitment at the very heart of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind and commit to taking more tangible steps to support people in vulnerable situations and the most vulnerable countries and to reach the furthest behind first;

45. *Invites* the President of the General Assembly to consider convening, during the eightieth session of the Assembly, a meeting on science, technology and innovation for development with a special focus on actions to address the needs of developing countries in those fields, and requests the Secretary-General to consider these discussions in the drafting of his report on the implementation of the present resolution;



46. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its eightieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and recommendations for future follow-up, including lessons learned in integrating science, technology and innovation policies into national development strategies, as well as concrete recommendations in supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its eightieth session, under the item entitled “Globalization and interdependence”, the sub-item entitled “Science, technology and innovation for sustainable development”.

#### RESOLUTION 78/161

Adopted at the 49th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/462/Add.2, para. 7)<sup>427</sup>

##### 78/161. Culture and sustainable development

*The General Assembly,*

*Guided* by the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

*Recalling* its resolutions 41/187 of 8 December 1986, 46/158 of 19 December 1991, 51/179 of 16 December 1996, 52/197 of 18 December 1997, 53/184 of 15 December 1998, 55/192 of 20 December 2000, 57/249 of 20 December 2002, 65/166 of 20 December 2010 and 66/208 of 22 December 2011 concerning culture and development, 66/288 of 27 July 2012, entitled “The future we want”, and 68/223 of 20 December 2013, 69/230 of 19 December 2014, 70/214 of 22 December 2015, 72/229 of 20 December 2017, 74/230 of 19 December 2019 and 76/214 of 17 December 2021 on culture and 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,

*Welcoming* the final declaration of the World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development (Mondiacult 2022),

*Reaffirming* the Paris Agreement<sup>428</sup> 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 Change<sup>429</sup> that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

*Recalling* the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan,<sup>430</sup> adopted at the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which also notes with grave concern the adverse effects of climate change resulting in devastating impacts on cultural heritage,

*Reaffirming* 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,

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<sup>427</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee.

<sup>428</sup> Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

<sup>429</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

<sup>430</sup> FCCC/CP/2022/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.27.



*Welcoming* the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito, Ecuador, from 17 to 20 October 2016,<sup>431</sup> calling for its full, effective and timely implementation at all levels, and reaffirming that culture and cultural diversity are sources of enrichment for humankind and provide an important contribution to the sustainable development of cities, human settlements and citizens, empowering them to play an active and unique role in development initiatives, and generating full and productive employment, decent work for all and livelihood opportunities,

*Recalling* that, in the 2030 Agenda, inter alia, the natural and cultural diversity of the world is acknowledged, and it is recognized that cultures and civilizations can contribute to, and are crucial enablers of, sustainable development,

*Recalling also* the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions,<sup>432</sup> as well as other international conventions of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization that provide a comprehensive framework for the protection, safeguarding and promotion of culture in all its dimensions and acknowledge cultural diversity and economic and social development,<sup>433</sup>

*Recognizing* that culture is an essential component of human development, that it represents a source of identity, innovation and creativity for the individual and the community and that it is an important factor in social inclusion and poverty eradication, providing for sustainable economic growth and ownership of development processes,

*Recognizing also* the growing importance of the digital transformation in opening up prospects for broadening access to culture for all, including by creating an enabling environment for the creative economy,

*Recognizing further* the importance of respect and understanding for cultural diversity throughout the world and of working together and not against each other and of fostering intercultural understanding and dialogue, mutual listening and learning and an ethic of global citizenship and solidarity,

*Recalling* its resolutions [73/130](#) of 13 December 2018 and [76/16](#) of 6 December 2021 on the return or restitution of cultural property to the countries of origin, in line with the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and other relevant intergovernmentally agreed instruments, aware of the importance attached to the return of cultural property that is of fundamental spiritual, historical and cultural value, and expressing deep concern about the continuing illicit trafficking in cultural property and the ensuing damage to the cultural heritage of nations,

*Recalling also* the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, on 13 September 2007,<sup>434</sup> and its call for States to enable access to and/or the repatriation of ceremonial objects and human remains in their possession through fair, transparent and effective mechanisms developed in conjunction with Indigenous Peoples concerned,

*Recalling further* the principles of the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,<sup>435</sup> and acknowledging that cultural diversity is a source of enrichment for humankind and an important contribution to the sustainable development of local communities, Indigenous Peoples, and nations, supporting their ability to play an active and unique role in development initiatives,

*Recognizing* the importance of multilingualism as a means of promoting, protecting and preserving the diversity of languages and cultures globally, including Indigenous languages, and that genuine multilingualism promotes unity

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<sup>431</sup> Resolution [71/256](#), annex.

<sup>432</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2440, No. 43977.

<sup>433</sup> Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, of 1954 (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 249, No. 3511); Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, of 1970 (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 823, No. 11806); Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, of 1972 (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1037, No. 15511); Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage, of 2001 (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2562, No. 45694); and Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, of 2003 (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2368, No. 42671).

<sup>434</sup> Resolution [61/295](#), annex.

<sup>435</sup> United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Thirty-first Session, Paris, 15 October–3 November 2001*, vol. 1 and corrigendum, *Resolutions*, sect. V, resolution 25, annex I.

in diversity and international understanding, and recognizing also the importance for the peoples of the world of being able to communicate in their own language,

*Recalling* its resolution 71/178 of 19 December 2016, in which it proclaimed the year beginning on 1 January 2019 the International Year of Indigenous Languages, as well as its resolution 74/135 of 18 December 2019, in which it proclaimed the period 2022–2032 as the International Decade of Indigenous Languages, to draw attention to the critical loss of Indigenous languages and the urgent need to preserve, revitalize and promote Indigenous languages,

*Recalling also* its resolution 74/198 of 19 December 2019, in which it declared 2021 the International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development, to draw attention to the relevance of the creative economy in creating full and productive employment and decent work, supporting entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, empowering people, promoting social inclusion and reducing poverty so as to attain inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth and development, and encouraging the formalization and growth of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises,

*Noting* the fourth international conference on the theme “Preservation of world languages and development of linguistic diversity in cyberspace: context, policy, practice”, held under the auspices of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in Yakutsk, Russian Federation, from 1 to 5 July 2019,

*Recalling* the concerns expressed in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action<sup>436</sup> on the underrepresentation of women in decision-making positions in the area of culture, which has prevented women from having a significant impact in the area of culture and development,

*Recalling also* the importance of the promotion of national cultures, artistic creation in all its forms and international and regional cultural cooperation, and reaffirming in this regard the relevance of strengthening national efforts and regional and international cooperation mechanisms for cultural action and artistic creation and recognizing respect for cultural pluralism, as defined by the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, adopted in 2001, as policies for the inclusion and participation of all citizens that guarantee social cohesion and the vitality of civil society and peace, enhance cultural development and contribute to sustainable development,

*Recognizing* the linkages between cultural and biological diversity and the positive contribution of local and Indigenous traditional knowledge in addressing environmental challenges in a sustainable manner,

*Welcoming* the first part 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 the second part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, held in Montreal, Canada, from 7 to 19 December 2022, and its outcomes, including the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and urging their early, inclusive and effective implementation,

*Recalling* the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030,<sup>437</sup> and acknowledging that, in many regions, forests have important cultural and spiritual value,

*Taking note* of the declaration adopted in Florence, Italy, on 4 October 2014, at the third United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization World Forum on Culture and Cultural Industries, the Hangzhou outcomes, adopted at the conference on the theme “Culture for sustainable cities”, held in Hangzhou, China, from 10 to 12 December 2015, the Bali Declaration, adopted at the second World Culture Forum, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 10 to 14 October 2016, the global report on culture for sustainable urban development of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, entitled *Culture: Urban Future*, of October 2016, the new strategy for the integration of culture and creativity in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted at the eleventh annual meeting of the Creative Cities Network, held in Enghien-les-Bains, France, from 30 June to 2 July 2017, the twelfth annual meeting of the Creative Cities Network, held in Krakow and Katowice, Poland, from 12 to 15 June 2018, and the thirteenth annual meeting of the Creative Cities Network, held in Fabriano, Italy, from 10 to 15 June 2019, as well as its discussions on the role of culture across development areas, including education, entrepreneurship, innovation, inclusiveness and environmental sustainability, the third edition of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Creative Cities Beijing Summit on the theme “Creativity

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<sup>436</sup> *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution I, annexes I and II.

<sup>437</sup> See resolution 71/285.

empowers cities, technology creates the future”, held in hybrid format on 17 and 18 September 2020, the online meeting of the Creative Cities Network co-organized with the creative city of Santos, Brazil, on 6 and 7 July 2021, with a special focus on creative cities’ responses to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), the fourteenth annual conference of the Creative Cities Network, held in Santos, Brazil, from 18 to 22 July 2022 on the theme “Creativity, Path to Equality”, and its fifteenth edition held in Istanbul, Türkiye, from 11 to 15 September 2023, on the theme “Future-proof cities”,

*Recognizing* the role of museums as crucial partners for protecting and promoting culture, from safeguarding world heritage to countering illicit trafficking in cultural property, in particular through their preservation, research, communication and education efforts,

*Recognizing also* that culture in diplomacy remains an important component of strengthening international relations,

*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,

*Expressing its concern* about the continued vulnerability of the cultural sector, particularly in the wake of the global COVID-19 crisis, which has profoundly disrupted the cultural ecosystem as a whole, exacerbating structural fragilities and inequalities, including social and gender gaps, unequal access to culture, restrictions on artistic freedom, and the status and livelihoods of artists, cultural professionals, practitioners and communities, affecting the creation, production, distribution and access to cultural goods and services, aggravating the loss of tourism revenues and bringing to light the critical contribution of the cultural and creative sectors to societies and to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, and taking note of the reports entitled “Assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on cultural and creative industries”, “Culture in times of COVID-19: resilience, recovery and revival” and “Cultural and creative industries in the face of COVID-19: an economic impact outlook”, produced in 2021 and 2022 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

*Reiterating* the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, and the wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

1. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;<sup>438</sup>

2. *Reaffirms* the role of culture as an enabler of sustainable development that provides people and communities with a strong sense of identity and social cohesion and contributes to more effective and sustainable development policies and measures at all levels, and stresses in this regard that policies responsive to cultural contexts can yield better, sustainable, inclusive and equitable development outcomes;

3. *Also reaffirms* the intrinsic value of culture, and recognizes its contribution to all three dimensions of sustainable development;

4. *Recognizes* the power of culture as a driver of sustainable development, which contributes to fostering social inclusion and developing a strong and viable economic sector by generating income, creating decent jobs for all, and addressing both the economic and social dimensions of poverty through cultural heritage, including its protection and preservation, and cultural and creative sectors, while providing innovative and effective solutions to

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<sup>438</sup> [A/78/217](#).

cross-cutting issues, such as education, health, gender equality and women's empowerment, technology and the environment;

5. *Calls for* enhanced support, including additional financial resources and investments, for the cultural and creative sectors, including in the context of COVID-19 recovery efforts, while recognizing culture's fundamental role in societies and its impact on sustainable development, to protect artists and cultural professionals, foster knowledge, innovation and intercultural dialogue, adapt them to the digital transformation, strengthen linkages between culture and education, safeguard cultural heritage and traditional and ancestral knowledge, including of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, promote peaceful and inclusive societies, engage all segments of society through culture, including by noting the challenges faced by women and youth, address the impacts of the pandemic on the cultural value chain and cultural diversity, reinforce interlinkages between culture and nature, and harness the potential and transformative impact of culture for sustainable development, recognizing its multidimensional impact on the resilience, well-being and prosperity of people and their communities;

6. *Emphasizes* the important contribution of culture to the three dimensions of sustainable development and to the achievement of national development objectives, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>439</sup> and its Sustainable Development Goals, as well as other internationally agreed development goals, and in this regard acknowledges:

(a) That culture contributes to inclusive economic development, as cultural heritage preservation, cultural and creative sectors, sustainable cultural tourism and cultural infrastructure, including urban regeneration, are sources of income generation, job creation and decent work for all, including at the community level, thus improving living conditions and fostering community-based economic growth, and contribute to the empowerment of individuals;

(b) That culture contributes to inclusive social development for all, including local communities, and Indigenous Peoples, with respect for cultural diversity, safeguarding of the cultural and natural heritage, fostering of cultural institutions and strengthening of cultural and creative sectors, in urban and rural contexts;

(c) That culture contributes to environmental sustainability, since the protection of cultural and biological diversity and natural heritage is important for sustainable development, and that support for traditional systems of environmental protection, and resource management, can contribute to the increased sustainability of fragile ecosystems and the conservation, protection and sustainable use of biodiversity and to avoiding land degradation and addressing climate change;

7. *Reaffirms* that sustainable development cannot be realized without peace and security and that peace and security will be at risk without sustainable development, and acknowledges that culture can contribute to sustainable development by constituting a valuable resource for enabling communities to participate fully in social and cultural life, facilitating inclusive governance and dialogue at the national, regional and international levels and contributing to conflict prevention and resolution, as well as to reconciliation, recovery and resilience;

8. *Reaffirms its commitment* to embracing diversity in cities and human settlements, to strengthening social cohesion, intercultural dialogue and understanding, tolerance, mutual respect, gender equality and women's empowerment, innovation, entrepreneurship, inclusion, identity and safety, and the dignity of all people, including people in vulnerable situations, as well as to fostering liveability and a vibrant urban economy and to taking steps to ensure that local institutions promote pluralism and peaceful coexistence within increasingly heterogeneous and multicultural societies;

9. *Recognizes* that culture should be taken into account in the promotion and implementation of new sustainable consumption and production patterns that contribute to the responsible use of resources and address the adverse impacts of climate change;

10. *Acknowledges* that quality education, non-formal education and lifelong learning are enriched by culture, transmitting shared values, knowledge and skills, and also acknowledges that culture and arts education can make a direct contribution to the constructive transformation of educational systems, including through technical and

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<sup>439</sup> Resolution 70/1.

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vocational education and training, to meet the needs of learners in a rapidly changing world and the need for a creative and adaptive workforce;<sup>440</sup>

11. *Calls for* the development of learners' potential for creativity and innovation, their capacity to enjoy and to express themselves through the arts, their awareness of history and the diversity of cultures, as well as the promotion of education for the protection of cultural and natural heritage and places of memory whose existence is necessary for the safeguarding of cultural expressions;

12. *Recalls* the inclusion in the 2030 Agenda of several targets reflecting the contribution of culture to sustainable development, also recalls that the Sustainable Development Goals and targets are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development, and in this regard looks forward to their achievement, building on the power of culture as an enabler and driver of progress on the Sustainable Development Goals;

13. *Welcomes* the efforts and initiatives of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as the mandated United Nations agency on culture, to strengthen and measure the transformational impact of culture on the realization of the 2030 Agenda, building on information and data provided by the Member States in the framework of the periodic reports of the complete set of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization instruments in the field of culture and other related indicator frameworks, including the Culture 2030 Indicators;

14. *Decides* to give consideration, as appropriate, to the contribution of culture to sustainable development in the follow-up and review framework of the 2030 Agenda, including pursuant to the review of Goal 11, which would generate an important boost for implementation of Goal 11 between now and 2030;

15. *Takes note with appreciation* of the high-level event on culture and sustainable development in July 2023, convened by the President of the General Assembly, with the support of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, on the occasion of the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, pursuant to resolution 76/214;

16. *Welcomes* the convening of the World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development, also known as "Mondiacult 2022", hosted by the Government of Mexico from 28 to 30 September 2022, looks forward to the forthcoming World Conference on Culture and Arts Education, to be held in the United Arab Emirates in 2024, for the further strengthening of the linkages between culture and education, and welcomes the convening in Saudi Arabia of the forty-fifth session of the World Heritage Committee, from 10 to 25 September 2023;

17. *Invites* all countries, as well as intergovernmental bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, relevant non-governmental organizations and all other relevant stakeholders:

(a) To raise public awareness of the importance of cultural diversity for sustainable development, promoting its positive value through education and media tools, while also pursuing multilingualism as a mean of promoting, protecting and preserving diversity of languages and cultures globally;

(b) To ensure a more visible and effective integration and mainstreaming of culture into economic, social and environmental development policies and strategies at all levels;

(c) To ensure that women and men can equally access, participate in and contribute to cultural life and decision-making, and to further commit themselves to the development of cultural policies and programmes with a gender perspective at the local, national and international levels in order to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;

(d) To undertake relevant intercultural dialogue and cooperation and cultural diversity programmes for youth to engage in a multicultural society, participate in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, achieve better educational results and acquire a broader and more diverse range of skills and competences;

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<sup>440</sup> As stated in the preamble to the outcome document of the second World Conference on Arts Education, held in Seoul from 25 to 28 May 2010, namely, the Seoul Agenda: Goals for the Development of Arts Education.

(e) To promote capacity-building, where appropriate, at all levels for the development of dynamic cultural and creative sectors, in particular by encouraging creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship, including for women and youth, supporting the development of cultural institutions and cultural and creative sectors, providing technical and vocational training for culture professionals and increasing employment opportunities in the cultural and creative sectors for sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and development;

(f) To actively support the emergence of local markets for cultural goods and services and to facilitate the effective, equitable and licit access of such goods and services to international markets, including in the digital environment, taking into account the expanding range of cultural production and consumption and, for States parties thereto, the provisions of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, adopted in 2005;

(g) To promote cultural and linguistic diversity, and equal access to cultural expressions in the digital environment, and to reinforce more balanced global flows of cultural goods and services, by guaranteeing the social and economic rights of artists and cultural professionals, and better regulating digital platforms;

(h) To preserve and maintain local and Indigenous traditional knowledge and community practices of environmental management, which are valuable examples of culture as a vehicle for sustainable development, and to foster synergies between modern science and technology and local and Indigenous knowledge, practices and innovation;

(i) To accelerate efforts to protect cultural and natural heritage from extreme weather events, sea level rise, desertification and other threats exacerbated by climate change, which jeopardize its integrity and preservation for present and future generations;

(j) To promote global awareness of the linkages between cultural and biological diversity, including through the protection and preservation and encouragement of the customary use of biological resources, in accordance with traditional cultural practices, as an important element of a comprehensive approach to sustainable development;

(k) To support national legal frameworks and policies for the protection and preservation of cultural heritage and cultural property, encouraging initiatives and cooperation among States, including through the promotion of bilateral and multilateral cooperation, as relevant, to fight against illicit trafficking in cultural property, and for the return or restitution of cultural property, in accordance with national legislation and applicable international legal frameworks;

(l) To support national legal frameworks and policies to enable intellectual property rights to sustain those involved in cultural creativity, including by promoting international cooperation to prevent the misappropriation of creative works;

(m) To promote access to and/or the repatriation of ceremonial objects and human remains in their possession through fair, transparent and effective mechanisms developed in conjunction with Indigenous Peoples concerned;

(n) To note that, in achieving these objectives, innovative mechanisms of financing, public and private, can make a positive contribution in assisting developing countries in mobilizing additional resources for development on a stable, predictable and voluntary basis, and to reiterate that such voluntary mechanisms should be effective, should aim to mobilize resources that are stable and predictable, should supplement and not be a substitute for traditional sources of financing, should be disbursed in accordance with the priorities of developing countries and should not unduly burden such countries;

(o) To mobilize culture as a vehicle to foster tolerance, mutual understanding, peace and reconciliation in the context of conflict-prevention, conflict-resolution and peacebuilding processes;

18. *Expresses deep concern* that cultural property, including religious sites, shrines and cemeteries, and objects, is increasingly targeted by terrorist attacks and vandalism, often resulting in its damage, theft or complete destruction, and condemns such attacks;

19. *Encourages* all countries, intergovernmental bodies, organizations of the United Nations system, as appropriate, within their existing mandates, relevant non-governmental organizations and all other relevant stakeholders to enhance international cooperation in supporting the efforts of developing countries towards the development and strengthening of cultural and creative sectors, cultural tourism and culture-related microenterprises



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and to assist those countries in developing the necessary infrastructure and skills, as well as in mastering information and communications technologies and in gaining access to new technologies on mutually agreed terms;

20. *Encourages* initiatives to foster cultural cooperation agreements and networks at the local, national and regional levels for knowledge and information-sharing for sustainable development;

21. *Also encourages* programmes that facilitate social benefits and economic rights for artists and cultural professionals, including those working in the digital environment, thus promoting opportunities for decent work, fair remuneration and equal pay for work of equal value, as well as training in the light of technological advancement and digitalization;

22. *Invites* the organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to continue to provide support, to facilitate financing and to assist countries, upon their request, in developing their national capacities to optimize the contribution of culture to sustainable development, including through policy advice, information-sharing, the exchange of best practices, data collection, research and study and the use of appropriate evaluation indicators, as well as to implement applicable international cultural conventions, taking into account the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

23. *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other relevant United Nations bodies to continue to assess, in consultation with countries, the contribution of culture to the achievement of sustainable development through the compilation of quantitative and qualitative data, including indicators and statistics, with a view to informing development policies and relevant reports, where appropriate, and to continue to act as a platform for exchange among countries on the linkages between culture and sustainable development, including through a World Forum on Cultural Policies, to be held every four years, from 2025 onwards;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that United Nations country teams continue to further integrate and mainstream culture into their programming exercises, in particular United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, in consultation with relevant national authorities, when assisting countries in the pursuit of their development objectives;

25. *Recognizes* the role of the voluntary national reviews in generating valuable lessons learned and best practices on the contribution of culture to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and invites countries to integrate culture and creative economy in the preparation and presentation of the voluntary national reviews;

26. *Encourages* all countries, intergovernmental bodies, organizations of the United Nations system, relevant non-governmental organizations and all other relevant stakeholders to give due consideration to the contribution of culture to the achievement of sustainable development in the formulation of national, regional and international development policies and international cooperation instruments, and in this regard, building upon the discussion at the previous high-level event on culture and sustainable development, invites the President of the General Assembly to host a one-day high-level interactive dialogue on this subject, within existing resources, during the seventy-ninth session of the Assembly, and to invite the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to support the President of the Assembly, within its existing mandates;

27. *Reaffirms* the commitment at the very heart of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind and commit to taking more tangible steps to support people in vulnerable situations and the most vulnerable countries and to reach the furthest behind first;

28. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its eightieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its eightieth session, under the item entitled “Globalization and interdependence”, the sub-item entitled “Culture and sustainable development”.



## RESOLUTION 78/162

Adopted at the 49th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/462/Add.3, para. 7)<sup>441</sup>

### 78/162. Development cooperation with middle-income countries

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* the outcomes of all the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, including the outcomes of the international conferences on development cooperation with middle-income countries,

*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 Agreement<sup>442</sup> 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 Change<sup>443</sup> that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

*Stressing* the urgency of enhancing ambition for climate action in the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement in relation to climate mitigation, adaptation and the provision of the means of implementation, especially finance to developing countries, and welcoming the adoption of decisions 2/CP.27 and 2/CMA.4 on funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including a focus on addressing loss and damage, adopted on 20 November 2022 during the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt,

*Reaffirming* the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,<sup>444</sup> and the convening of the High-Level Meeting on the Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework, noting the findings of the *Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction: Special Report on Drought 2021*, expressing concern that disaster risk and disaster economic losses are increasing in many middle-income countries, thus undermining the financing available for investment in sustainable development and stimulation of economic growth, and recognizing that financing disaster risk reduction efforts and building resilience to economic and environmental shocks remain a challenge in many middle-income countries,

*Welcoming* the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito, Ecuador, from 17 to 20 October 2016,<sup>445</sup>

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<sup>441</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee.

<sup>442</sup> Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

<sup>443</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

<sup>444</sup> Resolution 69/283, annex II.

<sup>445</sup> Resolution 71/256, annex.

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*Recalling* its resolutions [70/215](#) of 22 December 2015, [72/230](#) of 20 December 2017, [74/231](#) of 19 December 2019 and [76/215](#) of 17 December 2021,

*Recalling also* that the 2030 Agenda recognizes, inter alia, that middle-income countries still face significant challenges to achieve sustainable development and that, in order to ensure that achievements made to date are sustained, efforts to address ongoing challenges should be strengthened through the exchange of experiences, improved coordination and better and focused support of the United Nations development system, the international financial institutions, regional organizations and other stakeholders,

*Reaffirming* its resolutions [71/243](#) of 21 December 2016 and [75/233](#) of 21 December 2020 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in which it recognized that middle-income countries still face specific challenges,

*Welcoming* the ongoing efforts of the Secretary-General with regard to the repositioning of the United Nations development system, acknowledging the progress achieved thus far in advancing the mandates of its resolution [71/243](#) and its resolution [72/279](#) of 31 May 2018, and welcoming in this regard the discussions at the operational activities for development segment of the 2023 session of the Economic and Social Council,

*Noting with appreciation* the convening of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly under the theme “Accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in middle-income countries, with a focus on the environmental dimension”, to discuss the gaps and challenges of middle-income countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, held on 11 May 2023,

*Welcoming* the convening of the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development held in New York on 20 September 2023,

*Looking forward* to the convening of the Summit of the Future in 2024,

*Taking note* of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization Strategic Framework for Partnering with Middle-Income Countries, adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization at its eighteenth session, held in Abu Dhabi from 3 to 7 November 2019, in its resolution GC.18/Res.9 of 7 November 2019,<sup>446</sup>

*Emphasizing* that cohesive, nationally owned sustainable development strategies, supported by integrated national financing frameworks, will be at the heart of efforts by Member States, reiterating that each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, highlighting the need to respect each country’s policy space and leadership in the implementation of policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development while remaining consistent with relevant international rules and commitments, recognizing that national development efforts need to be supported by an enabling international economic environment, including coherent and mutually supporting world trade, monetary and financial systems and strengthened and enhanced global economic governance, and highlighting the fact that processes to develop and transfer knowledge and technologies on mutually agreed terms, as well as capacity-building, are also critical, including pursuing policy coherence and an enabling environment for sustainable development at all levels and by all actors and reinvigorating the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development and for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda,

*Recognizing* that, as per capita income increases above low-income thresholds, access to external public finance often decreases faster than can be offset by commensurate increases in tax revenues in per capita terms,

*Recognizing also* that the enhanced and revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, led by Governments, will be a vehicle for strengthening international cooperation and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, while noting that multi-stakeholder partnerships and the resources, knowledge and ingenuity of the private sector, civil society, the scientific community, academia, philanthropy and foundations, parliaments, local authorities, volunteers and other stakeholders will be important in mobilizing and sharing knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, complementing the efforts of Governments and supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular in developing countries,

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<sup>446</sup> See GC.18/INF/4.

*Recalling* that the most vulnerable countries and, in particular, African countries, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States deserve special attention, as do countries in situations of conflict and post-conflict countries, and that there are also serious challenges within many middle-income countries,

*Recognizing* that there is no one-size-fits-all approach to development and that development cooperation by the United Nations development system should respond to the varying development needs of programme countries, including those of middle-income countries, in a manner that addresses their specific challenges while mindful of their diversity, and recognizing also that revitalized, strategic, flexible and results- and action-oriented United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks should be prepared and finalized in full consultation and agreement with national Governments and aligned with national development plans, strategies and circumstances in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda,

*Noting* that, over the past 15 years, 29 low-income countries have transitioned to middle-income country status, reflecting the sustained economic growth achieved in most parts of the developing world,

*Noting also* that national averages based on criteria such as per capita income do not always reflect the actual particularities and development needs of middle-income countries and that, despite notable progress in reducing poverty levels in both absolute and relative terms, poverty remains a problem in many middle-income countries, as they are still home to 62 per cent of the world's people living in poverty,

*Taking note* of the willingness to develop a wider analysis of new measures, building on existing experiences with eligibility exceptions, for concessional finance and multidimensional assessments, to address the limitations of an income-only assessment of development and graduation readiness,

*Recognizing with concern* that the prevalence of hunger and malnutrition has been increasing in many countries, exacerbated by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, including in middle-income countries, with most relying heavily on international trade in primary commodities,

*Recognizing* that inequality, or even a rise in inequality, remains pervasive in middle-income countries, even in those with high levels of economic growth, that further investments in social services and economic opportunities are needed in order to reduce inequalities and that economic growth needs to be sustained, inclusive and equitable,

*Stressing* that middle-income countries continue to face challenges related to, inter alia, job creation, natural resource management, reliance on primary commodity exports, the adverse effects of disaster risks and climate change, high levels of external debt and the volatility of exchange rates and capital flows and, in this regard, that efforts to create a national enabling environment for development should be complemented by an international enabling environment,

*Stressing also* the importance for middle-income countries of having access to, and development of better technologies, research and innovation and better management practices, which can foster skills development, boost productivity and achieve sustainable and inclusive growth,

*Recognizing* that connectivity through quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all, contributes to the sustainable development of middle-income countries,

*Recalling* that, for all countries, public policies and the mobilization and effective use of domestic resources, underscored by the principle of national ownership, are central to our common pursuit of sustainable development, including achieving the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Recalling also* the resolve of Member States to enhance and strengthen domestic resource mobilization and fiscal space, including, where appropriate, through modernized tax systems, more efficient tax collection, the broadening of the tax base and the effective combating of tax evasion and capital flight, and reiterating that, while each country is responsible for its tax system, it is important to support national efforts in these areas by strengthening technical assistance and enhancing international cooperation and participation in addressing international tax matters,

*Recalling further* the importance of international support, in various forms, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, that is well aligned with national priorities to contribute to addressing the development needs of middle-income countries, including through capacity-building,

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*Recognizing* the need to better understand the multidimensional nature of development and poverty, and acknowledging the significant role that the United Nations system has played and should continue to play in this regard,

*Expressing concern* that climate change is adversely affecting productivity in every country, in particular developing countries, including middle-income countries, as extreme weather shocks directly affect productivity through the destruction of infrastructure and labour force displacement, and that a number of middle-income countries have sizeable sectors that are exposed to climate change, such as agriculture, construction, mining, tourism and transport,

*Reaffirming* that achieving gender equality, the empowerment of all women and girls and the full realization of their human rights are essential to achieving sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, and in that regard reiterating the need for gender mainstreaming, including targeted actions and investments in the formulation and implementation of all financial, economic, environmental and social policies,

*Noting with concern* that the debt service of middle-income countries reached the ratio of around 13 per cent of total exports in 2022, recognizing that nearly a third of middle-income countries are at high risk of a fiscal crisis,

*Recognizing with concern* that total external debt stocks in low and middle-income countries, excluding small island developing States, grew by 1 per cent per annum, reaching a record of 9.7 trillion United States dollars in 2022 and that in the current environment of subdued medium-term economic growth prospects, tighter global financial conditions and currency depreciations against the United States dollar, a growing number of middle-income countries are facing a high risk of debt distress,

*Reiterating* the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, and the wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

*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,

*Welcoming* the political declarations of the high-level meetings on health convened by the General Assembly during the seventy-eighth session<sup>447</sup> as efforts to highlight the importance of health in the high-level political agenda,

*Welcoming also* the Secretary-General's efforts to address the Sustainable Development Goal financing gap through a Sustainable Development Goal stimulus,

*Noting with concern* that the COVID-19 pandemic, apart from creating an unprecedented global public health crisis and affecting the most vulnerable populations, has had a devastating effect on the economies of middle-income countries, including those moving into higher income, through the introduction of lockdowns and suspensions of economic activity leading to rising extreme poverty and food insecurity, gender inequality, unprecedented job losses, disruptions in regional and global production chains and stagnating international trade, excessive volatility of commodity prices, shrinking remittances and numerous other channels, a decline in global foreign direct investment, the sharp contraction in the already limited fiscal space and the bleak economic outlook that has suppressed investment, undermining future growth prospects and long-term productivity trends,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>448</sup>

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<sup>447</sup> Resolution 78/3, annex, resolution 78/4, annex, and resolution 78/5, annex.

<sup>448</sup> A/78/224.

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2. *Acknowledges* the efforts made and successes achieved by many middle-income countries in eradicating poverty and achieving the internationally agreed development goals, as well as their significant contribution to global and regional development and economic stability;
3. *Also acknowledges* that identifying structural gaps can improve the understanding of development needs of developing countries, including middle-income countries;
4. *Underlines* that, for many middle-income countries, official development assistance, including financing on concessional terms from different multilateral financial institutions, remains important;
5. *Also underlines* the need for sustained efforts towards achieving debt sustainability in middle-income countries in order to avoid a debt crisis, and the importance of debt restructurings being timely, orderly, effective, fair and negotiated in good faith;
6. *Calls for* improved international debt mechanisms to support debt review, debt payment suspensions and debt restructuring, as appropriate, with an expansion of support and eligibility to vulnerable countries in need, commits to continuing to assist developing countries in avoiding a build-up of unsustainable debt and in implementing resilience measures so as to reduce the risk of relapsing into another debt crisis, recognizes the importance of new and emerging challenges and vulnerabilities in regard to developing country external and domestic debt sustainability and calls for strengthened multilateral actions and coordination by all creditors to address the deteriorating debt situation;
7. *Recognizes* that, with 62 per cent of the world's poor population concentrated in middle-income countries, development cooperation, policy dialogue and partnerships with those countries can contribute to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals and targets;
8. *Welcomes* the solidarity of middle-income countries with other developing countries, in particular the financial, technical, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and capacity-building support being provided by middle-income countries, particularly to the least developed countries, including through South-South and triangular cooperation, while stressing that South-South cooperation is a complement to, and not a substitute for, North-South cooperation, and in this regard calls upon the United Nations development system to continue its ongoing efforts to mainstream support to South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation;
9. *Also welcomes* the outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, held in Buenos Aires from 20 to 22 March 2019,<sup>449</sup> and notes decisions 21/1 and 21/2 adopted by the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation at its twenty-first session, held from 30 May to 2 June 2023;<sup>450</sup>
10. *Recalls* that the creation, development and diffusion of new innovations and technologies and associated know-how, including the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms, are powerful drivers of economic growth and sustainable development;
11. *Requests* the United Nations development system to ensure that it addresses the diverse development needs of middle-income countries in a coordinated manner through, inter alia, an accurate assessment of the national priorities and needs of these countries, taking into account the use of variables that go beyond per capita income criteria;
12. *Emphasizes* the need to urgently develop measures of progress on sustainable development that complement or go beyond gross domestic product in order to have a more inclusive approach to international cooperation, including in the consideration of informing access to development finance and technical cooperation, and stresses the call for a United Nations intergovernmental process, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, including international financial institutions, multilateral development banks and regional commissions, in line with their respective mandates, on measures of progress on sustainable development that complement or go beyond gross domestic product, building on existing initiatives;
13. *Calls upon* the United Nations development system, in line with its resolutions [71/243](#) and [75/233](#), to continue to support developing countries in their efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and

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<sup>449</sup> Resolution [73/291](#), annex.

<sup>450</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/78/39)*, chap. I.

their development objectives, requests the development system to address, within existing resources and mandates, the special challenges facing the most vulnerable countries, as well as the specific challenges facing middle-income countries, in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development<sup>451</sup> and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>452</sup> and in this regard takes note of the report of the Secretary-General, which includes the assessment of the outcomes of existing strategies within the United Nations development system related to middle-income countries;

14. *Encourages* all United Nations entities, funds and programmes to further develop specific strategies to engage and provide tailored support to middle-income countries, including for leveraging and mobilizing finance for sustainable development;

15. *Reiterates* the request to the United Nations development system to continue to develop its support to middle-income countries with respect to their specific challenges and diverse needs, recognizes that a gradual shift from a traditional model of direct support and service provision towards a greater emphasis on integrated high-quality policy advice, strengthening institutions, capacity development and support for the leveraging of partnerships and financing is needed, including through additional support for integrated national financing frameworks at the country level, and invites the United Nations Sustainable Development Group, under the leadership of the Secretary-General, to develop a joint framework of collaboration with multilateral development banks to improve synergies at the regional and country levels, including specific attention to middle-income countries, as set out in the Secretary-General's road map for financing the 2030 Agenda, 2019–2021;

16. *Invites* the President of the General Assembly to convene a meeting during the seventy-ninth session of the Assembly, within existing resources and in a format decided by the President, to discuss the structural barriers for middle-income countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and explore the impact of new approaches that go beyond gross domestic product, which could inform international development cooperation, including policy and financial decisions, and requests the Secretary-General to consider these discussions in the drafting of his report on the implementation of the present resolution;

17. *Welcomes* the convening by the President of the Economic and Social Council of a specific segment on the challenges and needs of middle-income countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and a sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, for the first time, during the 2023 high-level political forum on sustainable development, and encourages the upcoming presidencies of the Council to continue this good practice so as to advance the efforts to address the diverse and specific development needs of middle-income countries at the United Nations;

18. *Recognizes* the importance of the role of the private sector, as well as of the role of public-private partnerships, in meeting the challenges of sustainable development for middle-income countries and other developing countries;

19. *Encourages* Member States to advance innovative pathways to achieve sustainable consumption and production, in line with United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 4/1 of 15 March 2019;<sup>453</sup>

20. *Welcomes* the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, which includes the multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, the inter-agency task team on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals and the operationalization of the online platform;

21. *Notes* that digital-led growth in the services sector, notwithstanding its challenges, can help middle-income countries to achieve sustainable development and harness opportunities in the global market;

22. *Looks forward* to the elaboration of a Global Digital Compact to bridge the digital divides and to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

23. *Recognizes* the great importance of providing trade-related capacity-building for developing countries, including African countries, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing

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<sup>451</sup> Resolution 69/313, annex.

<sup>452</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>453</sup> UNEP/EA.4/Res.1.



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States, countries in conflict and post-conflict situations and middle-income countries, including for the promotion of regional economic integration and interconnectivity;

24. *Acknowledges* that good governance and the rule of law at the national and international levels are essential for achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions, including sustained and inclusive economic growth and the eradication of poverty and hunger;

25. *Notes with concern* that access to concessional finance is reduced as countries' incomes grow, and that countries may not be able to access sufficient affordable financing from other sources to meet their needs, encourages shareholders in multilateral development banks to develop graduation policies that are sequenced, phased and gradual, and encourages multilateral development banks to explore ways to ensure that their assistance best addresses the opportunities and challenges presented by the diverse circumstances of middle-income countries;

26. *Urges* multilateral development banks to bring forward actions to mobilize and provide additional financing within their mandates to support developing countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, supports multilateral development bank reform efforts and calls for tangible progress in this regard, including through securing increases to grants and concessional finance, better leveraging their capital bases and considering ways for the respective boards of the multilateral development banks to increase their capitalization, and encourages dialogue between multilateral development banks and other financial institutions;

27. *Recognizes* that Governments will have the primary responsibility for follow-up and review at the national, regional and global levels in relation to the progress made in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and targets and that quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data, including through strengthened capacity in improving access to data at the national and local levels, will be needed to help with the measurement of progress and to ensure that no one is left behind, and in this regard reiterates the commitment to intensifying efforts to strengthen statistical capacities in developing countries, including middle-income countries;

28. *Welcomes* progress by middle-income countries in implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and in reporting through the Sendai Framework monitor, and encourages the United Nations system to continue to support middle-income countries to develop national and local disaster risk reduction strategies;

29. *Reaffirms* the commitment at the very heart of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind and commit to taking more tangible steps to support people in vulnerable situations and the most vulnerable countries and to reach the furthest behind first;

30. *Recognizes* that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed middle-income countries, including those moving into higher income, at risk of losing many of their hard-won gains in development and that more needs to be done for a sustainable recovery with regard to resource mobilization efforts, poverty eradication, tackling food insecurity and malnutrition, universal health coverage, strengthening health systems, pandemic response and preparedness, returning children to school, gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, the promotion of decent jobs and social protection, achieving debt sustainability, the reduction of inequalities, closing digital divides and enhancing North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, and in this regard calls for support to middle-income countries in pursuing approaches to enable equitable, inclusive and just transition pathways for sustainable development;

31. *Calls for* advancing the elaboration of a specific inter-agency, comprehensive, system-wide response plan, taking note of the mapping exercise conducted by the Secretary-General and his recommendations, aimed at better addressing the multidimensional nature of sustainable development and facilitating sustainable development cooperation and coordinated and inclusive support to middle-income countries based on their specific challenges and diverse needs;

32. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its eightieth session, within existing resources, an action-oriented report on the implementation of the present resolution, including a comprehensive and in-depth analysis of the support available to middle-income countries in pursuing suitable approaches to enable inclusive and just transition pathways for sustainable development, including the impact of new and inclusive development approaches;

33. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its eightieth session, under the item entitled “Globalization and interdependence”, the sub-item entitled “Development cooperation with middle-income countries”.



RESOLUTION 78/163

Adopted at the 49th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/463/Add.2, para. 7)<sup>454</sup>

**78/163. Follow-up to the Second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* the Vienna Declaration,<sup>455</sup> the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024<sup>456</sup> and the Political Declaration of the High-level Midterm Review on the Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024,<sup>457</sup>

*Reaffirming* the overarching goal of the Vienna Programme of Action of addressing the special development needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries arising from their landlockedness, remoteness and geographical constraints in a more coherent manner and thus contributing to an enhanced rate of sustainable and inclusive growth, which can contribute to the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty,

*Recalling* its resolutions 71/239 of 21 December 2016, 72/232 of 20 December 2017, 73/243 of 20 December 2018, 74/233 of 19 December 2019 and 75/228 of 21 December 2020,

*Recalling also* its resolution 76/217 of 17 December 2021, in which the General Assembly decided to convene the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, in 2024, its resolution 77/246 of 30 December 2022, in which it outlined modalities for the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, and its resolution 77/329 of 25 August 2023 on further modalities of the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries,

*Noting with great concern* the severe negative impact on human health, safety and well-being caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, as well as the severe disruption to societies and economies and the devastating impact on lives and livelihoods, and that the poorest and most vulnerable are the hardest hit by the pandemic, reaffirming the ambition to get back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by designing and implementing sustainable and inclusive recovery strategies to accelerate progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to help to reduce the risk of and build resilience to future shocks, crises and pandemics, including by strengthening health systems and achieving universal health coverage, and recognizing that equitable and timely access for all to safe, quality, effective and affordable COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics are an essential part of a global response based on unity, solidarity, renewed multilateral cooperation and the principle of leaving no one behind,

*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,

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<sup>454</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee.

<sup>455</sup> Resolution 69/137, annex I.

<sup>456</sup> Ibid., annex II.

<sup>457</sup> Resolution 74/15.

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*Reaffirming further* the Paris Agreement<sup>458</sup> 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 Change<sup>459</sup> 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<sup>460</sup> and the political declaration of the high-level meeting on the midterm review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, held in New York on 18 and 19 May 2023,<sup>461</sup> while recognizing that landlocked developing countries face some specific disaster risk challenges, and reiterating the commitment to addressing disaster risk reduction and building resilience to disasters within the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication,

*Reaffirming* the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016,<sup>462</sup> and recognizing the importance of sustainable urban development for landlocked developing countries,

*Welcoming* the Doha Political Declaration,<sup>463</sup> and reaffirming the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries,<sup>464</sup> which represents a new generation of renewed and strengthened commitments between the least developed countries and their development partners, including the private sector, civil society and governments at all levels, cognizant that many landlocked developing countries belong to the least developed country category,

*Looking forward* to the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, to take place in Antigua and Barbuda from 27 to 30 May 2024 under the overarching theme “Charting the course towards resilient prosperity”,

*Recognizing* that the lack of territorial access to the sea, aggravated by remoteness from world markets and high transit costs and risks, continues to pose serious constraints on the overall growth and socioeconomic development of landlocked developing countries,

*Recognizing also* the importance of unfettered, efficient and cost-effective access for landlocked developing countries to and from the sea, on the basis of freedom of transit and other related matters, in accordance with the applicable rules of international law,

*Acknowledging* the importance of promoting collaboration between landlocked developing countries and transit countries on the basis of common interest, and noting that collaboration efforts need to be supported by an enabling international economic environment, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national priorities, while remaining consistent with international rules and commitments,

*Recognizing* the transport infrastructure gap in landlocked developing countries and the need to bring the level of transport infrastructure up to global standards and, in this regard, the crucial importance of strong national and international partnerships to bridging the gap and enhancing existing transport infrastructure facilities,

*Acknowledging* the need to promote meaningful regional integration to encompass cooperation among countries for the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action,

*Recognizing* that it is important for all countries, including landlocked developing countries, to commit to a world in which all women and girls enjoy full gender equality with all men and boys and all legal, social and economic barriers to their empowerment and equality have been removed,

*Taking note* of the declaration of the twenty-second annual Ministerial Meeting of Landlocked Developing Countries, which was held at United Nations Headquarters on 21 September 2023 on the theme “From Vienna to

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<sup>458</sup> Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.

<sup>459</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

<sup>460</sup> Resolution [69/283](#), annexes I and II.

<sup>461</sup> Resolution [77/289](#), annex.

<sup>462</sup> Resolution [71/256](#), annex.

<sup>463</sup> [A/CONF.219/2023/L.1](#).

<sup>464</sup> Resolution [76/258](#), annex.

Kigali: building momentum towards a new decade of action for prosperity and transformation of landlocked developing countries”;

*Noting with great concern* that the last half of the implementation period of the Vienna Programme of Action was marked by the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which stalled or reversed socioeconomic development gains that had been achieved by landlocked developing countries, and that the fragile recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic has been further disturbed by the challenging global macroeconomic conditions, resulting in the exacerbation of their structural and geographical vulnerabilities, and concerned also that the modest recovery is insufficient to reverse the increase in poverty owing to the COVID-19 pandemic,

*Recognizing* that the disruption in trade logistics that hampered global value chains and the high cost of global supply chains led to an increase in landlocked developing countries’ trade costs due to their vulnerability and high dependence on transit countries to access international markets,

*Recognizing also* that the Vienna Programme of Action, which is integral to the 2030 Agenda, is based on renewed and strengthened partnerships for supporting landlocked developing countries in harnessing benefits from international trade, structurally transforming their economies and achieving more inclusive and sustainable growth,

*Welcoming* the convening of the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development in New York on 20 September 2023,

*Welcoming also* the convening of the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028, in New York from 22 to 24 March 2023,

*Taking note* of the Joint Inspection Unit review<sup>465</sup> of United Nations system support for landlocked developing countries to implement the Vienna Programme of Action, in which concern was expressed about the vast gaps between the expectations from the work of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to deliver and the existing resources of the subprogramme on landlocked developing countries,

*Reaffirming* the recognition of the special needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries in the 2030 Agenda and in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and affirming further that their effective implementation, together with the implementation of the six priority areas of the Vienna Programme of Action, which builds upon the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries,<sup>466</sup> can drive the social and economic progress of landlocked developing countries and assist in their transformation from landlocked to land-linked countries,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024;<sup>467</sup>

2. *Recalls* the convening of the comprehensive high-level midterm review of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 in New York on 5 and 6 December 2019 and the high-level Political Declaration, in which all the relevant stakeholders are called upon to commit to the accelerated implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action;

3. *Underlines* the need to give particular attention to the concerns and specific challenges of landlocked developing countries in all relevant major United Nations conferences and processes;

4. *Recognizes* that slow global economic growth, rising inflation and interest rates, geopolitical tensions and conflicts, supply chain disruptions, rising food prices and the energy crisis and the exacerbating impacts of climate change are all compounding landlocked developing countries’ trade- and transit-related vulnerabilities;

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<sup>465</sup> [JIU/REP/2021/2](#).

<sup>466</sup> *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003 (A/CONF.202/3)*, annex I.

<sup>467</sup> [A/78/283](#).

5. *Calls upon* States to ensure the normal functioning of open markets, global supply chain connectivity and cross-border travel for essential purposes, and to enhance the sustainability and resilience of supply chains that foster the sustainable integration of landlocked developing countries and promote inclusive economic growth, including through the increased participation of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in international trade and investment;

6. *Recognizes* that the landlocked developing countries' share in global merchandise exports has remained substantially unchanged during the implementation period of the Vienna Programme of Action, and calls for the strengthening of the trade and productive capacities of the landlocked developing countries, by enhancing aid for trade as well as market access towards landlocked developing countries;

7. *Reaffirms* the commitment at the very heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>468</sup> to leave no one behind and commit to taking more tangible steps to support people in vulnerable situations and the most vulnerable countries and to reach the furthest behind first;

8. *Welcomes* the political declaration adopted by the high-level political forum on sustainable development<sup>469</sup> convened under the auspices of the General Assembly, held in New York on 18 and 19 September 2023, and urges timely action to ensure its full implementation;

9. *Calls upon* the landlocked developing countries and transit countries to enhance cross-border collaboration by minimizing disruptions to international transport during health emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemic and to prevent future disruptions of a similar nature, while recognizing that regional economic integration is an important driver for sustainable development and integration into the global economy, and invites development partners and relevant international, regional and subregional organizations to enhance support to landlocked developing countries and transit countries in implementing the relevant international trade and transport facilitation conventions;<sup>470</sup>

10. *Encourages* the landlocked developing countries, transit countries and development partners to actively engage in the dedicated session on transit issues that will be held annually until the next review of the Trade Facilitation Agreement is completed, pursuant to the decision taken at the twelfth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Geneva from 12 to 17 June 2022, which will contribute to enhancing reforms aimed at facilitating transit for landlocked developing countries;

11. *Invites* the landlocked developing countries, transit countries, their development partners, the United Nations system and all other actors to implement the relevant actions, consistent with national priorities, agreed upon in the Vienna Programme of Action in its six priority areas in a coordinated, coherent and expeditious manner in the remaining period;

12. *Reiterates* the commitment to enhancing global, regional, national and local partnerships for sustainable development in landlocked developing countries, engaging all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector, academia and youth, recognizing the important contribution they can make towards achieving the 2030 Agenda, and the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals, and also reaffirms the importance of the original dimension of sustainable development in addressing regional challenges and scaling up actions among countries;

13. *Stresses* that the harmonization, simplification and standardization of rules and documentation should be promoted, including the full and effective implementation of international conventions on transport and transit and bilateral, subregional and regional agreements, and invites Member States that have not joined the existing conventions to consider the possibility of accession;

14. *Also stresses* that cooperation on fundamental transit policies, laws and regulations between landlocked developing countries and their transit neighbours is crucial for the effective and integrated solution of cross-border

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<sup>468</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>469</sup> Resolution 78/1, annex.

<sup>470</sup> Including the Customs Convention on Containers (Geneva, 2 December 1972), the Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Commercial Road Vehicles (Geneva, 18 May 1956), the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (Geneva, 14 November 1975), the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (Geneva, 21 October 1982) and the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade Facilitation (2013).

trade and transit transport problems, and underlines that this cooperation should be promoted on the basis of the mutual interests of both landlocked developing countries and transit countries;

15. *Calls upon* the landlocked developing countries and transit countries, in a coordinated manner, to develop and upgrade international transport and transit corridors encompassing all modes of transportation, including roads, railroads, inland waterways, ports and pipelines, to address the special development needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries;

16. *Recognizes* that investing in the maintenance and development of hard and soft infrastructure can boost pandemic recovery efforts, notes the importance of sound infrastructure governance over the life cycle of the projects to ensure the long-term cost-effectiveness, economic efficiency, accountability, transparency and integrity of infrastructure investment, including through an open procurement process, stresses that the magnitude of the resources required to invest in quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure development and maintenance remains a major challenge that requires the forging of international, regional, subregional and bilateral cooperation on infrastructure projects, the allocation of more resources from national budgets, the effective deployment of international development assistance and multilateral financing in the development and maintenance of infrastructure and the reinforcement of the role of the private sector;

17. *Also recognizes* that both public and private investment have key roles to play in sustainable infrastructure financing, including through development banks, development finance institutions and tools and mechanisms such as public-private partnerships, blended finance, which combines concessional public finance, non-concessional private finance and expertise from the public and private sector, special purpose vehicles, non-recourse project financing, risk mitigation instruments and pooled financing structures;

18. *Encourages* multilateral financial and development institutions and multilateral development banks, including regional banks, in collaboration with other stakeholders, including the private sector, to make investments in landlocked developing countries to increase access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy, as well as in addressing gaps in renewable energy, information and communications technology, e-commerce, trade, transport and transit-related regional infrastructure;

19. *Calls for* the full and timely implementation of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation annexed to the Protocol amending the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization, and in this regard urges members and relevant international and regional organizations to continue to provide and enhance technical and capacity-building assistance, particularly for the effective implementation of the provisions of articles on the release and clearance of goods, border agency cooperation, formalities connected with importation, exportation and transit, freedom of transit and customs cooperation;

20. *Also calls for* renewed and strengthened partnerships to support landlocked developing countries in diversifying their economic base and enhancing value addition to their exports in order to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth;

21. *Reiterates its invitation* to development partners to provide targeted technical and financial support, as appropriate, towards the implementation of the specific actions listed in the Vienna Programme of Action;

22. *Underlines* that South-South and triangular cooperation is vital to the landlocked developing countries, especially in the areas of productive capacity-building and training, infrastructure, energy, water, science and technology, trade, investment and transit transport cooperation, and its significant contributions to short-term pandemic response and long-term COVID-19 recovery, and in this regard highlights the importance of the implementation of the Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation;<sup>471</sup>

23. *Recognizes* that landlocked developing countries and their transit country neighbours need to effectively mobilize adequate domestic and external resources for the effective implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, reaffirms that, for all countries, public policies and the mobilization and effective use of domestic resources, underlined by the principle of national ownership, are central to the common pursuit of sustainable development, including the implementation of the Programme of Action, and also recognizes that international public finance plays

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<sup>471</sup> Resolution 73/291, annex.



an important role in complementing those efforts, especially in the poorest and most vulnerable countries with limited domestic resources;

24. *Also recognizes* the constraints faced by landlocked developing countries in gaining access to sustainable investment, and stresses the need to strengthen capacity-building support for these countries, to integrate sustainable investment approaches into capital market development plans;

25. *Underlines* the prominent role that foreign direct investment plays in accelerating development and poverty reduction through employment, the transfer of managerial and technological know-how, on mutually agreed terms, and non-debt-creating flows of capital, recognizes the considerable role and potential of private sector involvement in infrastructure development for transport, telecommunications and utilities for landlocked developing countries, encourages Member States to facilitate foreign direct investment flows to landlocked developing countries in this regard, and calls upon landlocked and transit developing countries to promote an enabling environment, to attract foreign direct investment and private sector involvement;

26. *Reiterates* that the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments remains crucial, and urges development partners to step up efforts to increase their official development assistance and to make additional concrete efforts to fulfil their respective official development assistance commitments;

27. *Recognizes* the essential role of the private sector in the development of landlocked developing countries, and in this regard underlines the need to continue promoting the participation of the private sector in achieving sustainable development and the critical importance of mobilizing private resources, including through foreign direct investment, for the development of landlocked developing countries, taking into account the leading role of Member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development<sup>472</sup> and the Vienna Programme of Action;

28. *Also recognizes* that the economies of many landlocked developing countries remain reliant on a few export commodities, which often have low value addition and are greatly affected by external shocks, and stresses the need for renewed and strengthened partnerships for development to support landlocked developing countries in diversifying their economic base and enhancing value addition to their exports by entering and moving up global value chains through the development of their productive capacities, including through private sector involvement, and the development and formalization of small and medium-sized enterprises, with a view to increasing the competitiveness of the products of landlocked developing countries in export markets;

29. *Further recognizes* that foreign direct investment can reduce inequalities and help commodity-dependent landlocked developing countries to make the transition to manufacturing activities and other higher value-added activities;

30. *Recognizes* the crucial role of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in contributing to inclusive growth and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals through job creation and improving livelihoods for the poorest and most vulnerable, and in promoting support measures to develop micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in landlocked developing countries, including their formalization and participation in international trade;

31. *Stresses* the need to assist landlocked developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt relief and debt restructuring and sound debt management, as appropriate, and welcomes the multilateral response to the pandemic, including the Group of 20 and Paris Club Debt Service Suspension Initiative, which ended in December 2021, and the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the Debt Service Suspension Initiative;

32. *Invites* development partners to effectively implement the Aid for Trade initiative in assisting landlocked developing countries to address their special needs and requirements, including capacity-building for the formulation of trade policies, participation in trade negotiations and the implementation of trade facilitation measures, as well as the diversification of export products;

33. *Recognizes* that landlocked developing countries are vulnerable to and remain negatively affected by the adverse impacts of climate change, land degradation, desertification, deforestation, receding glaciers, floods, including glacial lake outburst floods, and droughts, recognizes the potential benefits of mutually addressing these challenges,

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<sup>472</sup> Resolution 69/313, annex.

#### IV. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Second Committee

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and calls upon the international community to continue to support the efforts of landlocked developing countries towards climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience-building;

34. *Takes note* of scientific research undertaken by the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries, encourages the International Think Tank to continue to undertake its role of supporting the development efforts of the landlocked developing countries, urges those landlocked developing countries that have not yet done so to ratify, at their earliest convenience, the Multilateral Agreement for the Establishment of an International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries, and invites relevant stakeholders to support the International Think Tank;

35. *Urges* that coherent and effective linkages be made between the implementation, follow-up and review arrangements for the 2030 Agenda and those of all relevant United Nations conferences and processes, including the Vienna Programme of Action;

36. *Calls upon* relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and invites international organizations and relevant regional and subregional organizations, to integrate the Vienna Programme of Action into their programmes of work, as appropriate, within their respective mandates, and to support landlocked and transit developing countries in their implementation of the Programme of Action in a well-coordinated and coherent manner;

37. *Stresses* that, in accordance with the mandate given by the General Assembly, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States should continue to ensure the coordinated follow-up to, effective monitoring of and reporting on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and the outcome of its midterm review and undertake advocacy efforts at the national, regional and global levels;

38. *Recalls* its resolution [77/329](#), in which the General Assembly decided that the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries would be held in Kigali for a duration of four days, from 18 to 21 June 2024, and called upon all States Members of the United Nations and members of specialized agencies, in particular landlocked and transit developing countries and donor countries, as well as the United Nations system and international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders, to participate actively in the Conference at the highest level possible, and looks forward to its successful conclusion and an ambitious outcome with concrete targets and specific deliverables;

39. *Decides* that the theme of the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries shall be “Driving partnerships for progress”;

40. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Government of Rwanda as host of the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, in Kigali, to be held at the highest possible level, including Heads of State and Government, in line with the mandate specified in its resolutions [76/217](#), [77/246](#) and [77/329](#);

41. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Bureau of the intergovernmental preparatory committee and the appointment of its Co-Chairs, and recalls its decision to convene the first and second sessions of the preparatory committee in New York, from 5 to 8 February 2024 and from 29 April to 1 May 2024, respectively;

42. *Invites* the Bureau to convene further meetings on an informal basis in New York, as required and in the most efficient and effective manner, to discuss the draft outcome document of the Conference;

43. *Takes note* of the substantive and organizational preparations for the Conference, including the successful holding of the organizational session of the intergovernmental preparatory committee in New York, on 13 September 2023, and the three regional review meetings, with one meeting for the landlocked developing countries in Africa, jointly organized by the Government of Botswana, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and the Economic Commission for Africa, held in Gaborone on 29 and 30 May 2023, one meeting for the landlocked developing countries in Latin America, jointly organized by the Government of Paraguay, the Office of the High Representative and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Asunción on 27 and 28 July 2023, and one meeting for the landlocked developing countries in Europe and Asia, jointly organized by the Office of the High Representative, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Economic Commission for Europe, held in Bangkok on 22 and 23 August 2023, and also takes note of the outcomes of those meetings;



#### IV. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Second Committee

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44. *Emphasizes* the importance of country-level preparations as a critical input to the preparatory process for the Conference and in the implementation of and follow-up to its outcome, and calls upon the Governments of the landlocked developing countries to submit their reports in a timely manner;

45. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure, as appropriate, the full involvement of resident coordinators and country teams in the preparations for the Conference, in particular in the country level and regional preparations;

46. *Stresses* that the Conference and the preparatory activities should be organized and carried out in the most effective and efficient manner possible;

47. *Encourages* the active participation of all States Members of the United Nations, in particular landlocked and transit developing countries and donor countries, as well as of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations, in the Conference at the highest level possible;

48. *Calls upon* all stakeholders, while reviewing implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, to identify innovative solutions and initiatives that can be launched as key deliverables at the Conference;

49. *Reiterates its invitation* to the Secretary-General to convene a high-level event of the United Nations system and other relevant international and regional organizations during the Conference, with a view to ensuring the full mobilization of the United Nations system in support of the landlocked developing countries;

50. *Welcomes* the holding by the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council of a half-day dedicated thematic event on 7 December 2023 to provide substantive input to the Conference;

51. *Stresses*, while recognizing the intergovernmental nature of the Conference, the importance of the effective, well-structured and broad participation of all relevant stakeholders, including parliamentarians, civil society and the private sector, in the Conference and its preparatory process, including national and regional reviews and thematic preparations, as well as in the interactive thematic round tables and side events during the Conference, underlines that intergovernmental mechanisms at the global and regional levels, including those of the United Nations regional commissions, as well as relevant substantive material and statistical data, should be effectively utilized in the review process, and decides:

(a) To invite non-governmental organizations that are in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to register with the Secretariat in order to participate in the Conference and its preparatory process;

(b) To invite other relevant stakeholders, including organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, international financial institutions, civil society organizations, the private sector, other international bodies and other non-governmental organizations, to participate as observers in the Conference and its preparatory process;

(c) To request the President of the General Assembly to draw up a list of representatives of other relevant non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions and the private sector who may participate in the Conference and its preparatory process, taking into account the principles of transparency and of equitable geographical representation and with due regard for gender parity, and to submit the proposed list to Member States for their consideration on a non-objection basis and bring the list to the attention of the Assembly for a final decision by the Assembly on participation in the Conference;<sup>473</sup>

52. *Recalls its request* to the Office of the High Representative to act as the United Nations system-wide focal point for the preparations for the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, pursuant to resolution 76/217, and reiterates its invitation to the Secretary-General to take the measures necessary to ensure effective, efficient and timely preparations for the Conference and to further mobilize and coordinate the active involvement of the organizations of the United Nations system;

53. *Emphasizes* the critical importance of the full and effective participation of the landlocked developing countries in the Conference and its preparatory process at the national, regional and global levels, stresses that adequate resources should be provided, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to mobilize voluntary

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<sup>473</sup> The list will include proposed and final names. The general basis of any objections, if requested by one or more States Members of the United Nations or States members of the specialized agencies, will be made known to the Office of the President of the General Assembly and the requester.

contributions in order to support the cost of the participation of government representatives from the landlocked developing countries;

54. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that necessary and sufficient support is given to transit countries to maximize their contribution to the success of the Conference and its preparatory process;

55. *Requests* the Secretary-General, with the assistance of relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the Department of Global Communications of the Secretariat, in collaboration and avoiding overlap and duplication with the Office of the High Representative, to take the measures necessary to intensify their public information efforts and other appropriate initiatives to enhance public awareness of the Conference, including by highlighting its objectives and its significance;

56. *Welcomes* the decision of the Secretary-General to appoint the Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States as Secretary-General of the Conference, with responsibility for making the arrangements necessary for carrying out the work of the Conference;

57. *Reaffirms* the important role of the Group of Friends of Landlocked Developing Countries, and calls for their active participation and support in the preparation for the Conference and at the Conference itself;

58. *Underlines* that the Office of the High Representative should be provided with adequate resources to fulfil its mandate for the timely and effective follow-up, monitoring and implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and its successor and to extend effective support to the landlocked developing countries, and requests the Secretary-General to address the allocation of adequate resources for the Office in the context of the proposed programme budget for 2025;

59. *Requests* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and other donors to contribute in a timely manner to the trust fund in support of activities undertaken by the Office of the High Representative to support the implementation of, follow-up to and monitoring of the Vienna Programme of Action, as well as the preparations for the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries and the participation of landlocked developing countries in the Conference;

60. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session a report on the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “Groups of countries in special situations”, the sub-item entitled “Follow-up to the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries”.

#### RESOLUTION 78/164

Adopted at the 49th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/464/Add.1, para. 8)<sup>474</sup>

#### 78/164. Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027)

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 72/233 of 20 December 2017, 73/246 of 20 December 2018, 74/234 of 19 December 2019, 75/230 of 21 December 2020, 76/218 of 17 December 2021, 77/179 of 14 December 2022 and all other resolutions related to the eradication of poverty,

*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

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<sup>474</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee.

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 Agreement,<sup>475</sup> and encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change<sup>476</sup> that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

*Highlighting* the synergies between the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement, and noting with concern the findings contained in the special report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty,

*Reaffirming* the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito, from 17 to 20 October 2016,<sup>477</sup> welcoming the convening of the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) held in Nairobi, from 5 to 9 June 2023, and welcoming also the convening of the twelfth session of the World Urban Forum, in Cairo, from 4 to 8 November 2023,

*Noting with concern* the insufficient progress made in reducing the non-income dimensions of poverty, and noting with concern also that, after steadily declining for more than a decade, global hunger is once again on the rise, affecting as many as between 690 million and 783 million people in 2022, which represents an increase of 122 million since the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and that conflicts, drought, flooding, adverse impacts of climate change, food loss and waste and the COVID-19 pandemic, among other factors, have exacerbated the food insecurity situation in many parts of the world, with those in vulnerable situations, including women, girls, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, older persons, persons with disabilities, refugees, internally displaced persons and migrants, being specially affected,

*Recalling* the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development<sup>478</sup> and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,<sup>479</sup>

*Welcoming* the convening of the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development held in New York on 20 September 2023 and the high-level meeting to review progress made in addressing the priorities of small island developing States through the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,<sup>480</sup> convened under the auspices of the General Assembly,

*Reaffirming* its resolution 75/233 of 21 December 2020 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system and its general guidelines and principles, as well as its resolution 72/279 of 31 May 2018 and Economic and Social Council resolution 2020/23 of 22 July 2020, welcoming the efforts of the Secretary-General to better position the United Nations operational activities for development to support countries in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and looking forward to the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system in 2024,

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<sup>475</sup> Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

<sup>476</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

<sup>477</sup> Resolution 71/256, annex.

<sup>478</sup> *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

<sup>479</sup> Resolution 63/239, annex.

<sup>480</sup> Resolution 69/15, annex.

*Recalling* the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,<sup>481</sup> as well as the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, held from 17 to 19 May 2023, and recognizing the links between disaster resilience and poverty eradication and in this regard the need for a broader and more people-centred preventive approach to disaster risk,

*Recognizing* that trade and development can contribute to the eradication of poverty and that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development therefore has an important role to play in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,

*Recognizing also* that the feminization of poverty persists and that the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is an indispensable requirement for women's economic empowerment and sustainable development, and acknowledging the mutually reinforcing links between the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the eradication of poverty,

*Concerned* that the global economy is still facing difficult macroeconomic conditions and that, in recent years, poverty reduction has continued to stagnate in developing countries, owing to, inter alia, the global economic slowdown, conflicts and the vulnerability of States to climate change and disasters, noting the heightened international policy uncertainty with regard to trade and weaker global growth and that per capita gross domestic product growth in many regions is significantly below the rates needed to eradicate poverty, and reiterating that those left behind are becoming increasingly harder to reach, especially those living in rural areas and in vulnerable situations,

*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,

*Noting with concern* that the COVID-19 pandemic and geopolitical tensions and conflicts pose a serious challenge to achieving the Sustainable Development Goal of ending poverty by 2030, making the world's pledge to leave no one behind and to endeavour to reach those furthest behind first much more difficult to achieve, with approximately 691 million people estimated to live in extreme poverty in 2023, with slower recovery to pre-pandemic trend paths projected in developing countries and with the drop in per capita incomes having a particularly adverse impact on low-income households, jeopardizing decades of progress in reducing extreme poverty and exacerbating already high levels of inequality, recognizing that, despite massive policy support, the estimated 8.5 trillion United States dollars in cumulative output losses during 2020 and 2021 may erase nearly all output gains of the previous four years, and that COVID-19 has laid bare the immense challenges facing the world, ranging from inadequate health infrastructure to the lack of universal basic social protection, making the implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027) especially challenging,

*Underlining* that the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027), on the theme “Accelerating global actions for a world without poverty”, is important for maintaining the momentum generated by the implementation of the Second Decade towards poverty eradication and ensuring that markets work better for people living in poverty,

*Reaffirming* that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, that its adverse impacts undermine the ability of all countries to achieve sustainable development, that increases in global temperature, sea level rise, ocean acidification, biodiversity loss and other climate change impacts are seriously affecting coastal areas and low-lying coastal countries, including many least developed countries and small island developing States, and that the survival of many societies and of the biological support systems of the planet is at risk, which further threatens food

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<sup>481</sup> Resolution [69/283](#), annex II.

security and efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development, and thus requires urgent action to maintain, preserve and sustain the development gains achieved in the past decades,

*Urging* all countries that have not yet done so to ratify and accede to the United Nations Convention against Corruption,<sup>482</sup> encouraging parties to review its implementation, committing to making the Convention an effective instrument to deter, detect, prevent and counter corruption and bribery, prosecute those involved in corrupt activities and recover and return stolen assets to their country of origin, as appropriate, encouraging the international community to develop good practices on asset return, expressing support for the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative of the United Nations and the World Bank and other international initiatives that support the recovery of stolen assets, urging that regional conventions against corruption be updated and ratified, and striving to eliminate safe havens that create incentives for the transfer abroad of stolen assets and illicit financial flows,

*Committed to* working to strengthen regulatory frameworks at all levels to further increase the transparency and accountability of financial institutions and the corporate sector, as well as public administrations, and to strengthening international cooperation and national institutions to combat money-laundering and the financing of terrorism,

*Reaffirming* that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an overarching objective of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, of which the Addis Ababa Action Agenda is an integral part, as well as an ethical, social, political, environmental and economic imperative for all humankind and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, particularly in Africa, in least developed countries, in landlocked developing countries, in small island developing States and in some middle-income countries, as well as countries in conflict and post-conflict situations, and underlining the importance of addressing the multidimensional nature of development and poverty and accelerating sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, including full, productive employment and decent work for all, with a view to reducing inequalities within and among countries,

*Recognizing* the importance of supporting countries in accelerating their efforts to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, and to promote the empowerment of the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including women, children and youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, older persons, persons with disabilities, migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons,

*Underlining* the primary responsibility of Member States to promote universal health coverage that comprises universal and equitable access to quality health services and ensures affordable and quality service delivery, especially through primary health care and social protection mechanisms, with the support of enhanced international cooperation and with a view to providing access to health services for all, including those who are in vulnerable situations, and underlining also that women and children are particularly affected by disasters and outbreaks,

*Recognizing* the centrality of mobilizing financial and non-financial resources for development at the national and international levels and the effective use of those resources, as well as the importance of policy coherence and a coordinated approach that involves participation at all levels by all actors to promote an enabling environment for sustainable development, and of reinvigorating the global partnership for sustainable development in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, in particular the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which builds upon the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals,

*Underscoring* that, for all countries, public policies and the mobilization and effective use of domestic resources, underscored by the principle of national ownership, are central to the common pursuit of sustainable development, including achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, recognizing that domestic resources are first and foremost generated by economic growth, supported by an enabling environment at all levels, including well-functioning, efficient and transparent tax systems, and acknowledging the important role that multi-stakeholder partnerships, including with the private sector, can play in generating new investments, employment and financing for development,

*Reaffirming* that official development assistance remains an important source of financing for development in developing countries,

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<sup>482</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

*Reaffirming also* that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation, and acknowledging the contributions of South-South and triangular cooperation to the efforts of developing countries to eradicate poverty and pursue sustainable development,

*Emphasizing* the essential role of inclusive and sustainable industrial development as part of a comprehensive strategy of structural economic transformation in eradicating poverty and supporting sustained economic growth and thus in contributing to achieving sustainable development in developing countries,

*Taking note* of the work done under the inter-agency, system-wide plan of action for poverty eradication coordinating the efforts of the United Nations system in its advisory and programmatic support to Member States, involving more than 21 agencies, funds, programmes and regional commissions, and encouraging the alignment of that work with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

*Underlining* the priority and urgency given by Heads of State and Government to the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, as expressed in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General<sup>483</sup> reviewing recent progress made in implementing the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027), assessing the progress made, gaps and challenges in eradicating poverty and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, outlining a summary of work by the United Nations system to implement the inter-agency, system-wide plan of action for poverty eradication and presenting recommendations for consideration by the General Assembly;

2. *Recognizes* the importance of strengthening national statistical capacity and monitoring systems to ensure access to data that are of high quality, accessible, timely, reliable and disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability and geographical location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, harnessing partnerships, fostering the global exchange of ideas and experiences and showcasing innovative and efficient initiatives and strategies to eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities within and among countries and promote decent work for all;

3. *Reaffirms* that the objective of the Third Decade is to maintain the momentum generated by the implementation of the Second Decade and to support, in an efficient and coordinated manner, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>484</sup> and its Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 1, and their objective of leaving no one behind and reaching the furthest behind first, as well as other internationally agreed development goals;

4. *Also reaffirms* that each country must take primary responsibility for its own sustainable development and that the role of national policies and development strategies for the achievement of sustainable development and poverty eradication cannot be overemphasized, and recognizes that increased effective national efforts should be complemented by concrete, effective and supportive international programmes, measures and policies aimed at expanding the development opportunities of developing countries, while taking into account national conditions and ensuring respect for national ownership strategies and sovereignty;

5. *Notes with concern* that the world as a whole is not on track to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030, and stresses the resolve to eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere as well as the efforts to reduce, at least by half, the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its forms and dimensions, according to national definitions;

6. *Expresses its deep concern* that, while there has been progress in reducing poverty, such progress remains uneven, with 1.1 billion people in 110 developing countries still living in multidimensional poverty, this number continues to be significant and unacceptably high, the levels of inequality in income, wealth and opportunities remain high or are increasing within and between many countries, and the non-income dimensions of poverty and deprivation, such as access to inclusive and equitable quality education or basic health services, and relative poverty remain major concerns;

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<sup>483</sup> A/78/239.

<sup>484</sup> Resolution 70/1.



7. *Welcomes* the political declaration adopted by the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly (Sustainable Development Goals Summit),<sup>485</sup> held in New York on 18 and 19 September 2023, and urges timely action to ensure its full implementation;

8. *Takes note* of the political declarations of the high-level meetings on health convened under the auspices of the General Assembly during the seventy-eighth session<sup>486</sup> as efforts to highlight the importance of health on the high-level political agenda, recognizing that respecting the human right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and building equitable national health systems are essential to achieve universal health coverage, to build prevention, preparedness and response to pandemics, as well as other health emergencies, and to ending epidemics such as tuberculosis;

9. *Recognizes* that, despite its devastating impacts, the COVID-19 pandemic offers an opportunity to put forward policies for an inclusive, sustainable and resilient recovery, including by promoting, inter alia, investment in agriculture, food security and nutrition, decent jobs, including sustainable job opportunities, universal health coverage, quality education and social protection systems to eradicate poverty, protect people in vulnerable situations, reduce inequalities and keep micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises afloat, with the support of multi-stakeholder partnerships, in this context takes note of the convening of the high-level event on jobs and social protection for poverty eradication by the Secretary-General, the Transforming Education Summit held in September 2022 and its pre-Summit held in Paris, the United Nations Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment, held in Rome, and the Tokyo Compact on Global Nutrition for Growth of the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit, recalls the call by the Secretary-General<sup>487</sup> for a coordinated and comprehensive multilateral solidarity response amounting to at least 10 per cent of global gross domestic product, which can help developing countries to respond to the immediate health threat posed by the pandemic and its multifaceted effects, and takes note that 70.1 per cent of people globally have received at least one dose of the vaccine against COVID-19 to date, and urges countries to sustain and enhance the momentum for vaccination, especially for high-risk populations, in the face of widespread lower disease risk perception and lower demand for COVID-19 vaccines;

10. *Calls upon* the international community, including Member States and the organizations of the United Nations development system, including the funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, in accordance with their mandates, to continue to accord the highest priority to poverty eradication within the United Nations development agenda and to urgently take comprehensive and targeted measures to address the root causes and challenges of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, hunger and all forms of malnutrition, in the light of their negative impacts on sustainable development, through integrated, coordinated and coherent strategies at all levels, in accordance with the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, and calls upon donor countries, multilateral organizations and other development partners in a position to do so to support the effective national efforts of developing countries in this regard through predictable financial resources and technical assistance on bilateral and multilateral bases;

11. *Also calls upon* the international community, including Member States, to continue their ambitious efforts to strive for more inclusive, equitable, balanced, stable and development-oriented sustainable socioeconomic approaches to overcoming poverty, and, in view of the negative impact of all forms of inequality, including gender inequality and inequality within and between countries, on poverty, emphasizes the importance of structural transformation that leads to inclusive and sustainable industrialization for employment creation and poverty reduction, investing in sustainable agriculture and developing quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all, enhancing interconnectivity and achieving access to energy, and improving access to financial services, as well as promoting decent work in the rural economy, improving access to quality education, promoting quality health-care services, including through the acceleration of the transition towards equitable access to universal health coverage, providing affordable and secure housing for people in vulnerable situations, advancing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, recognizing, valuing, reducing and redistributing women's disproportionate share of unpaid work, expanding social protection coverage, climate

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<sup>485</sup> Resolution 78/1, annex.

<sup>486</sup> Resolution 78/3, annex, resolution 78/4, annex, and resolution 78/5, annex.

<sup>487</sup> See United Nations, "Shared responsibility, global solidarity: responding to the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19", March 2020.



change mitigation and adaptation and combating inequality within and between countries and social exclusion, especially of the furthest behind;

12. *Recognizes* that poverty reduction also requires increasing productive capacity sustainably, and in this regard recalls the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and recognizes the contribution that economic growth and structural transformation through, inter alia, increased productivity and a healthy and well-educated workforce, can make in reducing poverty in developing countries, and in this regard recognizes the importance of strengthening cooperation, including by considering increasing the allocation of the necessary means of implementation, such as financing, technology transfers on mutually agreed terms and capacity-building, so as to, inter alia, accelerate inclusive and sustainable industrialization and digital transformation and expand the production of vaccines, medical equipment and agricultural and industrial goods and strengthen the services sector, with a view to achieving greater economic diversification and technological development and innovation, while promoting inclusive labour markets, as well as decent job creation and prosperity, and generating fiscal resources for the implementation and promotion of inclusive economic public policies to combat inequalities and eradicate poverty, in particular extreme poverty, to leave no one behind;

13. *Also recognizes* the urgent need to address poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity, which will lead to rich payoffs across the Sustainable Development Goals, and encourages the international community to enhance international cooperation and to devote resources to developing rural and urban areas and sustainable agriculture and fisheries and to supporting smallholder farmers, including women farmers, herders and fishers in developing countries, particularly in the least developed countries;

14. *Invites* all relevant stakeholders, including organizations of the United Nations system and civil society organizations, to share good practices relating to programmes and policies that address inequalities for the benefit of those living in extreme poverty and promote the active participation of those living in extreme poverty in the design and implementation of such programmes and policies, with the aim of achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

15. *Welcomes* the contributions of South-South cooperation to poverty eradication and sustainable development, in this regard recalls the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, held in Buenos Aires from 20 to 22 March 2019, and its outcome document,<sup>488</sup> reaffirms that South-South cooperation is an important element of international cooperation for development as a complement to, not a substitute for, North-South cooperation, recognizes that South-South and triangular cooperation contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to achieving the overarching goal of eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, and commits to strengthening South-South and triangular cooperation as a means of bringing relevant experience and expertise to bear in development cooperation;

16. *Emphasizes* the importance of the outcome of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty of promoting and supporting the integration of decent work and poverty eradication into national and international policies, strategies and programmes, with a particular focus on those who risk being left behind, by, inter alia, implementing measures to formalize employment, consider introducing or strengthening minimum wages, guarantee respect for freedom of association and collective bargaining rights, combat all forms of discrimination in employment and end child and forced labour, including in agriculture and rural areas;

17. *Notes with concern* the continuing high levels of unemployment and underemployment, with 205 million people unemployed, globally in 2022, recognizes that decent work for all remains one of the best routes out of poverty, and in this regard invites donor countries, multilateral organizations and other development partners to continue to assist Member States, in particular developing countries, in adopting policies consistent with the Global Jobs Pact adopted by the International Labour Conference at its ninety-eighth session, and takes note with appreciation of the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions, launched by the Secretary-General jointly with the International Labour Organization;

18. *Recognizes* that access to inclusive and equitable quality education has far-reaching impacts on poverty and intergenerational poverty traps, and stresses the need to increase the investment in human capital in order to strengthen the wage-based comparative advantage of workers and enable people, including those in vulnerable situations to realize their potential and to facilitate the structural transformation of developing economies by investing

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<sup>488</sup> Resolution 73/291, annex.

in affordable, universal health coverage; universal social protection; universally accessible quality education and training, including digital skills training; and decent job creation, especially for young people, women and persons with disabilities;

19. *Notes with concern* that, since the pandemic struck, more than 1.5 billion children and young people were affected by closures of educational institutions, with over 500 million children and young people estimated to have been left without access to remote learning options, and about 24 million students from pre-primary to tertiary levels estimated to be at risk of not going back to school with a disproportionate impact on girls and women, the poorest and those in vulnerable situations, in this regard recognizes that substantial and efficiently spent investments are needed to improve the quality of learning and access to education and in order to enable millions of people to acquire skills for decent work, and takes note with appreciation of the report of the International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity and the recommendations contained therein, as appropriate;

20. *Encourages* the international community to support developing countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, and achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, the poor and people in vulnerable situations, with a view to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals, as established by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which builds upon the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and addresses their unfinished business, improving tax systems and access to financial services, including affordable microfinance and credit, removing barriers to opportunity, enhancing productive capacity, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, encouraging the formalization and growth of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, developing sustainable agriculture and promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all, emphasizing the important role of national efforts aimed at bringing workers from the informal to the formal economy, guided, as appropriate, by the Transition from the Informal to the Formal Economy Recommendation, 2015 (No. 204), of the International Labour Organization, complemented by national efforts on effective social policies, including social protection floors, and in this regard takes note of the Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202), of the International Labour Organization;

21. *Recognizes* that industrial development and productive capacities are crucial for structural transformation and sustainable and inclusive economic growth, and in this regard encourages the international community to help developing countries to boost industrial development, digital transformation and innovation, foster the productive capacities, and to support developing countries with adequate financial resources, respect national policy space for sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, while remaining consistent with relevant international rules and commitments and effective international support measures, particularly in the areas of technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and debt management;

22. *Commits* to the promotion of a universal, rules-based, non-discriminatory, open, fair, inclusive, equitable and transparent multilateral trading system, with the World Trade Organization at its core, as well as meaningful trade liberalization, and underscores that the multilateral trading system should contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, providing policy space for national development objectives, poverty eradication and sustainable development, consistent with relevant international rules and countries' commitments, and promote export-led growth in the developing countries through, inter alia, preferential trade access for developing countries, targeted special and differential treatment that responds to the development needs of individual countries, in particular least developed countries, and the elimination of trade barriers that are inconsistent with World Trade Organization agreements;

23. *Encourages* the international community to strengthen cooperation on food and energy security, noting that more international aid and cooperation in the distribution of food to countries in need may be required to avoid repeating the flaws in the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, and emphasizes the urgent need to rectify any trade distorting measures that are inconsistent with World Trade Organization rules in world agricultural markets and to contribute to the facilitation of market access for products from developing countries, and the efforts to avoid a food crisis by ensuring that consumers have access to affordable healthy diets, in particular in low-income and emerging market economies;

24. *Reaffirms* that, while social protection has proved to be effective in reducing poverty and inequality, including non-contributory social protection programmes and cash transfers, coverage remains extremely low in countries with the highest poverty rates, also reaffirms that investments and innovation in the social sector, in particular in education and health, contribute to the alleviation of poverty and reduction of inequalities and enhance human

resource development, and emphasizes the importance of ensuring that social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, are consistent with national development strategies, well designed, efficiently operated, responsive to shocks and sustainable in the long term;

25. *Stresses* the importance of taking comprehensive and targeted measures to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, of implementing nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including social protection floors, and of achieving substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable, and encourages Member States to continue to develop and implement social protection floors based on national priorities, paying particular attention to women, children, older persons, Indigenous Peoples and persons with disabilities;

26. *Reaffirms* its commitment to embracing diversity in cities and human settlements, to strengthening social cohesion, intercultural dialogue and understanding, tolerance, mutual respect, gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, innovation, entrepreneurship, inclusion, identity and safety, and the dignity of all people, as well as to fostering liveability and a vibrant urban economy and to taking steps to ensure that local institutions promote pluralism and peaceful coexistence within increasingly heterogeneous and multicultural societies;

27. *Acknowledges* that good governance at the national and international levels and sustainable, inclusive, sustained and equitable economic growth, supported by full employment and decent work for all, and social integration, rising productivity and a favourable environment, including public and private investment, inter alia, public-private partnerships in a wide range of areas and entrepreneurship, are necessary to eradicate poverty, to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Sustainable Development Goals, and to realize a rise in living standards, and that corporate social responsibility initiatives play an important role in maximizing the impact of public and private investment;

28. *Stresses* the importance of using multidimensional indicators and developing transparent measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product in order to effectively reflect the reality of the populations of all developing countries, eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, and reduce inequality everywhere, in accordance with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and encourages the United Nations system to continue to support developing countries in capacity development in such areas as building national statistical systems, data collection, data analysis and disaggregation, policy formulation and the mainstreaming of the Sustainable Development Goals into national development plans and strategies;

29. *Recognizes* that social and economic development depends on the sustainable management of the natural resources of the planet, and stresses the importance of conserving and sustainably using oceans and seas, freshwater resources, forests, mountains and drylands and protecting biodiversity, ecosystems and wildlife, as well as promoting sustainable tourism, tackling water scarcity and water pollution, strengthening cooperation on desertification, dust storms, degraded land and soil and drought, promoting resilience and disaster risk reduction, addressing decisively the threat posed by climate change and environmental degradation and implementing the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns;<sup>489</sup>

30. *Also recognizes* that sustainable, inclusive, sustained and equitable economic growth is essential for eradicating poverty and hunger, in particular in developing countries, and stresses that national efforts in this regard should be complemented by an enabling international environment and by ensuring greater coherence among macroeconomic and social policies at all levels;

31. *Stresses* the importance of policies and actions that are not just gender-responsive but that actively seek to advance the goal of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, as well as to address longer-term structural issues, including structural constraints faced by women as economic agents, and to remove any barriers that prevent women from being full participants in the economy, by, inter alia, undertaking legislation and administrative reforms, as appropriate, to give women equal rights with men in sociopolitical and economic decision-making and access to economic resources and to promote the reconciliation of work and family responsibilities, including through paid maternity and parental leave and the recognition, evaluation, reduction and redistribution of the disproportionate work burden of women engaged in unpaid work, including domestic and care work, encourages the private sector, in accordance with national legislation, to contribute to advancing gender equality by striving to ensure women's full

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<sup>489</sup> A/CONF.216/5, annex.

and productive employment and decent work, equal pay for equal work or work of equal value and equal opportunities, as well as by protecting them against discrimination and abuse in the workplace, and underlines that, globally, gross domestic product could increase significantly if every country achieved gender equality and increased the participation of women in the formal labour force;

32. *Emphasizes* the reference in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to the need to ensure the significant mobilization of financial and non-financial resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, as well as regional, subregional and interregional cooperation, in order to provide predictable means for all developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its forms and dimensions;

33. *Stresses* that the achievement of sustainable development and the eradication of poverty also hinge on the ability and readiness of countries to effectively mobilize domestic resources, attract foreign direct investment, fulfil official development assistance commitments and use official development assistance effectively, and facilitate the transfer of technology, on mutually agreed terms, to developing countries, and also stresses that the resolution of unsustainable debt situations is critical for heavily indebted poor countries, while remittances, the transaction costs for which should be reduced, have become a significant source of income and finance for receiving economies and their contribution to the achievement of sustainable development;

34. *Welcomes* the increasing efforts to improve the quality of official development assistance and to increase its development impact, recognizes the Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council, notes other initiatives, such as the high-level forums on aid effectiveness, which produced, inter alia, the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the Accra Agenda for Action<sup>490</sup> and the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, which make important contributions to the efforts of the countries that have made commitments to them, including through the implementation of their fundamental principles, and bears in mind that there is no one-size-fits-all formula that will guarantee effective assistance and that the specific situation of each country needs to be fully considered;

35. *Recognizes* that domestic resource mobilization, underscored by the principle of national ownership and supplemented by international assistance, as appropriate, will be critical to realizing sustainable development and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;

36. *Emphasizes* that international public finance plays an important role in complementing the efforts of countries to mobilize public resources domestically, especially in the poorest and most vulnerable countries with limited domestic resources;

37. *Reaffirms* its support for the reform of the international financial architecture, as well as international financial institution and multilateral development bank reform as a key for large-scale Sustainable Development Goal-related investments in order to better address global challenges, recognizes that the international financial architecture, including its business models and financing capacities, must be made more fit for purpose, equitable and responsive to the financing needs of developing countries, to broaden and strengthen the voice and participation of developing countries in international economic decision-making, norm-setting and global economic governance, and commits to engaging in inclusive inter-governmental discussions on the reform of international financial institutions in forthcoming processes, including at the United Nations, taking into account current and ongoing initiatives;

38. *Recognizes* that private business activity, entrepreneurship, investment and innovation are major drivers of productivity, inclusive economic growth and job creation and that private international capital flows, particularly foreign direct investment, along with a stable international financial system, are vital complements to national development efforts, also recognizes that more can be done to create competitive business and investment climates in support of sustainable development that are well placed to attract private sector investment and participation, and encourages an increase in the volume, quality, in particular its alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals, diversification and long-term nature of foreign direct investment to all developing countries;

39. *Notes* that an important use of international public finance, including official development assistance, is to catalyse additional resource mobilization from other sources, public and private, and through appropriately designed risk-sharing instruments, including co-investments, public-private partnerships and guarantees, and also

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<sup>490</sup> [A/63/539](#), annex.

notes that it can support improved tax collection, help to strengthen domestic enabling environments and build essential public services and can also be used to unlock additional finance through blended or pooled financing and risk mitigation, notably for infrastructure and other investments that support private sector development;

40. *Stresses* the importance of mobilizing greater domestic support towards the fulfilment of official development assistance commitments, including by raising public awareness, providing disaggregated data on aid effectiveness and demonstrating tangible results, encourages partner countries to build on progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance is used effectively to help to achieve development goals and targets, also encourages the publication of forward-looking plans that increase the clarity, predictability and transparency of future development cooperation, in accordance with national budget allocation processes, and urges countries to track and report resource allocations for advancing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;

41. *Calls upon* the international community to ensure that official development assistance and support for fiscal capacity are targeted and scaled up for developing countries, and to increase investment in digital, care, quality of decent jobs, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including in digitalization, data collection and trade routes, in order to eradicate extreme poverty and make sustained progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

42. *Welcomes* that, according to data from 2022, official development assistance increased by 4.6 per cent in real terms from 2021, but expresses concern that net bilateral official development assistance flows (country-to-country) to least developed countries decreased in real terms by 0.7 per cent in 2022 compared with 2021, and that official development assistance was, on average, 0.36 per cent of the aggregate donor gross national income, below the commitment of 0.7 per cent, reiterates that the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments remains crucial and that, for many least developed countries and landlocked developing countries, official development assistance remains the largest source of external financing, and therefore emphasizes the importance of the commitments made by many developed countries to achieve the national target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to the least developed countries, and urges developed countries to scale up and fulfil their official development assistance commitments;

43. *Encourages* all relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, to strengthen United Nations funding for the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, through voluntary contributions to existing poverty-related system-wide funds;

44. *Welcomes* the ongoing work by the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to support the implementation of the Third Decade, acknowledges the complexity of the challenge of poverty eradication, in this regard emphasizes the need to strengthen the leadership role of the United Nations in promoting international cooperation for development in accelerating poverty eradication and effectively implementing the Third Decade, and that the organizations of the United Nations development system must be driven by national priorities, including through the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, with the development of national capacities and development strategies in developing countries continuing to be a core area of focus, and operate in an integrated, coordinated and coherent manner, through development programmes and projects that address poverty eradication as their underlying objective, within their respective mandates, in order to ensure that gains are irreversible, making full use of the interlinked and mutually reinforcing pillars of the United Nations development system, and encourages the use of diverse strategies;

45. *Calls upon* the international community to give priority to addressing the impacts of natural disasters, climate change, conflicts and major outbreaks of disease, which are severely hampering efforts to achieve poverty eradication and reduce inequality, in particular in developing countries;

46. *Also calls upon* the international community to accelerate actions to end hunger, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition, and to ensure the realization of the right to adequate food for all, including through access to sufficient, safe and nutritious foods all year round, the promotion of sustainable and resilient agriculture and food systems, as well as safe, nutritious and healthy diets;

47. *Recognizes* the importance of addressing the diverse needs of and challenges faced by countries in special situations, in particular African countries, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as the specific challenges facing many middle-income countries and countries in conflict and post-conflict situations, and therefore requests the United Nations development system, the international

financial institutions, regional organizations and other stakeholders to ensure that these diverse and specific development needs are appropriately considered and addressed, in a tailored fashion, in their relevant strategies and policies, with a view to promoting a coherent and comprehensive approach towards individual countries;

48. *Welcomes* the thirty-first commemoration, on 17 October 2023, of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, invites all States, organizations of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations concerned and interested national organizations, including non-governmental organizations, to consider organizing activities for the thirty-second commemoration, in 2024, of the International Day, in order to raise public awareness of efforts to promote the eradication of poverty and extreme poverty in all countries, and in this regard recognizes the useful role that the observance of the International Day continues to play in raising public awareness and mobilizing all stakeholders in the fight against poverty and promoting the active participation of those living in extreme poverty in the design and implementation of programmes and policies that affect them, with the aim of achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

49. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session a report on the implementation of the Third Decade, including the progress made, gaps, as well as challenges faced in the eradication of poverty, in particular in developing countries and comprehensive action-oriented recommendations to accelerate progress towards eradication of poverty;

50. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “Eradication of poverty and other development issues”, the sub-item entitled “Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027)”, unless otherwise agreed.

#### RESOLUTION 78/165

Adopted at the 49th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 125 to 50, with 1 abstention,\* on the recommendation of the Committee ([A/78/464/Add.2](#), para. 7)<sup>491</sup>

\* *In favour:* 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, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

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

*Abstaining:* Türkiye

#### 78/165. Eradicating rural poverty to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions [73/244](#) of 20 December 2018, [74/237](#) of 19 December 2019, [75/232](#) of 21 December 2020, [76/219](#) of 17 December 2021 and [77/183](#) of 14 December 2022 entitled “Eradicating rural poverty to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”;

<sup>491</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by Cuba (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China).



*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 Agreement<sup>492</sup> 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 Change<sup>493</sup> that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

*Reaffirming* the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito, Ecuador, from 17 to 20 October 2016,<sup>494</sup>

*Bearing in mind* that the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations in 2020 and the fifth anniversary of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda presented an opportunity to reaffirm collective commitment to multilateralism, international cooperation and to the United Nations, and reaffirming the urgent need to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions,

*Recalling* its declaration, in its resolution [47/196](#) of 22 December 1992, of 17 October as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty,

*Recalling also* its resolution [72/233](#) of 20 December 2017, in which it considered that the theme of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027) should be “Accelerating global actions for a world without poverty”, and all other resolutions related to the eradication of poverty,

*Reaffirming* that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, which is disproportionately high in rural areas, is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, particularly in Africa, in the least developed countries, in landlocked developing countries, in small island developing States and in some middle-income countries, noting with concern that, as of 2023, approximately 691 million people still lived in extreme poverty and that the latest projections suggest that up to 89 million additional people were living in extreme poverty in 2022 because of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the precarious recovery, compounded by the continued global crisis of food, finance and challenge of energy access, and underlining the importance of accelerating sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth, recovery and sustainable development, including full, productive employment and decent work for all, with a view to reducing inequalities within and among countries,

*Noting with great concern* the severe negative impact on human health, safety and well-being caused by the 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 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,

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<sup>492</sup> Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.

<sup>493</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

<sup>494</sup> Resolution [71/256](#), annex.



quality, effective and affordable COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics is an essential part of a global response based on unity, solidarity, renewed multilateral cooperation and the principle of leaving no one behind,

*Noting* that the share of the rural poor in the total population of those living in poverty rose by more than 2 percentage points between 2015 and 2018, which highlights the setbacks and challenges in fighting rural poverty even before the pandemic and the need for accelerated action towards the eradication of poverty, and recognizing that addressing rural poverty is fundamental for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 1 of the 2030 Agenda, as well as most of the other Goals, with 70 per cent of the targets requiring action in rural areas,

*Emphasizing* that the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on sustainable development have increased the number of people living in poverty around the world and disrupted, inter alia, the normal functioning of open markets, global supply chain connectivity and the flow of essential goods, hindering the fight against poverty and adding urgency to the call to galvanize action and delivery for the eradication of poverty, in all its forms and dimensions, particularly in rural areas, where most of the extreme poor live, stressing that global inequities in access to COVID-19 vaccines, with the bulk of vaccines disproportionately available in high-income countries, in contrast with the low availability of COVID-19 vaccines in low-income countries, further put at risk the health of the rural poor, and in this regard welcoming the 2020, 2021 and 2022 Sustainable Development Goals Moments, placing an emphasis on poverty and inequality, on climate change and a healthy planet and on achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls,

*Taking note* of the efforts of the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session to launch the Alliance for Poverty Eradication, which is timely and meaningful and continues to serve as a platform for the exchange of ideas, policies and best practices on poverty eradication, and stressing the importance of addressing poverty, including rural poverty issues, in these forums, as the rural poor might be less prepared to deal with the effects of and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and multiple crises and could have less access to adequate sanitation, food and nutrition, water, health-care services, education, the Internet, information and communications technology, social protection, financial services and public infrastructure,

*Commending* the efforts and remarkable progress achieved by developing countries in eradicating rural poverty, while noting with concern that key gaps still remain, such as: a lack of adequate data; inadequate investment in agricultural and rural development; lower and inadequate human capital formation relevant for rural livelihoods; inadequate income sources, including scarce non-farm income-generating opportunities; a lack of productive capacity and agricultural transformation; persistent gender inequality; a lack of social protection; insufficient basic infrastructure and services; a lack of or poor adaptive capacity and resilience to cope with the adverse effects of climate change and disasters; and a lack of effective rural institutions and of sufficient resources,

*Recognizing* the leading role of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, together with other United Nations entities, including the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Development Programme, in the global efforts to reduce poverty, including rural poverty, while addressing other interlinked challenges such as eliminating hunger, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition, and increasing the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises,

*Noting with appreciation* the aspirations, embedded in Agenda 2063 of the African Union, to lift huge sections of the population out of poverty, improve incomes and catalyse economic and social transformation, and recognizing the importance of the international community's helping African countries to achieve such goals, especially in the rural areas of the African continent,

*Noting* that, while considerable progress has been made over the past decade across all areas of development, the pace of progress observed in recent years is insufficient and uneven to fully meet the Sustainable Development Goals and targets by 2030, especially in the area of rural poverty eradication,

*Recognizing* that poverty is a serious impediment to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including those living in rural areas, and that the feminization of poverty persists, emphasizing that the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, acknowledging the mutually reinforcing links between the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the eradication of poverty, and stressing the importance of support for countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions,

*Emphasizing* that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda depends crucially on the transformation of rural areas, where most of the poor and hungry live, and that, in order to eradicate rural poverty, investment should be encouraged

in those sectors that have a bigger impact, such as education and health, including school feeding programmes, social protection, agriculture and infrastructure, while noting the financing gap between resources dedicated to the education sector and the amount necessary to reach Sustainable Development Goal 4, while the COVID-19 pandemic has provoked an unprecedented learning crisis, and that at least 80 billion dollars in annual investment will be needed to meet the demand for food that is projected to increase by 70 per cent by 2050, and that the investments that are needed for climate change mitigation and adaptation also remain underfunded,

*Recalling* the proclamation of 2019–2028 as the United Nations Decade of Family Farming, to raise the profile of the role of family farming<sup>495</sup> in contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and reaffirming the importance of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025) in the promotion of activities towards the eradication of rural poverty,

*Recognizing* the interlinkages and integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals, and reiterating that the eradication of rural poverty and hunger is crucial for the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda, and that rural development should be pursued through an integrated approach that encompasses economic, social and environmental dimensions, takes into account a gender perspective and consists of mutually reinforcing policies and programmes, and that should be balanced, targeted, situation-specific and locally owned, include local synergies and initiatives and be responsive to the needs of rural populations,

*Recalling* that more than 80 per cent of the extreme poor live in rural areas and work in agriculture and that the extreme poverty rate in rural areas is three times higher than in urban areas, and recognizing that devoting resources to the development of rural areas and sustainable agriculture and supporting smallholder farmers, especially women farmers, is key to ending poverty in all its forms and dimensions, by, inter alia, improving the welfare of farmers,

*Taking into consideration* the increasing number of young people who decide to leave rural areas for more urbanized ones and the challenges that this trend poses to the livelihood of rural families,

*Expressing its concern* that the extreme poor have limited access to productive resources, basic health, Internet and digital technologies, education and social protection services, basic infrastructure such as roads, water and electricity, and off-farm employment opportunities, and are susceptible to the impacts of natural hazards, especially weather-related hazards, including the El Niño phenomenon, and the adverse effects of climate change, and that rural women and girls fare far worse on most development indicators,

*Emphasizing* the importance of enhancing global support for national work on rural development policies and strategies, including on commodity production as well as increased public and private investments to upgrade productive capacity, and that tackling rural poverty requires integrated, cross-sectoral, multi-stakeholder and context-specific interventions, with a strong emphasis on sustainable food and agricultural systems for food security, and nutrition, economic growth, revitalization and development in rural areas,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General<sup>496</sup> and the recommendations contained therein;

2. *Reaffirms* that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, for all people everywhere, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, as well as an overarching objective of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>497</sup> of which the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development<sup>498</sup> is an integral part, supporting and complementing it;

3. *Expresses its deep concern* that the progress in reducing poverty remains uneven, with 1.1 billion people still living in multidimensional poverty, 84 per cent of whom live in rural areas, and that this number continues to be significant and unacceptably high, whereas the levels of inequality in income, wealth and opportunities remain high or are increasing in a number of countries, and the non-income dimensions of poverty and deprivation, such as access to inclusive and equitable quality education or basic health services, and relative poverty remain major concerns, and stresses the importance of national and global efforts to create the conditions for achieving sustainable development

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<sup>495</sup> Resolution 72/239.

<sup>496</sup> A/78/238.

<sup>497</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>498</sup> Resolution 69/313, annex.

in its three dimensions, economic, social and environmental, sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, shared prosperity and decent work for all in society, taking into account different levels of national development capacities;

4. *Recognizes* the importance of promoting socioeconomic development in rural areas as an effective strategy and important means at the global level for the eradication of poverty, including extreme poverty, and therefore underlines the importance of shaping a rural poverty eradication pattern with the concerted efforts of the whole of society to promote socioeconomic development in rural areas and create sound policy frameworks at the local, national, regional and international levels based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication action;

5. *Emphasizes* that economic growth continues to leave rural dwellers behind, that rural areas host a disproportionate share of people living in multidimensional poverty and that comparable data from 110 countries reveal that Africa and South Asia account for the highest number of multidimensionally poor people, and recommends that countries promote dedicated and coordinated social, economic, agricultural and rural development in their national policies, including by adopting rural-focused poverty eradication strategies in alignment with the 2030 Agenda, social policies aimed at improving human capital in rural areas and ensuring access to adequate social protection coverage, agricultural policies aimed at boosting agricultural productivity, and rural development policies aimed at improving access to rural infrastructure and basic services of high quality and at boosting non-farm employment opportunities;

6. *Recognizes* the critical role and contribution of rural women, including smallholders and women farmers, fishers, Indigenous women and their traditional knowledge and women in local communities, in enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security and nutrition and eradicating rural poverty, and therefore highlights the importance of promoting their economic empowerment, their full access to land ownership and decent work and economic opportunities and their participation in decision-making;

7. *Stresses* the importance of establishing and implementing targeted policies and measures to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, by formulating rural development strategies with clear poverty eradication goals, strengthening national statistical capacity and monitoring systems, including innovative use of telephone surveys and high-resolution data facilitated by remote sensing, and implementing nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, and taking concrete actions to prevent the return to poverty, especially when the past three years have witnessed a sharp setback in poverty reduction, with a view to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions, economic, social and environmental, and building the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations;

8. *Encourages* all countries and other relevant stakeholders to promote inclusive economic transformation in rural areas that increases productivity and contributes to bridging the present rural-urban divide while ensuring productive employment and decent work, access to reliable and appropriate social protection systems, inclusive and equitable quality education, health-care services, quality, resilient and sustainable infrastructure, roads and telecommunications, as well as preparedness planning for crises and early warning, reiterates that the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the important role of digital connectivity and access and the potential of e-commerce and e-learning solutions for poverty eradication, and thus calls upon all stakeholders to strengthen digital, information and communications technology, science, technology and innovation cooperation on mutually agreed terms, especially in the area of e-commerce, financial technology (fintech), affordable and reliable Internet connectivity and digital infrastructure investment and construction to keep food and agriculture supply chains functioning and achieve momentum under the 2030 Agenda for an inclusive, sustainable and resilient recovery for global development, putting people at the centre of the response, protecting our planet and achieving prosperity, with no one left behind, in line with the 2030 Agenda;

9. *Recognizes* that eradicating poverty in rural areas cannot be separated from the sustainable transformation and strengthening of food systems and that ensuring fair markets that enable the participation of smallholder and family farmers in food systems, particularly in value chains where small-scale producers have a comparative advantage, will continue to be important, in this regard takes note with appreciation of the United Nations Food Systems Summit, held in 2021, which recognized the transformative effects of sustainable food systems as a driver for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, underscores that promoting a universal, rules-based, open, transparent, predictable, inclusive, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization is essential for building sustainable, inclusive and resilient food systems, and thus

stresses the importance of keeping trade channels and markets open, equitable, transparent, non-discriminatory and predictable for the movement of food, fertilizer and other agricultural inputs and outputs and access to energy, and emphasizes the urgent need to combat protectionism in all its forms and to correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions that are inconsistent with World Trade Organization rules in world agricultural markets;

10. *Notes with great concern* that the poorest population spends a larger share of income on food, which means extreme food price volatility can have devastating impacts, and is a driver of increased poverty, particularly in rural areas;

11. *Calls upon* all countries to promote agricultural and rural development in their national policies and renew their efforts to promote innovative approaches, including agroecology, among other approaches, to enhance capacity for food production, distribution and storage, cooperate in the relevant areas of science, research, technology and innovation, as appropriate and consistent with national policies and frameworks, to strengthen sustainable agrifood systems that enhance food security and nutrition, including sustainable productivity growth, significantly reducing food loss and waste, and strengthen policies that support small-scale producers in engaging in agrifood system value chains;

12. *Recognizes* the importance of employment for pro-poor growth in rural areas, and encourages the United Nations system and development partners to assist countries, upon their request, in mainstreaming employment into investment policy and poverty reduction strategies, including those focused on rural area development, and fostering rapid agricultural productivity growth, especially in developing countries, by increasing investment in agricultural and related rural off-farm activities and strengthening capacity-building for agricultural producers;

13. *Also recognizes* the essential role of inclusive and sustainable industrial development, which can diversify income opportunities as part of a comprehensive strategy of structural economic transformation in eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, especially in rural areas, supporting inclusive, sustained and sustainable economic growth, and thus in contributing to achieving sustainable development in developing countries, and calls upon international industrial cooperation to advance inclusive and sustainable industrialization and innovation and help developing countries to improve industrial production capacity;

14. *Further recognizes* the need to design, implement and pursue gender-responsive economic and social policies aimed at, inter alia, eradicating poverty, including in rural areas, and combating the feminization of poverty, ensuring the full and equal participation of rural women in the development, implementation and follow-up of development policies and programmes and poverty eradication strategies, supporting increased rural employment and decent work and the redistribution of unpaid domestic and care work, and promoting the full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership of women at all levels and sectors of the rural economy and in diverse on-farm and off-farm economic activities, including sustainable agricultural and fisheries production;

15. *Encourages* Member States, international organizations, the private sector and other partners to develop programmes to foster the creation of decent work in rural areas and increase the investment in agricultural and related off-farm activities, especially for young people, including through economic diversification in rural areas, the promotion of sustainable agrifood systems and a balanced territorial approach, along a continuum that includes intermediate settlements and cities nested amid agricultural zones, with varying levels of agglomeration, as a key to reducing rural poverty and persistent inequalities between urban, peri-urban and rural areas;

16. *Emphasizes* that, globally, 1.4 billion people, primarily in rural areas in developing countries, do not have access to formal financial products and services, and encourages further efforts of the international community to offer affordable ways to access finance for the financially excluded in rural areas;

17. *Also emphasizes* the need to increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient rural infrastructure, especially in roads, water, sanitation, electricity and Internet connectivity, and to provide an inclusive and sustainable digital transformation;

18. *Expresses its commitment* to raising public awareness to promote the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, in all countries, to mobilizing the enthusiasm and creativity of all stakeholders, especially the rural residents living in extreme poverty, to fight against poverty, to promoting their active participation in the design and implementation of programmes and policies that affect them, and to providing quality education for the rural poor, with the aim of achieving the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals;

#### IV. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Second Committee

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19. *Reiterates* the need for enhanced and expanded access on mutually agreed terms by developing countries to appropriate technologies that are pro-poor and raise productivity, and underlines the need for measures to increase investment in agriculture, including modern technologies, as well as in natural resources management and capacity-building of developing countries;

20. *Stresses* that the achievement of sustainable development and the eradication of poverty also hinge on the ability and readiness of countries to effectively mobilize domestic resources, attract foreign direct investment, fulfil official development assistance commitments and use official development assistance effectively, and facilitate the transfer of technology to developing countries, on mutually agreed terms, and further stresses that the resolution of unsustainable debt situations is critical for heavily indebted poor countries, while remittances have become a significant source of income and finance for receiving economies and their contribution to the achievement of sustainable development;

21. *Recognizes* the importance of addressing the diverse needs of and challenges faced by countries in special situations, in particular African countries, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as the specific challenges facing many middle-income countries, and therefore requests the United Nations development system, the international financial institutions, regional organizations and other stakeholders to ensure that these diverse and specific development needs are appropriately considered and addressed, in a tailored fashion, in their relevant strategies and policies, with a view to promoting a coherent and comprehensive approach towards individual countries;

22. *Realizes* that bridging the digital divides will require strong commitment by all relevant stakeholders at the national and international levels, reiterates the importance of investing in infrastructure for greater access to affordable technological devices and services for rural populations, which includes leveraging technology-enabled financial services and financial technologies to promote financial inclusion, and encourages efforts by all relevant stakeholders, especially United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, in the spirit of win-win cooperation, to assist developing countries in overcoming the digital divides and promoting the use of information and communications technologies to foster economic and social development, particularly in rural areas, with the aim of building a shared future for humankind;

23. *Recognizes* the devastating impact of diseases on societies, and calls for measures by relevant United Nations bodies, in accordance with their respective mandates, and other stakeholders to make good use of their experience and advantages to further help developing countries with the aim of improving rural development planning, including poverty eradication and multisectoral development activities covering economic and social aspects, including a gender perspective;

24. *Reiterates* the urgent need to accelerate the pace of rural poverty eradication, and requests the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with the secretariat of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, as well as other relevant international organizations, to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session a report on the status of the implementation of and follow-up to the present resolution in order to identify the progress achieved, gaps and challenges faced in rural poverty eradication, especially in developing countries, as well as the means of implementation to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and address its impacts, and to list rural poverty eradication as a priority for an annual Sustainable Development Goals Moment to highlight inspiring action on the Goals, in the context of the general debate of the Assembly;

25. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “Eradication of poverty and other development issues”, the sub-item entitled “Eradicating rural poverty to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

#### RESOLUTION 78/166

Adopted at the 49th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/465/Add.1, para. 7)<sup>499</sup>

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<sup>499</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee.

**78/166. Operational activities for development of the United Nations system**

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* its resolution [75/233](#) of 21 December 2020 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, including its general guidelines,

*Reaffirming also* its resolution [72/279](#) of 31 May 2018 on the repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system and its resolutions [73/248](#) of 20 December 2018, [74/238](#) of 19 December 2019, [76/220](#) of 17 December 2021 and [77/184](#) of 14 December 2022 on operational activities for development of the United Nations system, as well as its resolution [76/4](#) of 28 October 2021 on the review of the functioning of the reinvigorated resident coordinator system, including its funding arrangement,

*Reaffirming further* 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* 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 also* the Paris Agreement,<sup>500</sup> and encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change<sup>501</sup> that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

*Reaffirming further* the importance of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities, through which the General Assembly establishes key system-wide strategic policy orientations and operational modalities for the development cooperation and country-level modalities of the United Nations development system,

*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,

*Recognizing* the essential role of the United Nations as the body that can effectively bring together a global response to control and contain the spread of COVID-19 and address the critical interlinkages between health, trade, finance and economic and social development, and acknowledging that the disease continues to negatively impact endeavours aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030,

*Noting with concern* that climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic, geopolitical tensions and ongoing conflicts and their respective negative impacts are creating additional challenges relating to eradication of poverty, food

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<sup>500</sup> Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.

<sup>501</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

security, energy security and cost of living, and that developing countries are disproportionately affected by these challenges,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution [75/233](#) on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, 2023;<sup>502</sup>

2. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the Secretary-General on the repositioning of the United Nations development system and the reinvigorated resident coordinator system, and acknowledges the progress achieved thus far in advancing all reform mandates contained in General Assembly resolutions [71/243](#) of 21 December 2016, [72/279](#), [75/233](#) and [76/4](#) and continues to call for their full implementation;

3. *Recalls and reiterates* the requests made in Economic and Social Council resolution [2023/31](#) of 26 July 2023 on progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution [75/233](#) on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, as well as those previously made in Council resolutions [2019/15](#) of 8 July 2019, [2020/23](#) of 22 July 2020 and [2022/25](#) of 22 July 2022 on progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution [71/243](#) on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and calls for their full implementation;

4. *Reaffirms* the commitment at the very heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>503</sup> to leave no one behind, commit to taking more tangible steps to support people in vulnerable situations and the most vulnerable countries and to reach the furthest behind first, and calls upon the entities of the United Nations development system, within their respective mandates and resources, to assist States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

5. *Welcomes* the progress made in the establishment of United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, reaffirms that they are the most important instrument for the planning and implementation of United Nations development activities in each programme country in support of their implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in this regard calls on all entities of the United Nations development system to cooperate and collaborate with and work under the leadership and guidance of the resident coordinators, in accordance with resolution [75/233](#), to ensure a coordinated and integrated approach to the development and implementation of the Cooperation Frameworks, and further calls on the entities of the United Nations development system to align their development activities for their respective country programmes with the agreed priorities of the Cooperation Frameworks, to facilitate a stronger and more coordinated, efficient, effective and accountable United Nations development system at the country level towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

6. *Recalls* the discussions and outcome of the recently concluded high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly (Sustainable Development Goals Summit),<sup>504</sup> which, *inter alia*, expressed concern that the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals is in peril and that urgent action is needed to accelerate progress;

7. *Notes* the critical role that the United Nations development system plays in facilitating countries' implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, and remains concerned about the funding challenges for the United Nations development system entities, the resident coordinator system, and development activities as a whole;

8. *Takes note* of the intergovernmental consultative process on the funding compact, launched by the Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group, and looks forward to its outcome, which will be presented to the Economic and Social Council for consideration at its 2024 operational activities for development segment;

9. *Also takes note* of the intergovernmental consultative process on the resident coordinator system funding model launched by the Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group, and looks forward to its outcome, which will inform the dedicated report of the Secretary-General;

10. *Notes* the forthcoming quadrennial comprehensive policy review in 2024, and in this regard calls upon the Secretary-General to provide, within existing resources, beginning in June 2024, status reporting, including

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<sup>502</sup> [A/78/72-E/2023/59](#) and [A/78/72/Add.1-E/2023/59/Add.1](#).

<sup>503</sup> Resolution [70/1](#).

<sup>504</sup> Resolution [78/1](#).



through briefing notes, informal briefings, and case studies with emphasis on development results, on the implementation of all provisions and mandates contained in General Assembly resolution [75/233](#), including integrating and mainstreaming provisions and mandates, such as those outlined in the quadrennial comprehensive policy review monitoring framework and those on the acceleration of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, in advance of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review negotiations, and following open and inclusive informal consultation with Member States to be held by 1 February 2024, and underscores that these efforts should provide information on possible gaps and challenges to be considered by Member States, with a view to optimizing their engagement with and provide guidance to the United Nations development system;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to present a comprehensive, evidence-based and analytical report to the Economic and Social Council covering all provisions and progress made, lessons learned and challenges in the implementation of the mandates contained in General Assembly resolution [75/233](#), as part of his annual reporting to the Council at the operational activities for development segment during its 2024 session, and to inform the next cycle of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, to be launched in 2024;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “Operational activities for development”, the sub-item entitled “Operational activities for development of the United Nations system”.

#### RESOLUTION 78/167

Adopted at the 49th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee ([A/78/465/Add.2](#), para. 7)<sup>505</sup>

##### 78/167. South-South cooperation

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* its resolution [73/291](#) of 15 April 1919, in which it endorsed the Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation,

*Reaffirming also* its resolution [64/222](#) of 21 December 2009, in which it endorsed the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation,

*Reaffirming further* its resolution [33/134](#) of 19 December 1978, in which it endorsed the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries,<sup>506</sup>

*Recalling* its resolutions [57/270 B](#) of 23 June 2003, [60/212](#) of 22 December 2005, [62/209](#) of 19 December 2007, [63/233](#) of 19 December 2008, [64/1](#) of 6 October 2009, [66/219](#) of 22 December 2011, [67/227](#) of 21 December 2012, [68/230](#) of 20 December 2013, [69/239](#) of 19 December 2014, [70/222](#) of 22 December 2015, [71/244](#) of 21 December 2016, [72/237](#) of 20 December 2017, [73/249](#) of 20 December 2018, [74/239](#) of 19 December 2019, [75/234](#) of 21 December 2020, [76/221](#) of 17 December 2021 and [77/185](#) of 14 December 2022,

*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

<sup>505</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee.

<sup>506</sup> *Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August–12 September 1978* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.

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 Agreement<sup>507</sup> 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 Change<sup>508</sup> that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

*Reaffirming* that South-South cooperation is an important element of international cooperation for development, and is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation, and commending the contributions of all stakeholders of South-South and triangular cooperation, based on unity, solidarity and renewed multilateral cooperation to support developing countries in the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic response and recovery, in line with national development priorities and the principles of South-South cooperation as outlined in resolution [73/291](#),

*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,

*Encouraging* the continuation and advancement of South-South and triangular cooperation on efforts for COVID-19 response and recovery from the socioeconomic effects of the pandemic and other multiple crises in the pursuit of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, and calling for continued support from the relevant United Nations development system entities in that regard, particularly in the areas of poverty eradication and food security, as well as reducing inequalities, and promoting resilience, including through the establishment of vaccine production facilities in developing countries and strengthening of health systems and economic diversification in developing countries,

*Recognizing* that an unprecedented level of regional and global solidarity is required to overcome the multiple impacts of the pandemic on developing countries, in particular least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States and taking into account the specific challenges facing middle-income countries, and to prepare for and prevent future health emergencies,

*Recognizing also* that climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing geopolitical tensions and conflicts and their respective negative impacts are creating additional challenges relating to the eradication of poverty, food security, energy security and the cost of living, and that developing countries are disproportionately affected by these challenges,

*Welcoming* the convening of the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and taking note of the adoption of its outcome document, the Bridgetown Covenant,<sup>509</sup> and looking forward to the continued work of the Conference on issues related to South-South cooperation, triangular cooperation and regional cooperation, including by promoting dialogue between economic integration structures with a view to enhancing mutual trade and exchanging best practices and experiences, towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Welcoming also* the ongoing efforts to enhance South-South and triangular cooperation in the area of trade under the Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries as a vehicle to support economic resilience and

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<sup>507</sup> Adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21, annex.

<sup>508</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

<sup>509</sup> [TD/541/Add.2](#).

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promote sustainable development, and looking forward to the continued work of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to support this endeavour,

*Welcoming further* the development of an initial voluntary conceptual framework for the measurement of South-South cooperation, which marks a breakthrough in its measurement on the basis of country-led mechanisms and helps shed light on the importance of South-South cooperation towards achieving the 2030 Agenda,

*Recalling* that triangular cooperation complements and adds value to South-South cooperation by enabling requesting developing countries to source and access more, and a broader range of, resources, expertise and capacities, that they identify as needed in order to achieve their national development goals and internationally agreed sustainable development goals,

*Reaffirming* the mandate and the central role of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation as the focal point for promoting and facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation for development on a global and United Nations system-wide basis, and noting with appreciation the actions taken by the Office in strengthening the United Nations system-wide coordination on South-South and triangular cooperation through the convening of the United Nations Inter-Agency Mechanism for South-South and Triangular Cooperation, which has served as a channel to facilitate the mainstreaming of South-South and triangular cooperation into the corporate strategies and operational activities of United Nations entities, as well as noting the development of a handbook on integrating South-South and triangular cooperation in the voluntary national reviews in collaboration with the Co-Chairs of the Group of Friends of the Voluntary National Reviews, Morocco and the Philippines,

*Reiterating* the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, and the wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

1. *Recalls* the convening of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation in Buenos Aires from 20 to 22 March 2019 and its outcome document,<sup>510</sup> and calls upon the international community to support the full implementation of the outcome document of the second High-level Conference;

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation;<sup>511</sup>

3. *Reaffirms its support* for the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, recalls its decisions 21/1 and 21/2 adopted during its twenty-first session, held from 30 May to 2 June 2023, and calls for the full implementation of the outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation;

4. *Encourages* the continuation and advancement of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation on efforts for COVID-19 response and recovery from the socioeconomic effects of the pandemic and other multiple crises in the pursuit of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>512</sup> and its Sustainable Development Goals, and calls for continued support from the relevant United Nations development system entities in that regard, particularly in areas such as equitable and non-discriminatory access to safe, quality, effective and affordable health care and services and medical supplies and equipment, including diagnostics, therapeutics, medicine and vaccines, as well as digitalization, the environment, climate change, social protection and the eradication of poverty;

5. *Welcomes* the support of development partners for triangular cooperation towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the global South, and urges developed countries to continue providing financial, scientific and technological assistance to developing countries, to close the digital divides and to better harness science, technology and innovation to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030;

6. *Urges* Member States and United Nations entities to strengthen South-South and triangular cooperation on access to science, technology and innovation by creating synergies, developing expertise and boosting resources in different regions and institutions, and in this regard notes with appreciation the convening of the Summit on Science,

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<sup>510</sup> Resolution 73/291, annex.

<sup>511</sup> A/78/290.

<sup>512</sup> Resolution 70/1.

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Technology and Innovation by the Group of 77 and China, in Havana on 15 and 16 September 2023, as an effort to boost cooperation in this field to increase its benefit to all people;

7. *Encourages* Member States and all relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, to establish or strengthen coordinated mechanisms at the subnational, national, regional and global levels to leverage the expertise and other resources of multi-stakeholder partnerships to support South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation initiatives towards the attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, while acknowledging that governments have the principal role of coordinating and leading development efforts;

8. *Welcomes* the convening of the ministerial meeting on South-South cooperation held in 2023 during the second part of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, in Doha, on leveraging South-South and triangular cooperation for the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals;

9. *Takes note* of the various experiences and locally driven development approaches to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and reiterates the importance of learning and sharing good practices, including through South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation through platforms such as South-South Galaxy, the Global South-South Development Expo, regional sustainable development forums and other knowledge-sharing platforms supported by the different entities of the United Nations system;

10. *Welcomes* the organization of the eleventh Global South-South Development Expo in Bangkok from 12 to 14 September 2022, under the theme “Advancing South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable COVID-19 recovery: towards a smart and resilient future”;

11. *Looks forward* to the Third South Summit, to be held in Kampala from 21 to 23 January 2024;

12. *Also looks forward* to the convening of the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, in Antigua and Barbuda from 27 to 30 May 2024, and the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, in Rwanda from 18 to 21 June 2024, both of which will, inter alia, provide the opportunity to the international community to scale its support to small island developing States and landlocked developing countries in their efforts to leverage South-South and triangular cooperation to achieve sustainable development;

13. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Secretary-General, including scaling up contributions to the United Nations trust fund for South-South cooperation and other relevant financing mechanisms to enable the United Nations development system to advance South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives championed by developing countries, with sufficient resources;

14. *Recognizes* the growing debt burden of developing countries, and also recognizes the role of the United Nations, within its mandates, to facilitate South-South exchanges of knowledge on debt to help countries of the South;

15. *Also recognizes* the need to enhance the provision and mobilization of adequate resources for enhancing South-South and triangular cooperation, and in this context invites all countries in a position to do so, in particular developed countries, to scale up the contributions, in support of such cooperation, to the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation and to the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation, in accordance with General Assembly resolution [57/263](#) of 20 December 2002, and to support other initiatives for all developing countries;

16. *Highlights* that 20 December 2023 will mark the fortieth anniversary of the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation, and acknowledges the Trust Fund’s effectiveness in providing catalytic support to South-South cooperation, underscoring the enduring partnership between the Group of 77 and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation;

17. *Encourages* United Nations entities to support developing countries in integrating development cooperation perspectives, including, in particular, South-South and triangular cooperation perspectives, into the preparation and presentation of the voluntary national review reports on sustainable development;

18. *Notes* that, within the context of the broader reforms of the United Nations development system, the United Nations system-wide strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation has the potential to enhance the role and impact of South-South and triangular cooperation through galvanizing the expertise of United Nations organizations to support South-South and triangular cooperation, and in this regard calls upon the United Nations development system, including United Nations entities, to continue mainstreaming South-South and triangular cooperation into the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, at the country level, as

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appropriate, as a means to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, commends the efforts of the different entities of the United Nations system and the regional commissions to promote South-South and triangular cooperation, takes note with appreciation of the work done by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, through inclusive mechanisms, in particular South-South cooperation initiatives established by developing countries, and calls upon it to work in collaboration with the United Nations system organizations and the regional commissions to mainstream South-South and triangular cooperation, including through regional collaborative frameworks for South-South and triangular cooperation;

19. *Calls upon* the United Nations development system entities to further integrate, as appropriate, South-South and triangular cooperation into their strategic frameworks and planning instruments, and urges them to allocate sufficient financial resources dedicated to supporting and facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation;

20. *Requests* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in its role as a custodian, to strengthen capacity-building on the initial voluntary conceptual framework for the measurement of South-South cooperation based on country-led mechanisms, recommends that the United Nations development system support the efforts of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in raising awareness and developing the capacity of national statistical offices and cooperation agencies to use this framework, and acknowledges the importance of exploring possible options for the measurement of triangular cooperation;

21. *Recognizes* the contribution of and the need to scale up and strengthen South-South and triangular cooperation as a complementary means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, including in achieving the overarching goal of the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions and the goals of, inter alia, ending hunger, reducing inequalities, within and among countries, as well as for the use, capacity-building and transfer of digital technologies, on mutually agreed terms, to accelerate the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals and close the digital divides;

22. *Also recognizes* the contribution of South-South and triangular cooperation in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in sustainable development, as well as in achieving the overarching goal of the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions;

23. *Further recognizes* the role of South-South and triangular cooperation in enhancing connectivity and digital transformation within and among developing countries, and in this regard invites the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and the United Nations system, in line with their respective mandates, to support efforts to develop and implement policies to bridge the digital divides and fast-track digital transformation to improve the delivery of public services in the South;

24. *Reaffirms* the commitment at the very heart of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind and commit to taking more tangible steps to support people in vulnerable situations and the most vulnerable countries and to reach the furthest behind first;

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session a comprehensive report on the state of South-South cooperation, including the implementation of the outcome document of the second High-level Conference;

26. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “Operational activities for development”, the sub-item entitled “South-South cooperation for development”.

#### RESOLUTION 78/168

Adopted at the 49th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/466/Add.1, para. 8)<sup>513</sup>

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<sup>513</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee.



**78/168. Agriculture development, food security and nutrition**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions [65/178](#) of 20 December 2010, [66/220](#) of 22 December 2011, [67/228](#) of 21 December 2012, [68/233](#) of 20 December 2013, [69/240](#) of 19 December 2014, [70/223](#) of 22 December 2015, [71/245](#) of 21 December 2016, [72/238](#) of 20 December 2017, [73/253](#) of 20 December 2018, [74/242](#) of 19 December 2019, [75/235](#) of 21 December 2020, [76/222](#) of 17 December 2021 and [77/186](#) of 22 December 2022,

*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 Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security,<sup>514</sup> particularly the Five Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security, and noting the Rome Declaration on Nutrition,<sup>515</sup> as well as the Framework for Action,<sup>516</sup> which provides a set of voluntary policy options and strategies for use by Governments, as appropriate, adopted at the Second International Conference on Nutrition, held in Rome from 19 to 21 November 2014,

*Recalling also* the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,<sup>517</sup> Agenda 21,<sup>518</sup> the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,<sup>519</sup> the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development<sup>520</sup> and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),<sup>521</sup> the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,<sup>522</sup> the 2005 World Summit Outcome,<sup>523</sup> the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,<sup>524</sup> the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries<sup>525</sup> for the decade 2022–2031, the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024<sup>526</sup> and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,<sup>527</sup>

<sup>514</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document WSFS 2009/2.

<sup>515</sup> World Health Organization, document EB136/8, annex I.

<sup>516</sup> *Ibid.*, annex II.

<sup>517</sup> *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.

<sup>518</sup> *Ibid.*, annex II.

<sup>519</sup> Resolution [S-19/2](#), annex.

<sup>520</sup> *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.

<sup>521</sup> *Ibid.*, resolution 2, annex.

<sup>522</sup> *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

<sup>523</sup> Resolution [60/1](#).

<sup>524</sup> Resolution [63/239](#), annex.

<sup>525</sup> Resolution [76/258](#), annex.

<sup>526</sup> Resolution [69/137](#), annex II.

<sup>527</sup> Resolution [69/15](#), annex.

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*Reaffirming* the Paris Agreement,<sup>528</sup> and encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change<sup>529</sup> that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

*Highlighting* the synergies between the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, and noting with concern the scientific findings contained in the contributions of Working Groups I, II and III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, entitled *Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis*, *Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability* and *Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change*, and the special reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change entitled *Global Warming of 1.5°C*, *The Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate* and *Climate Change and Land*,

*Welcoming* the convening of the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 6 to 20 November 2022, and looking forward to the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 30 November to 12 December 2023,

*Noting* the holding of the Climate Ambition Summit convened by the Secretary-General on 20 September 2023,

*Welcoming* the first part 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 the second part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, held in Montreal, Canada, from 7 to 19 December 2022, and its outcomes, including the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and urges their early, inclusive and effective implementation,

*Welcoming also* the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, held in Buenos Aires from 20 to 22 March 2019, and its outcome document,<sup>530</sup> and recognizing the important role that South-South and triangular cooperation play in fostering partnerships among developing countries that lead to the end of poverty and hunger and to the achievement of food security and improved nutrition, as well as the promotion of sustainable agriculture,

*Reaffirming* the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016,<sup>531</sup> welcoming the convening of the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly, held in Nairobi, from 5 to 9 June 2023, and reaffirming also the importance of promoting the integration of food security and the nutritional needs of urban residents, particularly the urban poor, in urban and territorial planning, in order to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition, as well as promoting the coordination of policies on sustainable food security and agriculture across urban, peri-urban and rural areas,

*Reaffirming also* the importance of supporting Agenda 2063 of the African Union, as well as its 10-year plan of action, as a strategic framework for ensuring a positive socioeconomic transformation in Africa within the next 50 years and its continental programme embedded in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the New Partnership for Africa's Development and regional initiatives, such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme,

*Recalling* the high-level meeting on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, held in New York on 20 September 2023, the high-level meeting on universal health coverage, held in New York on 21 September 2023, the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the fight against tuberculosis, held in New York on 22 September 2023, and its outcome,<sup>532</sup> the third high-level meeting of the Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, held in New York on 27 September 2018, and its political declaration,<sup>533</sup> the High-level Interactive Dialogue on Antimicrobial Resistance, held in New York on 29 April 2021, and the action plan on antimicrobial resistance 2021–2025 of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, as well as

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<sup>528</sup> Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.

<sup>529</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

<sup>530</sup> Resolution [73/291](#), annex.

<sup>531</sup> Resolution [71/256](#), annex.

<sup>532</sup> Resolution [78/5](#), annex.

<sup>533</sup> Resolution [73/2](#).



resolution 6/2019 of 28 June 2019 of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, on antimicrobial resistance,<sup>534</sup> noting the 2019 report of the ad hoc inter-agency coordination group on antimicrobial resistance, looking forward to the upcoming high-level meeting on antimicrobial resistance to be held at the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly, and recalling the operational definition of One Health agreed by the One Health High-level Expert Panel, supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the World Organization for Animal Health and the United Nations Environment Programme,

*Expressing deep concern* that reaching the midpoint of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the world is still far from achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2, that, at the current pace and scope of implementation, it is unlikely to promote the transformational change required and that many parts of the world will not be able to achieve the targets in a timely manner, and calling for additional efforts to support the transformational change needed,

*Expressing concern* that the multiple and complex causes of the food crises that occur in different regions of the world, affecting developing countries, especially net food importers, and their consequences for food security and nutrition require a comprehensive and coordinated response in the short, medium and long term by national Governments, civil society, academia, the private sector and the international community, reiterating that the root causes of food insecurity and malnutrition are poverty, growing inequality, inequity and lack of access to resources and income-earning opportunities, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the effects of climate change, biodiversity loss, and disasters, conflicts and geopolitical tensions, and remaining concerned that excessively volatile food prices can pose a serious challenge to the fight against poverty and hunger and to the efforts of developing countries to attain food security and improved nutrition and to achieve internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly those related to ending hunger and all forms of malnutrition, and the fulfilment of the right to adequate food,

*Recalling* the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030,<sup>535</sup> taking note of the Seoul Forest Declaration, adopted on 6 May 2022 at the fifteenth World Forestry Congress, which acknowledge that forests provide essential products and ecosystem services, such as timber, food, fuel, fodder, non-wood products and shelter, as well as soil and water conservation and clean air, that sustainable management of forests and trees outside forests is vital to the integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and that forests and sustainable forest management prevent land degradation and desertification and reduce the risks of floods, landslides and avalanches, droughts, dust and sand storms, wildfires and other disasters, and stressing in this regard the role of all types of forests, including boreal, temperate and tropical forests, in providing food security and nutrition,

*Recalling also* the forty-seventh, forty-eighth, forty-ninth and fiftieth sessions of the Committee on World Food Security, held in Rome from 8 to 11 February 2021, on 4 June 2021, from 11 to 14 October 2021 and from 10 to 13 October 2022, respectively, taking note of their main outcomes, and welcoming the adoption by the Committee of the voluntary guidelines on food systems and nutrition and of the policy recommendations on agroecological and other innovative approaches to sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition,

*Taking note* of the fifty-first session of the Committee on World Food Security, held in Rome from 23 to 27 October 2023, and the adoption of its final report and of its main outcomes,

*Recalling* the high-level special event on the theme “Time to act together: coordinating policy responses to the global food crisis”, co-convened by the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session and the Chair of the Committee on World Food Security on 18 July 2022,

*Taking note with appreciation* of the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit, convened by the Secretary-General on 23 and 24 September 2021, as well as its pre-Summit, held from 26 to 28 July 2021 in Rome, and noting the Chair’s Summary and Statement of Action on the United Nations Food Systems Summit, issued by the Secretary-General, taking note with appreciation also of the United Nations Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment, convened by the Secretary-General and hosted by the Government of Italy in Rome from 24 to 26 July 2023,

*Taking note* of the Matera Declaration on Food Security, Nutrition and Food Systems adopted by the Group of 20,

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<sup>534</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document C 2019/REP, appendix C.

<sup>535</sup> See resolution [71/285](#).

*Welcoming* resolution 7/2019 of 28 June 2019 of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, entitled “Further integration of sustainable agricultural approaches, including agroecology, in the future planning activities of FAO”,<sup>536</sup> and recognizing that agroecology is one approach, among others, to contribute to sustainably feeding a growing population,

*Taking note* of the launch of the Sustainable Food Systems Programme under the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns,<sup>537</sup> an inclusive initiative to accelerate the shift towards sustainable food systems,

*Encouraging* Member States to advance innovative pathways to achieve sustainable consumption and production, in line with United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 4/1 of 15 March 2019,<sup>538</sup>

*Recalling* the operationalization of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries, which is helping the least developed countries to strengthen their science, technology and innovation capacities and fostering the development of national and regional innovation ecosystems, as well as developing capacities for partnerships in science, technology and innovation collaboration with other countries worldwide,

*Noting with appreciation* the work undertaken by relevant international bodies and organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the World Food Programme, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children’s Fund, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the Joint Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations/International Atomic Energy Agency Centre of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture, on agricultural development and on achieving food security and improving nutrition and food safety,

*Recalling* its resolution 70/259 of 1 April 2016, in which it proclaimed the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025) and endorsed the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action adopted at the Second International Conference on Nutrition, and the call upon the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization to implement a work programme for 2016–2025, taking into account contributions from relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society and academia, using coordinating mechanisms such as UN-Nutrition<sup>539</sup> and inclusive multi-stakeholder platforms such as the Committee on World Food Security of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,

*Recalling also* its resolution 72/239 of 20 December 2017, in which it proclaimed 2019–2028 the United Nations Decade of Family Farming, which raises the profile of the role of family farming in contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to the achievement of food security and improved nutrition, and its resolution 73/284 of 1 March 2019, in which it proclaimed 2021–2030 as the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, which highlights the important role of ecosystem restoration, including of productive ecosystems, in achieving sustainable development,

*Taking note* of the realization of the first Global Forum of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019–2028) hosted virtually by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Fund for Agricultural Development from 19 to 22 September 2022, welcoming the respective commitments made by Governments to support family farming and implement the Decade through inclusive efforts, including the adoption by 12 Governments of national action plans for family farming, and recognizing that over 40 Governments are also developing their national action plans,<sup>540</sup>

*Reaffirming* that agriculture remains a fundamental and key sector for developing countries, provides the main source of income, particularly for smallholders, women farmers and family farming, and creates job opportunities both directly and indirectly, and noting the importance of working towards eliminating all forms of protectionism,

*Acknowledging* the importance of promoting sustainable farming and agriculture, which will contribute to sustainable food production systems and the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems and help to eradicate hunger

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<sup>536</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document C 2019/REP, appendix D.

<sup>537</sup> A/CONF.216/5, annex.

<sup>538</sup> UNEP/EA.4/Res.1.

<sup>539</sup> See <https://unnutrition.org/>.

<sup>540</sup> See A/78/233.

#### IV. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Second Committee

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and malnutrition, calling upon Member States to ensure that areas under agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry are managed sustainably, in particular through the sustainable use of biodiversity, including through a substantial increase of the application of biodiversity friendly practices, such as sustainable intensification, agroecological and other innovative approaches, contributing to the resilience and long-term efficiency and productivity of these production systems, and to food security, conserving and restoring biodiversity and maintaining nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services, and noting that the provision of adequate, predictable and easily accessible financial resources from all sources is required for that objective,

*Emphasizing* that water is critical for sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger, that water, energy, food security and nutrition are linked and that water is indispensable for human development, health and well-being,

*Welcoming* the holding of the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028, in New York from 22 to 24 March 2023,

*Welcoming also* the convening of the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development held in New York on 20 September 2023,

*Noting with concern* the findings of the first report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on the *State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*, of 2019, and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, and bearing in mind that the agriculture sector depends heavily on biodiversity and its components, as well as on the ecosystem functions and services which biodiversity underpins, and that these sectors also have an impact on biodiversity in various direct and indirect ways, as acknowledged in the Cancun Declaration on Mainstreaming the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity for Well-being,<sup>541</sup>

*Acknowledging* the work done by the Global Soil Partnership for the past decade to raise global and local awareness of the importance of sustainable soil management for global food security and the need for research and innovative technologies and approaches, and taking note of initiatives under the Global Soil Partnership, including the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management,

*Taking note* of the adoption of the Plan of Action 2020–2030 for the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity under the Convention on Biological Diversity, and encouraging parties, other governments and relevant organizations to support the implementation of, and capacity-building and development for, the Plan of Action,

*Reaffirming* the right of everyone to have access to safe, sufficient and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger, so as to be able to fully develop and maintain their physical and mental capacities, and underlining the need to make special efforts to meet nutritional needs, especially of women, children, older persons, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, persons with disabilities, as well as of those living in vulnerable situations,

*Recognizing* that infant and young child mortality can be reduced through the improved nutritional status of women of reproductive age, especially during pregnancy, and that exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life is optimal for child survival and nutrition and the promotion of health and cognitive development, as well as an important principle of healthy diets, including through continued breastfeeding until 2 years of age and beyond combined with appropriate nutritious complementary feeding, and highlighting that despite the steady progress made with regard to exclusive breastfeeding, with 47.7 per cent of infants under 6 months of age exclusively breastfed worldwide in 2021, immense efforts will be required to meet the global nutrition targets of the 2030 Agenda and that even this indicator requires accelerated progress,

*Taking note* of the publications entitled *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023: Urbanization, Agri-food Systems Transformation and Healthy Diets Across the Rural-Urban Continuum*, issued by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Food Programme and the World Health Organization, and *The Status of Women in Agri-food Systems*, issued by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and

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<sup>541</sup> United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/13/24.

*Undernourished and Overlooked: A Global Nutrition Crisis in Adolescent Girls and Women* issued by the United Nations Children's Fund,

*Taking note also* of the publication entitled *A Multi-Billion-Dollar Opportunity: Repurposing Agricultural Support to Transform Food Systems*, issued by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme,

*Remaining deeply concerned* that, according to the most recent estimates of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Food Programme and the World Health Organization, between 691 million and 783 million people faced hunger in 2022, considering the mid-range (about 735 million), 122 million more people faced hunger in 2022 than in 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic, and that global nutrition challenges are increasingly complex as multiple forms of malnutrition, including stunting, wasting, underweight, micronutrient deficiencies, overweight and obesity, may coexist within the same country or household, with more than 3.1 billion people in the world – or 42 per cent – unable to afford a healthy diet in 2021,<sup>542</sup>

*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,

*Recognizing* that the COVID-19 pandemic, its impacts and the extraordinary measures adopted to combat it have delivered one of the most devastating blows to global food security and nutrition in recent times, with a disproportionate impact on women and children, and deeply concerned about the assessment that almost 600 million people are projected to be chronically undernourished in 2030, pointing to the immense challenge of achieving the Sustainable Development Goal target to eradicate hunger,

*Recognizing also* that economic downturns, gender inequalities, conflicts, biodiversity loss, drought and the adverse effects of climate change, including more frequent and extreme weather events, are among the key factors contributing to a reversal in the long-term progress in fighting global hunger, making the prospect of ending hunger and all forms of malnutrition by 2030 more difficult,

*Noting* that increasing urbanization, with almost 7 in 10 people projected to live in cities by 2050, is driving changes in agrifood systems across the rural-urban continuum, that these changes represent both challenges and opportunities to ending hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition and ensuring that everyone has access to affordable healthy diets, and that moderate or severe food insecurity affected 33.3 per cent of adults living in rural areas in 2022 compared with 28.8 per cent in peri-urban areas and 26.0 per cent in urban areas,<sup>543</sup>

*Noting with concern* the rise of food and agricultural input prices, including fertilizer prices, and the shortages of food and fertilizers caused by supply chain disruptions, affecting crop yields and threatening future agricultural productivity and production, as well as the continued crisis in supply chains and the disruption to transport and shipping, contributing to a surge in shipping and transport costs, particularly affecting developing countries,

*Welcoming* the establishment of the Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance, chaired and convened by the Secretary-General,

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<sup>542</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Fund for Agricultural Development, United Nations Children's Fund, World Food Programme and World Health Organization, *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023: Urbanization, Agrifood Systems Transformation and Healthy Diets Across the Rural-Urban Continuum* (Rome, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2023).

<sup>543</sup> Ibid.

*Expressing its concern* about the growing number of obese adults in the world, with prevalence at 13.1 per cent in 2016, and that 37 million children under 5 years of age (5.6 per cent) were overweight in 2021,

*Expressing concern* that, according to the publication entitled *2023 Global Report on Food Crises: Joint Analysis for Better Decisions – Midyear Update*, about 238 million people face crisis-level food insecurity or worse and are in need of urgent assistance in 48 countries affected by, inter alia, conflict and exacerbated by climate-related events, environmental factors, including disasters caused by natural or human-made hazards such as locust infestation, and extreme food price volatility,

*Noting* that an increasing number of countries, in particular in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and the Pacific, are integrating food security and nutrition into their agriculture policies and investment plans and that, as a result, eradicating hunger, improving food security and ensuring adequate nutrition are being given greater prominence in regional development strategies, such as the African Union Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations food security and nutrition strategy, the Piura Declaration on Food Security, the Framework for Multi-Year Programme on Food Security and Climate Change and the Strategic Framework on Rural-Urban Development to Strengthen Food Security and Quality Growth, adopted by the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, the Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean 2025 Initiative, the Platform of Latin America and the Caribbean for Climate Action on Agriculture, the “25 by 2025” initiative of the Caribbean Community, which seeks to reduce the region’s food import bill by 25 per cent by 2025, the strategy on food security and nutrition of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, the Arab food security initiative, the initiative for the Adaptation of African Agriculture to Climate Change and the climate-smart agriculture strategy for the Central American Integration System region (2018–2030), all of which emphasized the importance of investing in agriculture, diversifying food production and diets and providing quality nutritional education to consumers, introducing labour-saving technologies in food production and processing, enhancing women’s access to income and strengthening capacity-building in improving food safety at all stages of the food chain, noting also the establishment of the Islamic Organization for Food Security, headquartered in Astana, and recalling the second Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition, held in Valparaíso, Chile, on 15 and 16 June 2023,

*Reiterating* the urgent need for action to enhance efforts to build resilience, especially for the most vulnerable, by investing in resilience of agrifood – systems, including disaster risk reduction, and to scale up anticipatory approaches, early warning and early action systems, forecasting, prevention-oriented responses and emergency preparedness and improve predictive and risk data analytics across sectors, reinforce systematic risk monitoring, early warning and preparedness capacities at the local, national, regional and global levels, strengthening adaptation strategies in close coordination with disaster risk management and enhancing joint risk assessments and risk management strategies, and to cut the impact and cost of disasters caused by natural or human-made hazards so as to address the adverse effects of climate change on food security, in particular for women, youth, older persons, Indigenous Peoples, local communities and persons with disabilities, as well as the other root causes of food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition,

*Expressing concern* that climate change disproportionately impacts people in vulnerable situations, especially women and children, and their livelihoods, ultimately putting hundreds of millions of people at risk, and that by 2050, the risk of hunger and child malnutrition could increase by up to 20 per cent owing to climate change,

*Reiterating* the importance of achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, as well as the recognition and protection of the rights of smallholders, particularly women, reiterating also the importance, inter alia, of supporting the empowerment of rural women, youth, small-scale farmers, family farmers and livestock farmers, fishers, fish workers, local communities, and Indigenous Peoples, as critical agents for enhancing agricultural and rural development, food security and nutrition, and acknowledging their fundamental contribution to the environmental sustainability and the genetic preservation of agricultural systems and to sustaining productivity on often marginal lands,

*Recognizing* that livestock contributes 40 per cent of the global value of agricultural output and supports the livelihoods and food security of almost 1.3 billion people, and in this regard acknowledging that the sector offers opportunities for agricultural development, poverty eradication and food security gains, and offers an opportunity for raising climate awareness,

*Recognizing also* that fisheries and aquaculture support the livelihoods of approximately 600 million people and the food security of 3.3 billion people globally, and in this regard acknowledging that the sector offers opportunities for poverty eradication while improving maternal health and the nutrition and cognitive development of children,

*Acknowledging* that social protection programmes and measures are effective in reducing poverty and hunger by, inter alia, reducing child labour in agriculture, facilitating rural-urban linkages to develop alternative sources of income for agricultural workers, enabling the retirement of older persons working in agriculture, improving natural resource management, facilitating access to climate adaptation practices in agriculture, reducing food loss and waste and making safe and nutritious food, as well as healthy diets, more affordable to those in vulnerable situations,

*Noting* the importance of initiatives under the United Nations system, including the observance of World Pulses Day, World Tuna Day, Sustainable Gastronomy Day, World Bee Day, World Food Safety Day, World Soil Day, World Seagrass Day, the International Year of Camelids, the International Day and Year of Plant Health, the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables, the International Year of Millets, International Tea Day, International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste, the International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development, 2022, the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028, the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019–2028) and the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030), aimed at increasing public awareness of relevant agriculture, food security and nutritional benefits, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 53/199 of 15 December 1998 and 61/185 of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries,

*Recognizing* the need to increase responsible public and private investments and partnerships in the agriculture sector, inter alia, to find inclusive solutions to and fight hunger and all forms of malnutrition and to promote rural and urban sustainable development,

*Recalling* the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and its guiding principles,<sup>544</sup> recalling also its promotion of regular disaster risk preparedness, prevention, response and recovery exercises, at the national and local levels, with a view to ensuring rapid and effective response to disasters and related displacement, including access to essential food and non-food relief supplies, as appropriate to local needs, and taking note of the political declaration of the high-level meeting on the midterm review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, adopted on 18 May 2023,<sup>545</sup>

*Noting* the urgent need to address the issue of food loss and waste at all stages of the food supply chain, including through collaboration with relevant stakeholders and that, in 2020, the proportion of food lost globally after harvest at the farm, transport, storage, wholesale and processing levels was estimated at 13.3 per cent, and that the proportion of food wasted at the household, food service and retail levels was estimated at 17 per cent in 2019, while it is estimated that between 691 million and 783 million people in the world faced hunger in 2022, among children under 5 years of age, an estimated 148.1 million (22.3 per cent) were stunted and 45 million (6.8 per cent) were wasted,

*Recalling* that the Sustainable Development Goals and targets are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development, economic, social and environmental, and acknowledging that reaching Goal 2 and the interlinked targets of other Goals will be critical, inter alia, in ending hunger and all forms of malnutrition,

*Reiterating* the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, and the wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>546</sup>

2. *Urges* Member States and all relevant stakeholders to advance collective actions to address the multiple and widespread impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, conflicts, climate change and biodiversity loss on agriculture development, food security and nutrition, to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;<sup>547</sup>

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<sup>544</sup> Resolution 69/283, annex II.

<sup>545</sup> Resolution 77/289, annex.

<sup>546</sup> A/78/218.

<sup>547</sup> Resolution 70/1.

3. *Welcomes* the political declaration adopted by the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly (Sustainable Development Goals Summit),<sup>548</sup> held in New York on 18 and 19 September 2023, and urges timely action to ensure its full implementation;

4. *Calls for* the implementation of the respective voluntary commitments of the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit, takes note of the operationalization of the United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub, hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on behalf of the United Nations system, and looks forward to the 2025 Stocktaking Moment of the United Nations Food Systems Summit;

5. *Emphasizes* the importance of international cooperation, multilateralism and solidarity in the global response to support the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, including towards achieving universal health coverage, social protection, technological transfer on mutually agreed terms, capacity-building and financial support for sustainable agricultural development in developing countries as an important tool for achieving food security and nutrition for all;

6. *Recalls* its resolution 76/264 of 23 May 2022 on the state of global food insecurity, and reiterates its call to the international community to urgently support countries affected by the food security crisis through coordinated actions, including the provision of emergency food supplies, food programmes, financial support, and increased and diversified agricultural production, and to promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable, multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization;

7. *Calls upon* the international financial institutions to find urgent, affordable and timely solutions to support developing countries, in particular those highly indebted, in responding to the food security crisis, through, but not limited to, facilitating, as appropriate, access to debt relief, concessional finance and grants, and takes note with appreciation of the temporary Food Shock Window of the International Monetary Fund;

8. *Emphasizes* that sustainable agricultural production, food security, nutrition and food safety are key elements for the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, and calls for greater efforts to sustainably enhance the agricultural production capacities, productivity and food security of developing countries;

9. *Expresses concern* that the world is not on track to eradicate hunger and all forms of malnutrition by 2030 and that scarce and unsustainably managed natural resources, combined with insecure and uneven tenure rights for smallholders, are severely affecting those in vulnerable situations in rural areas, that the adverse effects of climate change, including persistent and recurring drought, floods, extreme weather events, land degradation, coastal erosion, ocean acidification, the retreat of mountain glaciers, sea level rise, desertification and biodiversity loss, as well as conflict and post-conflict situations, are challenges with regard to food security and nutrition and diet-related non-communicable diseases in many places, preventing progress in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and that countries in protracted crises are at risk of being left behind;

10. *Stresses* that urgent and concerted action is needed at all levels to recover momentum and accelerate efforts to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition, comprehensively tackling both its causes and effects, and to promote improved nutrition, healthy diets and more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems;

11. *Reiterates* the importance of developing countries determining their own food security strategies, that improving food security and nutrition is a global challenge and a national policy responsibility and that any plans for addressing this challenge in the context of eradicating poverty must be nationally articulated, designed, owned, led and built in consultation, as an inclusive process, with all key stakeholders at the national level as appropriate, and urges Member States, especially those affected, to make food security, nutrition and food safety a high priority and to reflect this in their national programmes and budgets;

12. *Underscores* the need to safeguard food security and nutrition for all, including women, children, youth, older persons, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, persons with disabilities and those living in vulnerable situations, inter alia, by promoting economic and social policies to counteract the adverse impact of economic slowdowns and downturns on efforts to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition;

13. *Calls upon* the international community to continue its support for the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme and its results framework, which is an integral

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<sup>548</sup> Resolution 78/1.



component of the Programme that provides guidance on planning and implementing investment programmes, and in this regard welcomes the establishment of the 1.5 billion United States dollar African Emergency Food Production Facility by the African Development Bank to boost food security, nutrition and resilience on the continent;

14. *Encourages* Member States, in designing their national policies, to fully take into account the Rome Declaration on Nutrition as well as the Framework for Action, which provides a set of voluntary policy options and strategies for the use of Governments, as appropriate;

15. *Urges* increased political commitment by Member States to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition, reiterates the importance of the Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025)<sup>549</sup> and its call for, inter alia, the scaling up of implementation of national commitments and increasing investments for nutrition, notes in this regard the Scaling Up Nutrition movement, and encourages Member States to engage in the movement at the global and country levels to reduce the increasing level of global hunger and all forms of malnutrition, in particular among children, especially children under 2 years of age, women, especially those who are pregnant and lactating, and youth;

16. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen their efforts to integrate nutrition objectives across all sectors and to track investments on nutrition, including through the use of available tools and markers, takes note of the ongoing World Health Organization process to review the universal health coverage index, and reiterates the importance of considering the inclusion of a nutrition tracer indicator;

17. *Underscores* the need to address child stunting, which remains unacceptably high, with nearly 148.1 million children under 5 years of age, or 22 per cent, affected by stunting in 2022, as well as child wasting, with at least 45 million children under 5 years of age suffering from wasting in 2022;

18. *Encourages* Member States to increase investment in the development, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of laws, policies and programmes aimed at the protection and promotion of, including education on and support for, breastfeeding, including through multisectoral approaches and awareness-raising, and the facilitation of breastfeeding for working mothers;

19. *Takes note* of the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit, convened by the Government of Japan on 7 and 8 December 2021, and the Tokyo Compact on Global Nutrition for Growth, which includes 396 new commitments made by 181 stakeholders to tackle malnutrition in all its forms, and looks forward to the Nutrition for Growth Summit, to be convened by the Government of France in 2024;

20. *Emphasizes* the six global nutrition targets set by the World Health Assembly to address global malnutrition by 2025 and the related monitoring framework;

21. *Stresses* the need to increase sustainable agricultural production and productivity globally, noting the diversity of agricultural conditions and systems, including by improving and aiming to ensure the functioning of markets and trading systems and strengthening international cooperation, particularly for developing countries, and by increasing responsible public and private investments and partnerships in sustainable agriculture, including through innovative approaches, land and natural resource management and rural development, as well as collaboration in science, technology and innovation, and notes that the benefit of such public and private investment and engagement should also reach, where appropriate, local smallholders in appropriate knowledge management systems and communications systems with regard to promoting food security, improving nutrition and reducing inequality;

22. *Recognizes* the need to increase the resilience, productivity and sustainability of food and agricultural production with regard to climate change in the context of the rising demand for crops and food, bearing in mind the importance of safeguarding food security and nutrition, ending hunger and the particular vulnerabilities of food production systems to the adverse impacts of climate change, including drought and water scarcity, floods, biodiversity loss, and sand and dust storms, and calls for increased efforts at all levels, including the provision of adequate development finance to support climate-sensitive agricultural practices, including, but not limited to, sustainable soil management, agroforestry, agroecology, conservation agriculture, water management schemes, drought and flood-resistant seeds, sustainable intensification and sustainable livestock management, and to establish and strengthen interfaces between scientists, decision makers, entrepreneurs and funders of science, technology and innovation, as well as measures to strengthen the resilience of those in vulnerable situations and of agrifood systems,

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<sup>549</sup> Resolution [70/259](#).

which can also have a wider positive impact, emphasizing adaptation to climate change as a major concern and objective for all farmers and food producers, especially small-scale producers;

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

24. *Calls for* the strengthening of agrifood systems and the promotion of sustainable practices in agriculture and soil management that are evidence-based to improve adaptation strategies and resilience to climate change, including through ecosystem services, biodiversity preservation and sustainable use, and also calls for poverty, hunger, food security and nutrition objectives to be incorporated into national climate change adaptation and mitigation plans;

25. *Recognizes* the critical role of the private sector in support of more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems and the positive contribution and improved quality of multi-stakeholder partnerships as a means to engage all key actors, and stresses the need for further efforts to strengthen strategic partnerships with the private sector;

26. *Reaffirms* the need to promote, enhance and support sustainable agriculture, including crops, forestry, fisheries, livestock and aquaculture, that improves food security, eradicates hunger, helps to prevent malnutrition and is economically viable, while conserving and sustainably using land, water, plant and animal genetic resources, biodiversity and ecosystems and enhancing resilience to climate change and disasters caused by natural or human-made hazards, and recognizes the need to maintain natural ecological processes that support sustainable and efficient agrifood systems and ensure food security and nutrition, underlines the importance of mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture, and takes note of the importance of the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems and the Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform promoted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

27. *Calls for* increased ambition and urgency of action to protect working animals and to strengthen global efforts to ensure that animal health and welfare can contribute to addressing challenges and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, in line with United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/1 of 2 March 2022, entitled “Animal welfare-environment-sustainable development nexus”,<sup>550</sup> and emphasizes the importance of the One Health approach and other holistic approaches that deliver multiple benefits to the health and well-being of people, animals, plants and ecosystems;

28. *Recognizes* the importance of the mechanization of agriculture to sustainable agricultural systems, including economic, social and environmental resilience, and therefore the delivery of the 2030 Agenda;

29. *Expresses concern* about antimicrobial resistance, including in the agriculture sector, and in this regard encourages the implementation of the action plan on antimicrobial resistance 2021–2025 of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, which supports the food and agriculture sectors in implementing the global action plan on antimicrobial resistance<sup>551</sup> developed by the World Health Organization in collaboration with, and subsequently adopted by, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Organization for Animal Health, in order to minimize the impact of antimicrobial resistance;

30. *Recognizes* that more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems have a fundamental role to play in promoting healthy diets and improving nutrition and preventing and controlling non-communicable diseases, and welcomes the formulation and implementation of national policies aimed at eradicating malnutrition in all its forms and transforming agrifood systems so as to make nutritious diets, including traditional healthy diets, available to all, while reaffirming that health, water and sanitation systems must be strengthened simultaneously to end malnutrition;

31. *Calls for* closing the gender gap in access to productive resources in agriculture, noting with concern that the gender gap persists with respect to many assets, inputs and services, as well as capacity-building, and stresses the need to invest in and strengthen efforts to support the empowerment of all women and girls, in particular rural women, to address their own food and nutritional needs and those of their families, to promote adequate standards of living

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<sup>550</sup> [UNEP/EA.5/Res.1](#).

<sup>551</sup> World Health Organization, document WHA68/2015/REC/1, annex 3.

for them, as well as decent work and decent pay, and to guarantee their personal health, well-being and security, full access to land and natural resources and access to affordable, low-cost, long-term loans and to local, regional and global markets, taking into account that the prevalence of food insecurity puts the health and lives of women and children at risk;

32. *Recognizes* the critical role and contribution of rural women, including smallholders and women farmers, and Indigenous women and women in local communities, and their traditional knowledge in enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security and eradicating rural poverty, and in this regard acknowledges that increasing women's empowerment has a positive impact on agricultural production, food security, diets and nutrition, in particular, child nutrition, and stresses the importance of reviewing agricultural policies and strategies to ensure that the critical role of women in food security and nutrition is recognized and addressed as an integral part of both short- and long-term responses to food insecurity, malnutrition, potential excessive price volatility and food crises in developing countries, as well as of the recognition and protection of the land rights of smallholders, in particular women;

33. *Reaffirms* the crucial role of healthy marine ecosystems, sustainable fisheries and sustainable aquaculture in enhancing food security and access to safe, sufficient and nutritious food and in providing for the livelihoods of millions of people, particularly those in small island developing States, and in this regard encourages the full implementation of the Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island Developing States, which was launched on 4 July 2017;

34. *Encourages and recognizes* the efforts at all levels to establish and strengthen social protection measures and programmes, including national safety nets and protection programmes for the needy and those in vulnerable situations, such as food and cash-for-work, cash transfer and voucher programmes, school feeding programmes and mother-and-child nutrition programmes, and in this regard underlines the importance of increasing investment, capacity-building and systems development, by aligning interventions with national and regional response plans, making full use of endogenous mechanisms, including local, national and regional reserves;

35. *Encourages* Governments, intergovernmental organizations, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders to consider promoting, where appropriate, home-grown school meals, where food served in schools and other child-care facilities is procured, from smallholder and/or family farmers to support local communities and provide educational opportunities for students by creating a structured demand for local smallholder agriculture production and contributing to sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth and employment;

36. *Encourages* Member States to develop health- and nutrition-promoting environments, including through nutrition education in schools and other education institutions, as appropriate, and to scale up community-based actions that support children and families, through the promotion of maternal health and recommended infant feeding practices such as breastfeeding;

37. *Remains deeply concerned* about the recurring food insecurity and malnutrition in different regions of the world and their ongoing negative impact on health and nutrition, especially in Africa, in South and West Asia and in parts of Latin America and the Caribbean, and in this regard underlines the urgent need for joint efforts at all levels to respond to the situation in a coherent and effective manner;

38. *Recognizes* the important role of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, small-scale farmers, family farmers, livestock farmers, small-scale fishers and fish workers and their traditional knowledge and seed supply systems, as well as the important role of new technologies in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and in aiming to ensure food security and improved nutrition;

39. *Also recognizes* that the food systems of Indigenous Peoples can support healthy and nutritious diets and are important for the eradication of hunger and malnutrition and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

40. *Stresses* the importance of the development and application of science, technology and innovation and related knowledge management and communications systems in ensuring food security by 2030, encouraging cooperation on agricultural science and technology innovation among countries and reducing technology barriers and restrictions on high-tech exchanges, and encourages the adoption of the most advanced and appropriate information technology, such as the Internet, mobile platforms, meteorology, big data and cloud computing, in agriculture systems in order to support the efforts of smallholder and family farmers to increase their resilience, productivity and incomes and include them in the development of research and innovation agendas while reducing negative environmental

impacts, and leveraging the potential for innovation among young family farmers in connecting local knowledge with new solutions;

41. *Emphasizes* the need to revitalize the agriculture sector, promote rural development and aim for ensuring food security and nutrition, notably in developing countries, in a sustainable manner, which will contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and underlines the importance of taking the necessary actions to better address the needs of rural communities by, inter alia, enhancing access for agricultural producers, in particular smallholder producers, women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, persons with disabilities and older persons, and those in vulnerable situations and in conflict and post-conflict situations, to credit and other financial services, markets, secure land tenure, health-care services, social services, education, training, knowledge and appropriate and affordable technologies, including for development of local crops, efficient irrigation, reuse of treated wastewater and water harvesting and storage;

42. *Recognizes* that, by 2050, the world urban population is expected to nearly double, making urbanization one of the most transformative trends of the twenty-first century, underscoring the growing need to take action to fight hunger and malnutrition among the urban poor through promoting the integration of the food security and nutrition needs of urban residents, in particular the urban poor, in urban and territorial planning, to end hunger and malnutrition, promoting the coordination of policies on food security and sustainable agriculture across urban, peri-urban and rural areas to facilitate the production, storage, transport and marketing of food to consumers in affordable ways, to reduce food losses and to prevent and reuse food waste, and promoting the coordination of food policies with energy, water, health, transport and waste and other policies in urban areas to maximize efficiencies and minimize waste;

43. *Reaffirms* the need to strive for a comprehensive twin-track approach to food security and nutrition that consists of direct action to immediately tackle hunger and address micronutrient deficiencies among the most vulnerable alongside the development of medium- and long-term sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition and rural development programmes to eliminate the root causes of hunger, all forms of malnutrition and poverty, including through revitalizing rural areas for young women and men, by creating decent jobs for all, through agricultural education systems, information and communications technology, training, scaling up research and development and strengthening the role of youth through education, entrepreneurship, access to markets and services, co-financing, capacity-building and rural-based youth organizations, and through the full realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security;

44. *Also reaffirms* the need to promote a significant expansion of research and innovation in food, nutrition and agriculture, as well as the expansion of extension services, training and education, and development and application of technologies, and of funding for such activities from all sources, to improve agricultural productivity and enhance the three dimensions of sustainability in order to strengthen agrifood systems, to promote development and to build up resilience to support better recovery from crisis, including by strengthening the work of the reformed Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers (CGIAR) so as to enhance its development impact, supporting national research systems, public universities and research institutions and promoting technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, the voluntary sharing of knowledge and practices and research to adapt to climate change and improve equitable access to research results and technologies on mutually agreed terms at the national, regional and international levels, while giving due consideration to the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources;

45. *Stresses* that a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system will promote agriculture and rural development in developing countries and contribute to achieving food security and improving nutrition, and urges national, regional and international strategies to promote the inclusive participation of farmers and fishers and fish workers, especially small-scale farmers, including women, and young farmers in community, national, regional and international markets;

46. *Calls upon* Member States to keep their food markets open to maintain international trade in food and fertilizers, and underlines the importance of addressing existing and emerging global challenges, including through the facilitation of agricultural trade and by correcting and preventing trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets that are inconsistent with World Trade Organization rules, such as excessive stockpiling of food, and looks forward to continuing the World Trade Organization negotiations to reform agricultural trade rules, with a view to achieving meaningful progress to address these global challenges long-term at the thirteenth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization;

47. *Recognizes* that trade, along with domestic production, plays a vital role in improving global food security in all its dimensions and enhancing nutrition, and in this regard urges Member States to ensure trade and trade-related measures are consistent with World Trade Organization rules and exceptions;

48. *Also recognizes* the efforts made by Member States and United Nations agencies that have already announced their commitments to the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025),<sup>552</sup> calls upon Member States to accelerate efforts across the six action areas of the work programme of the Decade, and encourages all relevant stakeholders to actively support the implementation of the Decade, including by making commitments and establishing action networks;

49. *Further recognizes* the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019–2028), and in this regard encourages the full implementation of resolution 72/239 and takes note with appreciation of the global action plan for the Decade, which supports the development, improvement and implementation of public policies on family farming, including national plans, as appropriate, based on inclusive and effective governance and on timely and geographically relevant data, by 2024, and also takes note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Fund for Agricultural Development on the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019–2028),<sup>553</sup>

50. *Invites* Governments to enhance efforts to reach 100 national action plans for family farming by 2024 and to develop and implement policy and regulatory frameworks supporting family farming as envisaged by the global action plan of the Decade, encourages Governments, family farmers' organizations and other relevant stakeholders to engage in the Decade, and calls upon the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Fund for Agricultural Development to continue to lead the implementation of the Decade, in collaboration with other relevant organizations of the United Nations system, including by considering the development of a joint resource mobilization strategy to scale up the implementation of the Decade;

51. *Recognizes* the importance of strengthening the collective action of smallholders and family farmers, including by helping them to realize economies of scale, in the context of eradicating poverty and hunger, and achieving sustainable development;

52. *Stresses* the need to continue to strengthen cooperation and coordination among the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the World Food Programme, the World Health Organization, the regional commissions and all other relevant entities of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions and international trade and economic institutions, in accordance with their respective mandates and national development priorities, in order to increase their effectiveness, as well as to strengthen cooperation between these organizations and with non-governmental organizations and the public and private sectors in promoting and strengthening efforts towards sustainable agriculture development, food security and nutrition;

53. *Recognizes* the contribution made thus far by early warning systems, and underlines that coverage of and accessibility to multi-hazard early warning systems remain inadequate in all countries, and emphasizes the need to urgently extend the reach of multi-hazard early warning systems everywhere, especially in developing countries, and that the reliability and timeliness of such systems should be further strengthened at the national, regional and international levels, with a focus on countries that are particularly vulnerable to price shocks and food emergencies, and in this regard welcomes the progress of the United Nations Secretary-General's call to protect everyone on Earth through universal coverage of early warning systems, including through the Early Warnings for All initiative,<sup>554</sup>

54. *Also recognizes* the benefits gained from cooperation through the sharing of climate and weather information, forecasting and early warning systems related to desertification, land degradation and drought, while also taking account of sand and dust storms;

55. *Reaffirms* the important role and inclusive nature of the Committee on World Food Security as a major intergovernmental platform for a broad range of stakeholders to work together towards ensuring food security and nutrition for all, and encourages countries to promote the use and application of the voluntary guidelines on food

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<sup>552</sup> Resolution 70/259.

<sup>553</sup> A/78/233.

<sup>554</sup> Decision 2/CP.27 and 2/CMA.4.

systems and nutrition, adopted by the Committee in 2021, ensuring sustainable food systems that contribute to the promotion of healthy diets and improved nutrition;

56. *Also reaffirms* the commitment at the very heart of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind, and commits to taking more tangible steps to support people in vulnerable situations and the most vulnerable countries and to reach the furthest behind first;

57. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session an action-oriented report on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session the item entitled “Agriculture development, food security and nutrition”.

### RESOLUTION 78/169

Adopted at the 49th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/466/Add.2, para. 6)<sup>555</sup>

#### 78/169. Natural plant fibres and sustainable development

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>556</sup> the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,<sup>557</sup> the Paris Agreement,<sup>558</sup> the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030<sup>559</sup> and the New Urban Agenda adopted in Quito by the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III),<sup>560</sup>

*Recalling also* its resolution 61/189 of 20 December 2006 on the International Year of Natural Fibres, 2009, and its resolution 76/223 of 17 December 2021,

*Recalling further* resolution 3/2005 of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, adopted on 25 November 2005,<sup>561</sup>

*Noting* the definition of natural fibres, as developed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations during the International Year of Natural Fibres in 2009, and the scope of the present resolution, which focuses on the lesser-known natural plant fibres, such as jute, abaca, coir, kenaf, sisal, hemp, ramie and flax,

*Noting also* that the diverse range of natural plant fibres produced in many countries provides an important source of income for farmers, and thus can play an important role in contributing to food security and nutrition, the realization of the right to adequate food and in eradicating poverty and hence in contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Reaffirming* the commitment to achieve sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner,

*Recognizing* that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development,

<sup>555</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Algeria, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Finland, France, Guatemala, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Nepal, Nicaragua, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Poland, Singapore, Slovakia, Suriname, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

<sup>556</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>557</sup> Resolution 69/313, annex.

<sup>558</sup> Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

<sup>559</sup> Resolution 69/283, annex II.

<sup>560</sup> Resolution 71/256, annex.

<sup>561</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document C 2005/REP.



*Reaffirming* the need to achieve sustainable development through sustainable production and consumption, including through protecting and sustainably managing natural resources,

*Emphasizing* that the sustainable production, consumption and use of natural plant fibres can make a positive contribution towards the efforts to achieve sustainable development, poverty alleviation, improved human well-being and addressing environmental degradation and climate change,

*Stressing* that natural plant fibres, like any other agricultural product, need to be produced in a manner that respects the environment,

*Recalling* the 2019 Climate Action Summit convened by the Secretary-General on 23 September 2019 and noting the multi-partner initiatives and commitments presented during the Summit, welcoming the holding of the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 6 to 20 November 2022, taking note with appreciation of the United Nations Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment, convened by the Secretary-General in Rome, Italy, from 24 to 26 July 2023, welcoming the first part 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 the second part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, held in Montreal, Canada, from 7 to 19 December 2022, and its outcomes, including the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and urges their early, inclusive and effective implementation,

*Emphasizing* that nature-based solutions, ecosystem-based approaches and other management and conservation approaches, in line with United Nations Environment Assembly resolution [5/5](#), can contribute, among other strategies, to climate change mitigation and to halting and reversing biodiversity loss, and in this regard recognizing the important role of nature-based solutions, ecosystem-based approaches and other management and conservation approaches, in line with the above-mentioned resolution, in promoting the sustainable production, consumption and use of natural plant fibres,

*Noting* the contributions and the challenges to sustainable development arising from the use of plastic and artificial fibres, and noting also the role that natural plant fibres can play in addressing certain economic, social and environmental challenges to sustainable development,

*Recalling* resolutions [5/14](#) of 2 March 2022, entitled “End plastic pollution: towards an international legally binding instrument”,<sup>562</sup> [4/6](#) of 15 March 2019, entitled “Marine plastic litter and microplastics”,<sup>563</sup> and [4/9](#) of 15 March 2019, entitled “Addressing single-use plastic products pollution”,<sup>564</sup> adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme,

*Recalling also* the ministerial declaration of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its third session, entitled “Towards a pollution-free planet”,<sup>565</sup> the ministerial declaration of the Environment Assembly at its fourth session, entitled “Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production”,<sup>566</sup> and the ministerial declaration of the Environment Assembly at its fifth session, entitled “Strengthening actions for nature to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”,<sup>567</sup>

*Recalling further* the proclamation of the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010–2020), the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, 2011–2020, the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028, the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, 2021–2030, the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019–2028), the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030) and the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027),

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<sup>562</sup> [UNEP/EA.5/Res.14](#).

<sup>563</sup> [UNEP/EA.4/Res.6](#).

<sup>564</sup> [UNEP/EA.4/Res.9](#).

<sup>565</sup> [UNEP/EA.3/HLS.1](#).

<sup>566</sup> [UNEP/EA.4/HLS.1](#).

<sup>567</sup> [UNEP/EA.5/HLS.1](#).



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*Recognizing* that natural plant fibres can be easily recyclable, biodegradable and renewable and can foster energy efficiency and relatively low levels of greenhouse gas emissions, and thereby may contribute to promoting sustainable development,

*Stressing* the need for cooperation, coordination and synergies in the work related to the production, distribution and use of natural plant fibres among relevant United Nations entities, in accordance with their respective mandates,

*Noting* that political support and commercialization factors, including price and cost of production, investing in logistics, infrastructure, research and development, are needed, as appropriate, to promote the sustainable production, consumption and use of natural plant fibres, aimed at contributing to sustainable development,

*Noting also* that the promotion of the use of natural plant fibres needs to be carried out in ways that balance economic, social and environmental objectives and with the engagement of relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society and academia,

*Recognizing* the crucial role that women, Indigenous Peoples, local communities and youth play in the production, consumption and conservation of natural plant fibres, and stressing the need for the full participation of women, Indigenous Peoples, local communities and youth at all levels of policymaking and implementation for promoting the use of natural plant fibres,

*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,

*Stressing* that countries around the world continue to grapple with COVID-19 recovery and current geopolitical tensions, as well as adverse impacts of climate change, which have created additional challenges on eradication of poverty, food security, nutrition, energy security, cost of living (inflation), access to concessional financing for recovery and development, and gender equality, undermined the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, disproportionately impacted the recovery efforts, particularly of developing countries, and reversed development gains of at least a decade,

*Expressing its concern* that there was a steep decline in the production of jute, kenaf and allied fibres in 2020 as a result of the impacts from the spread of COVID-19 and due to extreme weather events and that the COVID-19 pandemic has had widespread impacts on agricultural production systems, including those producing natural plant fibres, as it has disrupted natural plant fibre production and value chains owing to restrictions in the movement and availability of inputs, labour, post-harvest services and timely access to markets, and has challenged the livelihoods of farmers, including small-scale and family farmers and workers dependent on agriculture, including migrant workers,

1. *Invites* all relevant stakeholders to scale up efforts to promote awareness of the benefits of the sustainable production, consumption and use of natural plant fibres;

2. *Underlines* the importance of unlocking the benefits of natural plant fibres, and encourages all stakeholders to promote the sustainable production, consumption and use of natural plant fibres in all relevant areas and sectors;

3. *Recognizes* that the production, processing, application and proper management and export of natural plant fibres may well have the potential to be advantageous to the economies of many developing countries and the livelihoods of millions of small-scale farmers and low-wage workers, and in this regard calls upon Member States to take effective measures, as appropriate, to help to integrate small-scale holders into global production, value and supply chains for the sustainable production, consumption and use of natural plant fibres;

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4. *Stresses* that the sustainable production, consumption and use of natural plant fibres may contribute to broader efforts towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as of outcome documents of other related major United Nations conferences and summits and multilateral environmental agreements including the Paris Agreement, and the achievement of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its four goals and 23 targets, particularly target 10;<sup>568</sup>

5. *Encourages* Member States:

(a) To foster political support, the mobilization of resources, capacity-building and proper management and momentum for the sustainable production, consumption and use of natural plant fibres at the global, regional, national and local levels, as appropriate;

(b) To promote and support the full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, in particular Indigenous Peoples and local communities, in the decision-making process regarding the production of natural plant fibres;

(c) To promote and support measures to ensure that the production of natural plant fibres is consistent with the conservation of natural forests and biological diversity and does not lead to the conversion of natural forests or overexploitation of natural resources, including water;

(d) To consider mainstreaming the promotion of the sustainable production, consumption and use of natural plant fibres into policies and plans and current national development priorities, as appropriate, and address challenges, including environmental degradation and the adverse impacts of climate change;

(e) To develop and implement policies and plans to incentivize the sustainable production, consumption and use of natural plant fibres and to promote the identification and development of environmentally friendly alternatives to single-use plastic products, taking into account the full life cycle implications of those alternatives, so as to reduce the utilization of single-use plastic, in line with national laws and priorities, as appropriate;

(f) To build on and reinforce existing initiatives in order to scale up the sustainable production, consumption and use of natural plant fibres, as appropriate;

(g) To facilitate synergies among all stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society and academia, and a holistic view of how to promote international partnerships and achieve national priorities related to the promotion of the sustainable production, consumption and use of natural plant fibres, as appropriate;

(h) To share information and best practices, in particular leveraging the platforms of South-South and triangular cooperation, regarding the multitude of innovative applications of natural plant fibres, with a view to promoting longer-term economic, social and environmental benefits for both producers and consumers;

(i) To foster scientific research and development and cooperation at the national, regional and global levels, as appropriate, to support, in addition to traditional use, high-end, value-added and innovative use of natural plant fibres;

(j) To preserve Indigenous knowledge and technologies associated with natural plant fibres, and scale up their sustainable production, consumption and use as appropriate;

6. *Recalls* that the natural fibre industry is one of the world's oldest industries, generating millions of jobs and connecting remote producers to world markets, and the commitment to promoting a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization;

7. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to lead the efforts and work with other United Nations entities, including the United Nations Environment Programme, to scale up international efforts to promote the sustainable production, consumption and use of natural plant fibres, within their respective mandates and existing resources and through voluntary contributions, as appropriate;

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<sup>568</sup> See United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27, annex, decision X/2.

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8. *Invites* Governments, international and regional organizations, the private sector, the business community and academia to foster an effective and enduring international partnership in support of research and development and technical know-how to promote various applications of natural plant fibres, as appropriate;

9. *Invites* Governments, the United Nations system, international and regional organizations, the private sector and the business community, academia and civil society to incentivize and develop overarching projects to promote the sustainable production, consumption and use of natural plant fibres, including through the promotion of sustainable agricultural approaches, ecosystem-based approaches and other management and conservation approaches, in line with United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/5 integrating small-scale producers, with particular attention paid to family farmers, Indigenous Peoples, women and youth in the related value chains and leveraging South-South and triangular cooperation platforms, and to tackle the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on this sector, leaving no one behind, and ensuring its sustainable and resilient recovery;

10. *Underlines* the importance of stepped-up funding from all sources, including public and private, bilateral and multilateral, as well as alternative sources of finance, for sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery in the sectors related to natural plant fibres, including through the promotion of strong and resilient value chains, strengthened rural financial markets and social protection systems, including with access for women, Indigenous Peoples and young people, and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and conditions for developing and least developed countries;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, as well as other relevant international organizations, to include a special section on natural plant fibres and sustainable development in the report of the Secretary-General on agriculture development, food security and nutrition to be submitted to the General Assembly at its eightieth session, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its eightieth session, under the item entitled “Agriculture development, food security and nutrition”, the sub-item entitled “Natural plant fibres and sustainable development”.

#### RESOLUTION 78/170

Adopted at the 49th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 158 to 6, with 13 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/467, para. 16)<sup>569</sup>

\* *In favour:* Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, 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, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe

*Against:* Canada, Israel, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, United States of America

*Abstaining:* Australia, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Guatemala, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Solomon Islands, South Sudan, Togo, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu

<sup>569</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Cuba (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Russian Federation and Türkiye.

**78/170. Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution [77/187](#) of 14 December 2022, and taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution [2023/34](#) of 26 July 2023,

*Recalling also* its resolutions [58/292](#) of 6 May 2004 and [59/251](#) of 22 December 2004,

*Reaffirming* the principle of the permanent sovereignty of peoples under foreign occupation over their natural resources,

*Guided* by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, affirming the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, and recalling relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions [242 \(1967\)](#) of 22 November 1967, [465 \(1980\)](#) of 1 March 1980, [497 \(1981\)](#) of 17 December 1981 and [2334 \(2016\)](#) of 23 December 2016,

*Recalling* its resolution [2625 \(XXV\)](#) of 24 October 1970,

*Bearing in mind* its resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,

*Reaffirming* the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,<sup>570</sup> to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

*Recalling*, in this regard, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights<sup>571</sup> and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>572</sup> and affirming that these human rights instruments must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as in the occupied Syrian Golan,

*Recalling also* the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory,<sup>573</sup> and recalling further its resolutions [ES-10/15](#) of 20 July 2004 and [ES-10/17](#) of 15 December 2006,

*Recalling further* its resolution [67/19](#) of 29 November 2012,

*Taking note* of the accession by Palestine to several human rights treaties and the core humanitarian law treaties, as well as to other international treaties,

*Expressing its concern* about the exploitation by Israel, the occupying Power, of the natural resources of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

*Expressing its grave concern* about the extensive destruction by Israel, the occupying Power, of agricultural land and orchards in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including the uprooting of a vast number of fruit-bearing trees and the destruction of farms and greenhouses, and the grave environmental and economic impact in this regard,

*Expressing its grave concern also* about the widespread destruction caused by Israel, the occupying Power, to vital infrastructure, including water pipelines, sewage networks and electricity networks, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in particular in the Gaza Strip during the military operations of July and August 2014, which, inter alia, has polluted the environment and which negatively affects the functioning of water and sanitation systems and the water supply and other natural resources of the Palestinian people, and stressing the urgency of the reconstruction and development of water and other vital civilian infrastructure, including the project for the desalination facility for the Gaza Strip,

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<sup>570</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

<sup>571</sup> See resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

<sup>572</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>573</sup> See [A/ES-10/273](#) and [A/ES-10/273/Corr.1](#).

*Expressing its grave concern further* about the negative impact on the environment and on reconstruction and development efforts of unexploded ordnance that remains in the Gaza Strip as a result of the conflict in July and August 2014, and commending the efforts of the Mine Action Service of the United Nations for the safe removal of such ordnance,

*Expressing its grave concern* about the chronic energy shortage in the Gaza Strip and its detrimental impact on the operation of water and sanitation facilities, which threaten to further erode groundwater resources, of which only 5 per cent remains potable,

*Recalling* the 2009 report by the United Nations Environment Programme regarding the grave environmental situation in the Gaza Strip, and relevant reports by the United Nations country team, including “Gaza in 2020: a liveable place?”, “Gaza: two years after” and “Gaza ten years later”, and stressing the need for follow-up to the recommendations contained therein,

*Deploring* the detrimental impact of the Israeli settlements on Palestinian and other Arab natural resources, especially as a result of the confiscation of land and the forced diversion of water resources, including the destruction of orchards and crops and the seizure of water wells by Israeli settlers, and of the dire socioeconomic consequences in this regard,

*Recalling* the report of the independent international fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of the Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,<sup>574</sup>

*Aware* of the detrimental impact on Palestinian natural resources being caused by the unlawful construction of the wall by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and of its grave effect as well on the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people,

*Stressing* the urgency of achieving without delay an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement on all tracks, on the basis of Security Council resolutions [242 \(1967\)](#), [338 \(1973\)](#) of 22 October 1973, [425 \(1978\)](#) of 19 March 1978, [1397 \(2002\)](#) of 12 March 2002 and [2334 \(2016\)](#), the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative<sup>575</sup> and the Quartet performance-based road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,<sup>576</sup> as endorsed by the Council in its resolution [1515 \(2003\)](#) of 19 November 2003 and supported by the Council in its resolution [1850 \(2008\)](#) of 16 December 2008,

*Stressing also*, in this regard, the need for respect for the obligation upon Israel under the road map to freeze settlement activity, including so-called “natural growth”, and to dismantle all settlement outposts erected since March 2001,

*Stressing further* the need for respect and preservation of the territorial unity, contiguity and integrity of all of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

*Recalling* that the Security Council, in its resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), underlined that it would not recognize any changes to the 4 June 1967 lines, including with regard to Jerusalem, other than those agreed by the parties through negotiations,

*Recalling also* the need to end all acts of violence, including acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction,

*Taking note* of the report prepared by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan, as transmitted by the Secretary-General,<sup>577</sup>

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<sup>574</sup> [A/HRC/22/63](#).

<sup>575</sup> [A/56/1026-S/2002/932](#), annex II, resolution 14/221.

<sup>576</sup> [S/2003/529](#), annex.

<sup>577</sup> [A/78/127-E/2023/95](#).

#### IV. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Second Committee

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1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and of the population of the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources, including land, water and energy resources;
2. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, cease the exploitation, damage, cause of loss or depletion and endangerment of the natural resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan;
3. *Recognizes* the right of the Palestinian people to claim restitution as a result of any exploitation, damage, loss or depletion or endangerment of their natural resources resulting from illegal measures taken by Israel, the occupying Power, and Israeli settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and expresses the hope that this issue will be dealt with within the framework of the final status negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli sides;
4. *Stresses* that the wall and settlements being constructed by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, are contrary to international law and are seriously depriving the Palestinian people of their natural resources, and calls in this regard for full compliance with the legal obligations affirmed in the 9 July 2004 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice<sup>578</sup> and in relevant United Nations resolutions, including General Assembly resolution [ES-10/15](#);
5. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to comply strictly with its obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law, and to cease immediately and completely all policies and measures aimed at the alteration of the character and status of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;
6. *Also calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to bring a halt to all actions, including those perpetrated by Israeli settlers, harming the environment, including the dumping of all kinds of waste materials, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, which gravely threaten their natural resources, namely water and land resources, and which pose an environmental, sanitation and health threat to the civilian populations;
7. *Further calls upon* Israel to cease its destruction of vital infrastructure, including water pipelines, sewage networks and electricity networks, and to cease its demolition and confiscation of Palestinian homes and civilian infrastructure, agricultural lands and water wells, which, inter alia, have a negative impact on the natural resources of the Palestinian people, stresses the urgent need to advance reconstruction and development projects in this regard, including in the Gaza Strip, and calls for support for the necessary efforts in this regard, in line with the commitments made at, inter alia, the Cairo International Conference on Palestine: Reconstructing Gaza, held on 12 October 2014;
8. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to remove all obstacles to the implementation of critical environmental projects, including sewage treatment plants in the Gaza Strip and the reconstruction and development of water infrastructure, including the project for the desalination facility for the Gaza Strip;
9. *Also calls upon* Israel not to impede Palestinian development and export of discovered oil and natural gas reserves;
10. *Calls for* the immediate and safe removal of all unexploded ordnance in the Gaza Strip and for support for the efforts of the Mine Action Service of the United Nations in this regard, and welcomes the extensive efforts exerted by the Mine Action Service to date;
11. *Encourages* all States and international organizations to continue to actively pursue policies to ensure respect for their obligations under international law with regard to all illegal Israeli practices and measures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, particularly Israeli settlement activities and the exploitation of natural resources;
12. *Underscores*, in this regard, the call by the Security Council, in its resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), upon all States to distinguish, in their relevant dealings, between the territory of the State of Israel and the territories occupied since 1967;
13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution, including with regard to the cumulative impact of the exploitation, damage

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<sup>578</sup> See [A/ES-10/273](#) and [A/ES-10/273/Corr.1](#).

and depletion by Israel of natural resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, and with regard to the impact of such practices on the promotion of the Sustainable Development Goals,<sup>579</sup> and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session the item entitled “Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources”.

#### RESOLUTION 78/230

Adopted at the 50th (resumed) plenary meeting, on 22 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 111 to 46, with 10 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/459/Add.8, para. 12)<sup>580</sup>

\* *In favour:* Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against:* Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Abstaining:* Armenia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Iceland, Mexico, Norway, Peru, South Sudan, Türkiye, United Arab Emirates

#### 78/230. Promotion of inclusive and effective international tax cooperation at the United Nations

*The General Assembly,*

*Guided by the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,*

*Reiterating* the timeliness and importance of strengthening international tax cooperation to make it fully inclusive and more effective, both in procedural and substantive terms, so that Governments may better cooperate in generating financing for development, including through combating illicit financial flows, recovering and returning stolen assets, promoting financial integrity for sustainable development and improving public institutions,

*Noting* the corrosive effect that aggressive tax avoidance and tax evasion have on trust, the social compact, financial integrity, the rule of law and sustainable development, affecting the poorest and most vulnerable,

*Reaffirming* its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, in which Member States committed to scaling up international tax cooperation, encouraged countries, in accordance with their national capacities and circumstances, to work together to strengthen transparency and adopt appropriate policies, including multinational enterprises reporting country-by-country to tax authorities where they operate, access to beneficial ownership information for competent authorities, and progressively advancing towards automatic exchange of tax information among tax authorities as appropriate, with assistance to developing countries, especially the least developed, as needed, and stressed that efforts in international tax cooperation should be universal in approach and scope and should fully take into account the different needs and capacities of all countries, in particular countries in special situations,

*Recalling* its resolution 77/244 of 30 December 2022, in which it decided to begin intergovernmental discussions at United Nations Headquarters on ways to strengthen the inclusiveness and effectiveness of international

<sup>579</sup> See resolution 70/1.

<sup>580</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Bahamas, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Guyana, Nigeria (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States), Russian Federation, Thailand and Tonga.



#### IV. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Second Committee

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tax cooperation through the evaluation of additional options, including the possibility of developing an international tax cooperation framework or instrument that is developed and agreed upon through a United Nations intergovernmental process, taking into full consideration existing international and multilateral arrangements,

*Acknowledging* that increasing the legitimacy, stability, resilience and fairness of international tax rules is in the common interest of all relevant stakeholders in tax systems and requires scaling up international tax cooperation by establishing the legal basis for fully inclusive and more effective international tax cooperation in terms of substance and process, giving due consideration to the value of coherent and consistent international tax rules while also respecting the tax sovereignty of each Member State,

*Recognizing* that respect for tax sovereignty implies international tax cooperation that allows all countries to effectively participate in developing the rules, by right and without preconditions, and adapt and implement them in accordance with their needs and preferences,

*Recognizing also* that inclusive and effective participation in international tax cooperation implies that procedures should take into account the different needs, priorities and capacities of all countries to meaningfully contribute to the norm-setting processes, without undue restrictions, and support them in doing so, including giving them an opportunity to participate in agenda-setting, debates and decision-making, either directly or through country groupings, according to their preference,

*Recognizing further* that inclusiveness in international tax cooperation also involves capacity-building and support to developing countries so that they can effectively participate in the full range of international tax cooperation in an equitable manner, while stressing that capacity-building efforts should fully take into account the needs and priorities of developing countries,

*Recognizing* that agenda-setting is an important procedural aspect because the way in which tax challenges requiring collective action are identified and framed often predetermines the scope and nature of the responses to these challenges, as well as the order of priority for dealing with them,

*Stressing* that a fully inclusive and effective international tax cooperation requires well-established and transparent decision-making structures, and clear and transparent rules, in order to ensure that all participants are on an equal footing procedurally and have the same ability to engage meaningfully in decision-making, as well as clear and cohesive multilateral rules to aid countries and businesses and to prevent opportunities for tax avoidance,

*Recognizing* that an inclusive and effective international tax cooperation system requires robust processes for preventing and resolving tax disputes in an effective manner, and keeping in mind that developing countries have limited resources to handle costly international dispute settlement processes,

*Recognizing also* the important role of taxation to close the sustainable development financing gap, which requires actions at all levels, international, regional and national, and on many fronts, including corporate tax, personal income tax, consumption taxes such as value-added taxes, strengthened and digitalized tax administrations and effective taxation of extractives,

*Emphasizing* that international tax rules must respond to the needs, priorities and capacities of all countries and appropriately address the ways in which modern markets operate and business is done, as part of a major overhaul of the international financial architecture,

*Emphasizing also* that a United Nations intergovernmental process for tax-norm shaping and rule-setting, with full consideration of existing multilateral and international arrangements, would leverage existing strengths and address gaps and weaknesses in current international tax cooperation efforts and arrangements,

*Noting* that its resolution [69/313](#) also commits Member States to working to improve the fairness, transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of their tax systems,

*Recognizing* the need for all countries to work together to eliminate tax evasion, tax base erosion and profit shifting and to ensure that all taxpayers, especially multinational companies and transnational corporations, pay taxes to the Governments of countries where economic activity occurs, value is created and from where revenues are generated, in accordance with national and international laws and policies,

*Noting* that the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development may be further supported by additional domestic resource mobilization,

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*Noting also* the work of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters and the 2023 special meeting of the Economic and Social Council on international cooperation in tax matters,

*Noting further* the work of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development/Group of 20 Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting and the subsequent ongoing work on the two-pillar solution, noting that it facilitates collaboration for tackling tax avoidance and improving the coherence of international tax rules,

*Noting* the implementation of the Standard for Automatic Exchange of Financial Account Information in Tax Matters under a common reporting standard developed by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, as well as the role of the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes,

*Noting also* the work of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development on establishing value-added tax guidelines in the context of e-commerce and the bilateral and multilateral technical assistance programmes provided to countries in support of their implementation,

*Noting further* that expert assessments suggest that an increase in the tax-to-gross domestic product ratio could also be feasible for low-income developing countries and emerging market economies through a combination of tax system reform and institutional capacity-building,

*Recalling* the work of the Platform for Collaboration on Tax, which is to intensify collaboration and coordination on tax issues between the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank Group and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development,

*Noting* the work and collaboration between the United Nations Development Programme and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in the joint Tax Inspectors Without Borders programmes, and stressing that similar efforts should be strengthened,

*Recognizing* the Group of 20 leaders' commitment to continue cooperation towards a globally fair, sustainable and modern international tax system appropriate to the needs of the twenty-first century during their summit held in New Delhi on 9 and 10 September 2023, and noting the accession of the African Union as a permanent member of the Group of 20 during the same summit,

*Noting* the work of the Addis Tax Initiative in fostering collective action to strengthen the capacities of developing countries for closing recognized gaps in development finance,

*Noting also* the work of the African Union, in collaboration with other pan-African institutions, in promoting international cooperation to fight illicit financial flows, including the decision by the Assembly of the African Union at its thirty-sixth ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa on 18 and 19 February 2023, to curb illicit financial flows that drain substantial financial resources from Africa that could otherwise be employed for economic and social development,

*Noting* the recent creation of the Regional Platform for Tax Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean with the purpose of contributing to the collective search for solutions to the key fiscal issues of developing countries and of achieving equitable tax policies that are conducive to growth, the reduction of inequalities and the financing of the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Recalling* the commitment of Member States under the Addis Ababa Action Agenda to redouble efforts to substantially reduce illicit financial flows by 2030, with a view to eventually eliminating them, including by combating tax evasion and corruption through strengthened national regulation and increased international cooperation,

*Recommitting* to strengthening the capacities of revenue administrations, and calling upon the international community to scale up support for related technological, institutional and human capacity-building to countries and to explore digitalization as a tool to optimize the efficiency of tax systems,

*Taking note of* the report of the Secretary-General on the promotion of inclusive and effective international tax cooperation at the United Nations,<sup>581</sup>

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<sup>581</sup> [A/78/235](#).

#### IV. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Second Committee

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1. *Emphasizes* that developing a United Nations framework convention on international tax cooperation is needed in order to strengthen international tax cooperation and make it fully inclusive and more effective;
2. *Recognizes* that developing a framework convention will also help in accelerating the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
3. *Decides* to establish a Member State-led, open-ended ad hoc intergovernmental committee for the purpose of drafting terms of reference for a United Nations framework convention on international tax cooperation;
4. *Also decides* that the ad hoc intergovernmental committee shall convene in New York for up to 15 working days at a time, within available time frames, and with the contribution of international organizations and civil society, in accordance with established practice, and shall hold its organizational session as soon as possible with a view to finalizing the work of the committee by August 2024;
5. *Further decides* that the bureau of the ad hoc intergovernmental committee shall be made up of not more than 20 members, consisting of a chair, vice-chairs and a rapporteur, elected on the basis of balanced geographical representation and taking into account gender balance, with each of the five regional groups equally represented;
6. *Requests* the ad hoc intergovernmental committee, in elaborating the draft terms of reference for a framework convention:
  - (a) To take into account the needs, priorities and capacities of all countries, in particular developing countries;
  - (b) To take a holistic, sustainable development perspective that considers interactions with other important economic, social and environmental policy areas;
  - (c) To consider the need for sufficient flexibility and resilience in the international tax system to ensure equitable results as technology and business models and the international tax cooperation landscapes evolve;
  - (d) To take into consideration the work of other relevant forums, potential synergies and the existing tools, strengths, expertise and complementarities available in the multiple institutions involved in tax cooperation at the international, regional and local levels;
  - (e) To consider simultaneously developing early protocols, while elaborating the framework convention, on specific priority issues, such as measures against tax-related illicit financial flows and the taxation of income derived from the provision of cross-border services in an increasingly digitalized and globalized economy;
7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to allocate the necessary resources to support the work of the ad hoc intergovernmental committee;
8. *Requests* the ad hoc intergovernmental committee to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session, containing the draft terms of reference for a United Nations framework convention;
9. *Decides* to consider the report of the ad hoc intergovernmental committee at its seventy-ninth session and to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “Macroeconomic policy questions”, the sub-item entitled “Promotion of inclusive and effective international cooperation on tax matters at the United Nations”.

#### RESOLUTION 78/231

Adopted at the 50th (resumed) plenary meeting, on 22 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/460, para. 12)<sup>582</sup>

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<sup>582</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee.

**78/231. Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions [70/192](#) of 22 December 2015, [71/217](#) of 21 December 2016, [72/208](#) of 20 December 2017, [73/223](#) of 20 December 2018, [74/207](#) of 19 December 2019, [75/208](#) of 21 December 2020, [76/198](#) of 17 December 2021 and [77/156](#) of 14 December 2022 on the follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development and its resolution [70/299](#) of 29 July 2016 on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level,

*Reaffirming* 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,<sup>583</sup> 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 International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002, the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008, and the third International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Addis Ababa from 13 to 16 July 2015,

*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* the Paris Agreement<sup>584</sup> 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 Change<sup>585</sup> that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

*Reiterating* the affirmation in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda that achieving gender equality, empowering all women and girls and attaining the full realization of their human rights are essential to achieving sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development,

*Recalling* the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030<sup>586</sup> and its goal to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risk and the commitment contained in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda to strengthen the capacity of national and local actors to manage and finance disaster risk, as part of national sustainable development strategies, and to ensure that countries can draw on international assistance when needed,

*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

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<sup>583</sup> Resolution [70/1](#).

<sup>584</sup> Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.

<sup>585</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

<sup>586</sup> Resolution [69/283](#), annex II.

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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,

*Noting with concern* the fragile and highly uncertain global socioeconomic outlook, persisting negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, geopolitical tensions and conflicts and current multiple crises, which have increased pressure on food, energy and finance, affecting many countries around the world, and their ability to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Recognizing* the need to introduce systemic solutions to address the socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and overcome the inequalities between and within countries exacerbated by the pandemic and current multiple crises, noting that many developing countries are faced with significantly higher borrowing costs to finance their response to the pandemic, contributing to a great finance divide which further undermines the achievement of a sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery, while turbocharging the full implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Reaffirming* the call on the United Nations system, in consultation with the international financial institutions, to develop transparent measurements of progress on sustainable development that go beyond per capita income, building on existing initiatives as appropriate, and noting that these should recognize poverty in all of its forms and dimensions, and the social, economic and environmental dimensions of domestic output and structural gaps at all levels,

*Emphasizing* the urgent need to develop measures of progress on sustainable development that complement or go beyond gross domestic product in order to work towards a more inclusive approach to international cooperation,

*Welcoming* the work advanced by the High-level Panel on the Development of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index for Small Island Developing States,

*Reaffirming* the importance of addressing the diverse needs of and challenges faced by countries in special situations, in particular African countries, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States and countries in conflict and post-conflict situations, as well as the specific challenges faced by middle-income countries,

*Taking note* of the holding of preparatory meetings for the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up, such as the annual retreat of the Group of Friends of Monterrey,

*Taking note also* of the convening of the seventh retreat of the Group of Friends of Monterrey to exchange informal views on financing for development issues,

*Welcoming* the convening of the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up, from 17 to 20 April 2023,

*Recalling* the intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations of the forum,<sup>587</sup> in which it was decided that the ninth Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up would convene from 22 to 25 April 2024 and would include the special high-level meeting of the Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and which looked forward to deliberations on convening a fourth international conference on financing for development in 2025, as well as the development of the corresponding modalities for this conference by the General Assembly, while bearing in mind the commitments of past United Nations international conferences on financing for development,

*Recalling also* the adoption by the Statistical Commission of indicator 17.3.1 under Sustainable Development Goal target 17.3, Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources, and welcoming new data being reported under the indicator, and the continuation of discussions on the modernization of measurement of official development assistance and the new measure of “total official support for sustainable development”, while affirming that any such measure will not dilute commitments already made,

*Recalling further* Economic and Social Council decision 2017/206 of 5 October 2016,

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<sup>587</sup> See [E/FFDF/2023/3](#).

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*Recalling* the eighth biennial high-level meeting of the Development Cooperation Forum, held on 14 and 15 March 2023,

*Taking note with appreciation* of the fifth annual meeting of the Global Investors for Sustainable Development Alliance, on 31 October 2023, and the ongoing work on its key deliverables, and looking forward to continued efforts by the Alliance to support the channelling of finance and investment towards the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Reaffirming* the outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, held in Buenos Aires from 20 to 22 March 2019,<sup>588</sup>

*Reiterating* the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, and the wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

*Recommitting* to ensuring that no country or person is left behind and to focusing our effort where the challenges are greatest, including by ensuring the inclusion and participation of those who are furthest behind,

*Welcoming* the convening of the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development in New York on 20 September 2023,

*Welcoming* the Secretary-General's efforts to address the Sustainable Development Goal financing gap through a Sustainable Development Goal stimulus, and will advance the Secretary-General's proposal, in a timely manner, through discussions at the United Nations as well as other relevant forums and institutions, to tackle the high cost of debt and rising risks of debt distress, to enhance support to developing countries and to massively scale up affordable long-term financing for development and expand contingency financing to countries in need,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>589</sup> notes with concern the lack of progress made on financing for development commitments since the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development<sup>590</sup> and the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as several emerging trends that have contributed to the finance divide and risk further exacerbating it, while acknowledging that the challenges of the moment merit the attention and focus of policymakers at the highest level, and expresses concern that the mobilization of sufficient financing from all sources, including official development assistance, remains a major challenge in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

2. *Emphasizes* the need to work towards the full and timely implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, including to reaffirm and build on the achievements of the Doha Declaration<sup>591</sup> and the Monterrey Consensus;<sup>592</sup>

3. *Welcomes* the political declaration adopted by the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly (Sustainable Development Goals Summit),<sup>593</sup> held in New York on 18 and 19 September 2023, and urges timely action to ensure its full implementation;

4. *Takes note* of the 2023 report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development,<sup>594</sup> and notes with concern the report's key message that global sustainable development prospects continue to diverge and if left unaddressed, the finance divide will translate into a lasting sustainable development divide;

5. *Welcomes* the special drawing rights allocation of the equivalent of 650 billion United States dollars of 23 August 2021, recommends the exploration of further voluntary options related to special drawing rights that could serve the needs of developing member countries of the International Monetary Fund, calls for the urgent voluntary rechanneling of special drawing rights for countries most in need, including through multilateral development banks,

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<sup>588</sup> Resolution 73/291, annex.

<sup>589</sup> A/78/190.

<sup>590</sup> Resolution 69/313, annex.

<sup>591</sup> Resolution 63/239, annex.

<sup>592</sup> *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

<sup>593</sup> Resolution 78/1, annex.

<sup>594</sup> *Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2023* (United Nations publication, 2023).



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while respecting relevant legal frameworks and preserving the reserve asset character of special drawing rights, and will explore ways for future allocations of special drawing rights to benefit those countries most in need;

6. *Notes with appreciation* the operationalization of the Resilience and Sustainability Trust of the International Monetary Fund to help eligible countries address longer-term structural challenges that pose macroeconomic risks, looks forward to the upcoming interim review of the Trust, and notes that debt sustainability and liquidity can play an important role in achieving a sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery and the Sustainable Development Goals;

7. *Welcomes* the intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations of the 2023 Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up and urges their full, effective and timely implementation, and looks forward to staying engaged so as to assess progress, identify obstacles and challenges in the implementation of the financing for development outcomes and in the delivery of the means of implementation, promote the sharing of lessons learned from experiences at the national and regional levels, address new and emerging topics of relevance to the implementation of this agenda as the need arises and provide policy recommendations for action by the international community in substantive intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations at the 2024 forum;

8. *Notes* in this regard the further development of integrated national financing frameworks, in support of nationally owned sustainable development strategies, including disaster risk reduction strategies, in order to further implement the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, aimed at effectively mobilizing and aligning a wide range of financing sources and instruments with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and making use of the full potential of all means of implementation;

9. *Takes note* of the summary by the President of the Economic and Social Council of the 2023 Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up;<sup>595</sup>

10. *Emphasizes* that timely and adequate planning for the 2024 Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up is of paramount importance to its substantive work and outcome;

11. *Invites* the President of the Economic and Social Council to take into consideration the summary by the President of the Council of the 2023 forum on financing for development follow-up in the preparation of the 2024 forum;

12. *Recalls* that decisions relating to the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up are to be contained within the forum's intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations;

13. *Takes note* of the work of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters and the initial contributions made by India to the voluntary trust fund, by Norway to a multi-donor project aimed at supporting the work of the Committee, its subcommittees and related capacity development activities, as well as the contributions by the European Union and other countries in support of the Committee's subsidiary bodies, and urges Member States to come forward to contribute more to the trust fund in order to further support the participation of developing countries;

14. *Recalls* the holding of the 2020 Global Infrastructure Forum from 6 to 8 October 2020, in a virtual setting, and reiterates that the Forum is mandated to identify and address infrastructure and capacity gaps in developing countries, particularly in the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and African countries;

15. *Also recalls* the progress made in operationalizing the three components of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, and welcomes the establishment of the 2030 Connect online platform as part of the Mechanism;

16. *Further recalls* the operationalization of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries, and invites Member States, as well as international organizations, foundations and the private sector, to provide increased voluntary financial contributions and technical assistance to ensure its full and effective implementation;

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<sup>595</sup> [A/78/93-E/2023/90](#).



17. *Highlights* the need to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet by 2030 as an essential step towards an inclusive and sustainable digital economy that empowers people in vulnerable situations to narrow digital divides, and to build on financial technology to support financial inclusion;

18. *Recalls* the convening of the eighth annual multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals in New York on 3 and 4 May 2023, whose Co-Chairs' summary<sup>596</sup> served as an input to the high-level political forum on sustainable development and highlighted, inter alia, the promotion of networking and matchmaking among relevant stakeholders, especially innovators, funders and other supporters, to bridge the technology gap for the Sustainable Development Goals;

19. *Also recalls* that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda provides a global framework for financing sustainable development and is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda, supports and complements it and helps to contextualize the means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, the implementation of which requires following up on, that relate to its seven action areas, namely, domestic public resources; domestic and international private business and finance; international development cooperation; international trade as an engine for development; debt and debt sustainability; addressing systemic issues; science, technology, innovation and capacity-building; and data, monitoring and follow-up;

20. *Reiterates* that States will not be able to achieve the ambitious Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda without a revitalized and enhanced global partnership and comparably ambitious means of implementation, and reaffirms the commitment at the very heart of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind and commit to taking more tangible steps to support people in vulnerable situations and the most vulnerable countries and to reach the furthest behind first;

21. *Urges* developed countries to scale up and fulfil their respective official development assistance commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the targets of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent to the least developed countries;

22. *Encourages* strengthening the lending capacity of multilateral development banks, in that regard urges them to make the most efficient use of their balance sheets in order to optimize their lending while preserving their robust credit ratings, financial sustainability and preferred creditor status, and takes note of the independent review of the banks' capital adequacy frameworks and ongoing balance sheet optimization efforts, commissioned by the Group of 20;

23. *Notes* the policy recommendations of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and that the agreed policy recommendations serve as an input to the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up in accordance with the terms of reference of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts;

24. *Also notes* that, in order to advance bold and concerted global action to achieve sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and achieve a sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery, and set the world on a path towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, both domestic efforts and multilateral action, as well as multi-stakeholder partnerships that include the private sector, should be geared to supporting medium- and long-term sustainable development, particularly in developing countries, emphasizes the importance of improving investment and financing in sectors that are critical to accelerating the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and other agreed commitments to support countries in special situations, stresses the need to promote quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, particularly in developing countries, in a manner that has the greatest social, economic and environmental benefits, in order to build resilience against shocks for an inclusive, sustainable and resilient recovery and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and recognizes the important role of the United Nations development system, the World Bank and other multilateral institutions in addressing the capacity gaps and funding requirements for developing quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure projects, especially in developing countries, working through existing initiatives;

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<sup>596</sup> See [E/HLPF/2023/6](#).

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25. *Calls* for advancing the elaboration of a specific inter-agency, comprehensive system-wide response plan, taking note of the mapping exercise conducted by the Secretary-General and his recommendations, aimed at better addressing the multidimensional nature of sustainable development and facilitating sustainable development cooperation and coordinated and inclusive support to middle-income countries based on their specific challenges and diverse needs;

26. *Calls upon* all Member States to continue to engage in discussions in consultation with relevant stakeholders, including international financial institutions, multilateral development banks and regional commissions, on measures of progress on sustainable development that complement or go beyond gross domestic product, taking into account existing initiatives, to have a more inclusive approach to international cooperation;

27. *Emphasizes* the need to urgently develop measures of progress on sustainable development that complement or go beyond gross domestic product in order to have a more inclusive approach to international cooperation, including in the consideration of informing access to development finance and technical cooperation, and in this regard:

(a) Notes all the proposals presented by the Secretary-General regarding measures of progress that complement or go beyond gross domestic product, building upon complementary measures already in place, for the consideration of the General Assembly;

(b) Stresses the call for a United Nations-led intergovernmental process in consultation with relevant stakeholders, including the UN Statistical Commission, international financial institutions, multilateral development banks and regional commissions, in line with their respective mandates, on measures of progress on sustainable development that complement or go beyond gross domestic product;

(c) Requests the Secretary-General to convene additional briefings on his proposals, in consultation with the General Assembly, so as to inform the United Nations-led process;

(d) Calls upon the international community to increase the provision of resources for and capacity-building on statistics and data collection, including disaggregated data, to support developing countries in their efforts and to fill gaps in reporting on the Goals;

(e) Recognizing the importance of designing robust and technically sound measures of progress while also recognizing the value of evidence-based approaches to evaluate progress to date towards the Sustainable Development Goals;

28. *Welcomes* the work of the High-level Panel on the Development of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index for Small Island Developing States, which was co-chaired by the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Gaston Browne, and the former Prime Minister of Norway, Erna Solberg, including its consultations with Member States, and in this regard takes note of the Panel's final report and the recommendations contained therein;

29. *Decides* to convene, in 2025, a fourth international conference on financing for development to, inter alia, assess the progress made in the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, the Doha Declaration and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, identifying obstacles and constraints encountered in the achievement of the goals and objectives agreed therein, as well as actions and initiatives to overcome these constraints, and to address new and emerging issues, including in the context of the urgent need to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and to support reform of the international financial architecture;

30. *Welcomes* the offer by the Government of Spain to host the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development;

31. *Decides* to establish an intergovernmental preparatory committee to make the organizational, procedural and substantive preparations for the Conference, which will hold a one day organizational session in the first quarter of 2024 and up to three sessions, of no more than five days each, in 2024 and up to two sessions, of no more than five days each, in 2025, with the last session taking place in New York, on dates to be decided at the organizational session of the intergovernmental preparatory committee;

32. *Also decides* that the intergovernmental preparatory committee shall have a Bureau consisting of three members from each regional group and that the committee shall elect two Co-Chairs from among the nominated

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Bureau members, one from a developed State and one from a developing State, and that the host country and the Chair of the Group of 77 and China shall serve as ex officio members of the Bureau;

33. *Invites* regional groups to nominate their candidates for the 15-member Bureau of the intergovernmental preparatory committee no later than 15 January 2024, so that they can be involved in the preparations for the first meeting of the committee;

34. *Decides* that the intergovernmental preparatory committee, during its organizational session in the first quarter of 2024, will adopt decisions and, as appropriate, make recommendations to the General Assembly on the dates of the sessions of the intergovernmental preparatory committee, additional modalities, including inclusive participation, and format of the Conference and how it can be organized in the most efficient and effective manner;

35. *Welcomes* the offer by the Government of Ethiopia to host one of the sessions of the intergovernmental preparatory committee in 2024 in Addis Ababa as part of the preparatory process of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development to review the progress and the gaps in the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda as an integral part of the 2030 Agenda, and identify actions and ideas to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals;

36. *Also welcomes* the offer by the Government of Mexico to host one of the sessions of the intergovernmental preparatory committee as part of the preparatory process of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development;

37. *Invites* the Bureau to convene further meetings of the intergovernmental preparatory committee on an informal basis in New York, as required and in the most efficient and effective manner, to conclude discussions on the modalities and draft outcome document of the Conference;

38. *Reiterates its appeal* to Member States and other potential donors to consider contributing generously to the Trust Fund for the Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development, which would facilitate the implementation of a strengthened and more effective inclusive, intergovernmental process for carrying out the financing for development follow-up;

39. *Recognizes* the work of the Financing for Sustainable Development Office, and encourages the Office, in collaboration with experts from the public and private sectors, academia, civil society and other multilateral organizations who work in the field of financing for development, to continue its work in accordance with its mandate;

40. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session an action-oriented report, presenting emerging challenges and key accelerators for financing for development that may be relevant for future discussions in the framework of the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up and the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development;

41. *Looks forward* to the 2024 report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development, namely its assessment on progress made in the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, the Doha Declaration and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, identifying obstacles and constraints encountered in the achievement of the goals and objectives agreed therein, with a view to informing an inclusive informal dialogue on all issues related to the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development;

42. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session the item entitled “Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development”.

#### RESOLUTION 78/232

Adopted at the 50th (resumed) plenary meeting, on 22 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/461/Add.2, para. 8)<sup>597</sup>

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<sup>597</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee.

**78/232. 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**

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* that the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway<sup>598</sup> is a stand-alone, overarching framework setting out the sustainable development priorities of small island developing States that builds on the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States<sup>599</sup> and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,<sup>600</sup> and recognizing that the Samoa Pathway is consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>601</sup> and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,<sup>602</sup> and is in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,<sup>603</sup> the New Urban Agenda,<sup>604</sup> the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,<sup>605</sup>

*Reaffirming also* that small island developing States remain a special case for sustainable development, renewing thus our solidarity with them, as they continue to face the combined challenges arising, in particular, from their geographical remoteness, the small scale of their economies, high costs and the adverse effects of climate change and natural disasters, and remaining particularly concerned that many small island developing States have not achieved sustained high levels of economic growth, owing in part to their vulnerabilities to the ongoing negative impacts of environmental challenges and external economic and financial shocks,

*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,

*Acknowledging* that COVID-19 recovery and return to economic growth in small island developing States has been constrained by multiple factors, including the increased pressure on food, water, energy and finance, high inflation, rising global interest rates, tightened financial conditions, high indebtedness, disruptions in supply chains, and geopolitical tensions and global conflicts, together with the adverse impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss and the digital divide, posing severe consequences for the sustainable development of small island developing States, and highlighting that achieving the Goals and targets set out in the 2030 Agenda will be more difficult and that integrating the concept of resilience is critical to enable a sustainable future and avoid creating new risks,

*Noting with grave concern* that, although it fell in 2022, the debt level in small island developing States remains above pre-pandemic levels, and more than 40 per cent of those States are suffering from severe debt problems, owing to the continuing rise of the external debt stock of those States, which grew by 5 per cent in 2022 to 68.6 billion United

<sup>598</sup> Resolution 69/15, annex.

<sup>599</sup> *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

<sup>600</sup> *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10–14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

<sup>601</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>602</sup> Resolution 69/313, annex.

<sup>603</sup> Resolution 69/283, annex II.

<sup>604</sup> Resolution 71/256, annex.

<sup>605</sup> See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

States dollars, and by 16 per cent since the end of 2019; moreover, the reduction in liquidity buffers as measured by the ratio of reserves to short-term debt to 148 per cent disproportionately affects small island developing States,

*Acknowledging* the need for urgent action to address the adverse impacts of climate change, including those related to sea level rise and extreme weather events, which continue to pose a significant risk to small island developing States and to their efforts to achieve sustainable development and, for many, represent the gravest of threats to their survival and viability, as well as through threats to water availability and food security and nutrition,

*Taking note* of the request for an advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the obligations of States in respect of climate change,

*Taking note with concern* of the findings contained in the recent reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, including the synthesis report of the Sixth Assessment Report and the special reports of the Intergovernmental Panel entitled *Global Warming of 1.5°C*, *Climate Change and Land*, and *The Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate*,

*Noting* the importance of oceans, seas and marine resources to small island developing States, owing to their unique characteristics, dependence on and particular exposure to the ocean and its biodiversity, and noting also the central role of the ocean in the culture, livelihoods and sustainable development of the peoples of small island developing States,

*Acknowledging* the efforts of small island developing States to develop and implement strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean and its resources, in this regard reiterating the calls made in the declarations entitled “Our ocean, our future: call for action”<sup>606</sup> and “Our ocean, our future, our responsibility”<sup>607</sup> adopted, respectively, at the 2017 and 2022 United Nations Conferences to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, acknowledging also the further enhanced actions to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14, with a particular focus on its targets 14.2, 14.4, 14.5 and 14.6, which matured in 2020, and looking forward to accelerating urgent action at the 2025 United Nations Ocean Conference, which will be co-hosted by Costa Rica and France, and to cooperating at the global, regional and subregional levels to achieve all targets as soon as possible without undue delay,

*Looking forward* to the successful convening of the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, to be held in Kigali, Rwanda, from 18 to 21 June 2024, under the theme “Driving partnerships for progress”,

*Looking forward also* to the convening of the first Global Supply Chain Forum by the Government of Barbados with the support of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to be held in Bridgetown from 21 to 24 May 2024,

*Noting with concern* that plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, continues to negatively affect small island developing States, encouraging further efforts at all levels to prevent, reduce and eliminate plastic pollution, as well as welcoming the decision by the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme at its resumed fifth session, in resolution 5/14 of 2 March 2022,<sup>608</sup> and noting the convening of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment,

*Noting* the important role of forests in climate mitigation and adaptation, including through promoting the adoption and implementation of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, on the role of conservation and sustainable management of forests in developing countries, as well as other alternative policy approaches in small island developing States, including those with high forest low deforestation (HFLD) regions, as per article 5.2 of the Paris Agreement, on national or, on an interim basis, subnational jurisdictional scales, can foster information exchange, expertise-sharing and collective problem-solving, fostering a united effort in addressing climate mitigation and adaptation goals, and also noting it is essential for those small island developing States that

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<sup>606</sup> Resolution 71/312, annex.

<sup>607</sup> Resolution 76/296, annex.

<sup>608</sup> UNEP/EA.5/Res.14.

have maintained forest cover and other ecosystems such as mangroves, seagrass, peatlands, old-growth forests, and marshes, over decades of sustainable management and use to pursue opportunities to mobilize financing in this regard,

*Underscoring* the importance of eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, and noting that eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, as well as an overarching objective of the 2030 Agenda for small island developing States and other developing countries,

*Noting* that water resources are critical for sustainable development and the eradication of poverty, recognizing that water, ecosystems, energy, food security and nutrition are interlinked and indispensable for health, well-being and human development, and in this regard calling for the promotion of the sustainable management of water at all levels, taking into account the recognition by small island developing States of the water, food, energy and environmental nexus,

*Welcoming* the convening of the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028, from 22 to 24 March 2023,

*Recognizing* the long-standing cooperation and support provided by the international community, which has played an important role in helping small island developing States to make progress in addressing their vulnerabilities and in supporting their sustainable development efforts, and recalling paragraph 19 of the Samoa Pathway, which calls for strengthening this cooperation, and paragraph 22 of the Samoa Pathway, which underscores the urgency of finding additional solutions to address the major challenges facing small island developing States,

*Reaffirming* the need to mainstream sustainable development at all levels, integrating economic, social and environmental aspects, and recognizing their interlinkages, so as to enable small island developing States to achieve sustainable development in all its dimensions,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>609</sup>
2. *Reiterates* the call to the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and their subsidiary bodies to monitor the full implementation of the Declaration of Barbados<sup>610</sup> and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Samoa Pathway, including through the monitoring frameworks of the regional commissions, and recalls the discussion during the 2023 high-level political forum on sustainable development on the sustainable development challenges facing small island developing States, with the aim of enhancing engagement and implementing commitments;
3. *Underlines* the need to give due consideration to the issues and concerns of small island developing States in all relevant major United Nations conferences and processes and the relevant work of the United Nations development system, and calls for the elaboration of information specific to small island developing States in a disaggregated manner in all major United Nations reports, where appropriate;
4. *Welcomes* resolution 5/14 adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its resumed fifth session and the convening of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastics, with the ambition of completing its work by the end of 2024;
5. *Recalls with concern* the findings and conclusions of the needs assessment resulting from the expanding mandates of the small island developing States units of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, and emphasizes the need for allocation of adequate resources commensurate with the mandates of these units, taking into account the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States and its preparatory process;

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<sup>609</sup> A/78/222.

<sup>610</sup> *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.



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6. *Welcomes* the continuing commitment of the international community to take urgent and concrete actions to address the vulnerabilities of small island developing States and to continue to seek new solutions to the major challenges facing them in a concerted manner in order to support the full implementation of the Samoa Pathway;

7. *Invites* the international community to consider how best multidimensional vulnerability could be reflected in existing practices and policies for debt sustainability and development support, including access to concessional finance;

8. *Welcomes* the commitments made by the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, in the communiqué of its high-level meeting of 2020, to improve policies and programmes to address the particular needs of small island developing States, and takes note of the launch of effectiveness principles for improving development impacts in small island developing States in Geneva in 2022 and the establishment of an AOSIS-DAC Task Force in 2023 to identify a common set of issues and areas for collaboration, to improve the effectiveness and impact of official development assistance, and to consider the issue of vulnerability to be launched at the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States;

9. *Recognizes* that small island developing States continue to face significant challenges in accessing sufficient affordable financing for sustainable development, including concessional financing, and in this regard encourages providers of development finance to consider the specific vulnerabilities of small island developing States in order to strengthen development cooperation;

10. *Recalls* paragraph 10 of its resolution [77/245](#) of 30 December 2022, in which it, inter alia, supported the proposed definitions for structural vulnerability and resilience and the two-level structure outlined in the interim report of the High-Level Panel on the Development of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index for Small Island Developing States as the basis for the Panel's continued work, guiding the selection of appropriate indicators to inform vulnerability across all sectors of sustainable development, the proposed governance structure and the development of the country vulnerability-resilience profiles;

11. *Welcomes* the work of the High-Level Panel on the Development of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index for Small Island Developing States, which was co-chaired by the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Gaston Browne, and the former Prime Minister of Norway, Erna Solberg, including its consultations with Member States, and in this regard takes note of the final report of the Panel and the recommendations contained therein;

12. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session to appoint two co-facilitators, one from a developing country and one from a developed country, to launch, as soon as possible, an intergovernmental process, supported through an interim secretariat provided jointly by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, to consider the recommendations presented in the final report of the High-level Panel on the Development of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index for Small Island Developing States, its applicability, scope, custodianship and governance and ways to further improve it that would allow for the implementation of the index, and to report back to the General Assembly by the end of its seventy-eighth session;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to assess how multidimensional vulnerability is currently considered by the United Nations system, explore the potential uses and application of the multidimensional vulnerability index, and to inform the intergovernmental process;

14. *Reiterates* that small island developing States continue to face loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including extreme weather events and slow-onset events, resulting in unprecedented social, economic and environmental challenges that push debt to unsustainable levels, and in this regard calls for urgent and ambitious global action, in line with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change<sup>611</sup> and the Paris Agreement to avert, minimize and address the threat and impact of climate change on small island developing States;

15. *Stresses* the urgent and immediate need for new, additional, predictable and adequate financial resources to assist developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change in responding to economic and non-economic loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including

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<sup>611</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.



extreme weather events and slow-onset events, and looks forward to the timely and full operationalization of the new funding arrangements and a fund for responding to loss and damage;

16. *Notes with concern* the findings of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and that none of the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets were fully achieved, resulting in social, economic and environmental challenges in small island developing States, recognizes the unique opportunity offered for small island developing States' degraded ecosystems and environmental resilience with the adoption of the landmark Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, supports its implementation by 2030 and the subsequent launch of the new Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, and calls for urgent and ambitious global action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss in line with the Framework;

17. *Recognizes* that improving small island developing States' access to finance and debt management, as well as timely and orderly debt restructuring, is critical for their economic recovery, building resilience and sustainable development, and notes the call made by small island developing States for the establishment of a debt treatment mechanism to enable sound debt management for small island developing States that will allow for the use of state-contingent instruments;

18. *Takes note* of the Secretary-General's findings regarding the limited capacity of small island developing States, including upper-middle-income and high-income small island developing States, to gain access to disaster-related funding owing to differing eligibility criteria and the quantum of resources required to gain access thereto, as well as the need for an enabling environment at all levels, invites international financial institutions to revise eligibility criteria and modalities that prevent access to resources, taking into consideration multidimensional vulnerabilities, and urges the international community to enhance the allocation of and access to sustainable and predictable financing for disaster risk reduction and other preventive measures as part of a comprehensive risk management framework that matches the scale of existing and future disaster risks, while taking into account the barriers that have prevented the effective mobilization of critical financing to small island developing States, especially for implementation of associated plans and strategies devised by small island developing States;

19. *Recognizes* the increasing impacts of disasters and exogenous shocks on the debt position of small island developing States, and encourages all creditors to mainstream, as appropriate, state-contingent debt instruments, such as disaster and climate-resilient debt clauses, that allow for temporary payment standstills or maturity extensions, ex-ante financing to enable the systemic reduction of disaster risk and resilience-building, as well as the disclosure of disaster risk to avoid exacerbating debt distress, further recognizing that small island developing States have limited access to financing before and after disasters;

20. *Reaffirms* that official development assistance, both technical and financial, can foster resilient societies and economies, and calls upon the international community to mobilize additional development finance from all sources and at all levels to support small island developing States' efforts;

21. *Recognizes with concern* the transition challenges encountered by small island developing States that have graduated or are about to graduate from least developed country status, remains mindful that graduation must not disrupt a country's development progress, and stresses the need for the development and implementation of a viable multi-annual transition strategy to facilitate each small island developing State's graduation, with the support of the international community where appropriate, to mitigate against, inter alia, the possible loss of concessionary financing, to reduce the risks of falling heavily into debt and to ensure macrofinancial stability;

22. *Reiterates* the call to relevant institutions to learn from one another's efforts to address the diverse circumstances of countries, to better manage transitions and graduation, recognizes that official development assistance should continue to focus on countries most in need, and takes note of a willingness to develop a wider analysis of new measures, building on existing experiences with eligibility exceptions, for concessional finance and multidimensional assessments, to address the limitations of an income-only assessment of development and graduation readiness;

23. *Reiterates* the call to Member States to invite the World Bank to consider reviving the high-level working group among the development banks and its partners to review the rules governing access for small island developing States to concessional finance;

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24. *Underlines* the need to take targeted measures to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, to reduce inequalities and to promote the implementation of nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for the poor and those in vulnerable situations;

25. *Recognizes* that achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in small island developing States is not possible without private investment, including long-term foreign investment, which can be facilitated and attracted through the creation of an enabling environment and capacity support for small island developing States;

26. *Acknowledges* the important role that the Small Island Developing States Partnership Framework is playing in monitoring the progress of existing partnerships and encouraging the launch of new, genuine and durable partnerships, and in this regard welcomes the United Nations Small Island Developing States Partnerships Awards, which recognize and reward the most noteworthy small island developing States partnerships, and therefore reiterates its call for the Framework to be strengthened to continue its impact on communities, on human resources, capacity-building, the environment and enhanced knowledge-sharing, including information, data and improved coordination;

27. *Recognizes* that partnerships with relevant stakeholders are critical in building resilience, reducing disaster risk and achieving sustainable development and climate change adaptation at the local level, and takes note of the call for the establishment of the biennial regional multi-stakeholder small island developing States partnership dialogue with a view to facilitating means of implementation, inter alia, financing, investment, trade, technology transfer, on mutually agreed terms, capacity-building and creation of new partnerships, and looks forward to the scaling-up and development of durable and transformational partnerships at all levels;

28. *Reaffirms* the commitment to take urgent and concrete action to address the vulnerability of small island developing States, including through the sustained implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Samoa Pathway, and underlines the urgency of finding additional solutions to the major challenges facing small island developing States in a concerted manner so as to support them in sustaining the momentum realized in implementing the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the Samoa Pathway and achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

29. *Decides* to designate 2024 as the second International Year of Small Island Developing States in accordance with resolution 67/206 of 21 December 2012;

30. *Looks forward* to the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, to be held in Antigua and Barbuda from 27 to 30 May 2024, and notes that its overarching theme shall be “Charting the course toward resilient prosperity”;

31. *Welcomes* the appointments of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States as Secretary-General and Special Adviser to the Secretary-General of the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, respectively;

32. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to ensure, by 2024, the allocation of adequate resources to respond to the expanding mandates of the small island developing States units of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of the High Representative in support of the sustainable development agenda of the small island developing States and the forthcoming fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States and its preparatory process, and calls upon the United Nations system to strengthen and promote coordinated, effective and coherent capacity-development support to small island developing States;

33. *Reiterates its call* for the Secretary-General to continue to use his convening powers to continue to work on devising solutions for small island developing States in relation to debt vulnerability in the immediate term and debt sustainability in the long term, with due regard to multidimensional vulnerability, including the potential of a multidimensional vulnerability index, as criteria to access concessional finance, and in this regard recalls the invitation to the Secretary-General to convene a high-level meeting during the Conference, with a wide variety of stakeholders, including the United Nations system, international financial institutions, development banks and multilateral development partners to discuss the mobilization of resources for small island developing States;

34. *Acknowledges* that small island developing States have demonstrated their commitment to promoting sustainable development and, to that effect, have mobilized resources at the national and regional levels despite their

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limited resource base, and welcomes the long-standing cooperation and support provided by the international community and the private sector, which have played an important role in helping small island developing States to make progress in addressing their vulnerabilities and in supporting their sustainable development efforts;

35. *Calls for* continued and enhanced efforts to assist small island developing States and for a strengthening of United Nations system support to small island developing States, in keeping with the multiple ongoing and emerging challenges faced by those States to achieving sustainable development;

36. *Takes note* of the schedule for the preparatory committee, co-chaired by the Permanent Representatives of Maldives and New Zealand to the United Nations, to facilitate the intergovernmental process for the outcome document for the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, and in this regard calls upon all relevant stakeholders to work constructively and in collaboration with small island developing States;

37. *Looks forward* to the ongoing process under the preparatory committee that will result in an intergovernmentally agreed, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented political outcome document for the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, which will articulate priorities for small island developing States and define concrete, measurable targets for their development and relevant means of implementation for the next 10 years, building on the priorities identified by those States in the outcomes of the 2023 regional preparatory meetings for the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held from 24 to 26 July in Mauritius, from 8 to 10 August in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and from 16 to 18 August in Tonga, as well as the outcome of the interregional meeting held from 30 August to 1 September 2023 in Cabo Verde, and calls upon all Member States and relevant stakeholders to work cooperatively with small island developing States in this important endeavour;

38. *Recalls* that the Conference will be convened at the highest possible level and will include a high-level segment;

39. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to provide all appropriate support to the work of the preparatory process of the Conference and to the Conference itself and to ensure inter-agency cooperation and effective participation and coherence within the United Nations system, as well as the efficient use of resources, so that the objectives of the Conference can be addressed;

40. *Recalls* paragraphs 37, 38 and 39 of resolution [77/245](#) on participation in the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, and in this regard reiterates the call to international and bilateral donors, as well as the private sector, financial institutions, foundations and other donors to support the preparations for the Conference through voluntary contributions to the trust fund in support of preparations for the Conference and to support the participation of representatives of developing countries, priority being given to small island developing States, including coverage of economy-class air tickets, daily subsistence allowances and terminal expenses, and the invitation for voluntary contributions to support the participation of developing countries in the Conference;

41. *Stresses* the need for the effective participation of civil society, including non-governmental organizations and other major groups, particularly from small island developing States, in the Conference, and invites voluntary contributions to support their participation;

42. *Recognizes* that there is an urgent need to assist small island developing States in strengthening their statistical offices and to provide enhanced support in developing national capacities for improved data collection and statistical analysis, including high-quality and disaggregated data, and welcomes the decision by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to establish a small island developing States Centre of Excellence that will include a small island developing States global data hub that will be launched at the Conference;

43. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its seventy-ninth session, a report on the follow-up to and implementation of the Samoa Pathway, including on progress made and continuing challenges faced, on the implementation of the present resolution, building on the discussions and outcomes of the national, regional and interregional preparatory meetings, as well as the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States and the final report of the High-level Panel on the Development of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index;

44. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “Sustainable development”, the sub-item entitled “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”.

### RESOLUTION 78/233

Adopted at the 50th (resumed) plenary meeting, on 22 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/463/Add.1, para. 8)<sup>612</sup>

#### 78/233. Follow-up to the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries,<sup>613</sup> and the Doha Political Declaration, adopted during the second part of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Doha from 5 to 9 March 2023,<sup>614</sup> in which the Heads of State and Government and representatives of States strongly committed to the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action throughout the coming decade, including its six priority areas,

*Reaffirming* that the Doha Programme of Action is a new generation of renewed and strengthened commitments by the least developed countries and their development partners grounded in the overarching goals of achieving rapid, sustainable and inclusive recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, building resilience against future shocks, eradicating extreme poverty, strengthening labour markets by promoting the transition from informal to formal employment, enabling graduation from the least developed country category, facilitating access to sustainable and innovative financing, addressing inequalities, within and among countries, leveraging the power of science, technology and innovation, mainstreaming tech-driven entrepreneurship, bringing about structural transformation and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, through a reinvigorated global partnership for sustainable development based on scaled-up and ambitious means of implementation and diverse support for the least developed countries in forging the widest possible coalition of multi-stakeholder partnerships,

*Reaffirming also* that the Doha Programme of Action is grounded in six key focus areas for action and in the commitments and targets contained therein:

- (a) Investing in people in least developed countries: eradicating poverty and building capacity to leave no one behind,
- (b) Leveraging the power of science, technology, and innovation to fight against multidimensional vulnerabilities and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals,
- (c) Supporting structural transformation as a driver of prosperity,
- (d) Enhancing international trade of least developed countries and regional integration,
- (e) Addressing climate change, environmental degradation, recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and building resilience against future shocks for risk-informed sustainable development,
- (f) Mobilizing international solidarity, reinvigorated global partnerships and innovative tools and instruments: a march towards sustainable graduation,

*Affirming* the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including full respect for international law, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights<sup>615</sup> and international human rights treaties, and emphasizing the importance of fundamental freedoms for all,

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<sup>612</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee.

<sup>613</sup> Resolution 76/258, annex.

<sup>614</sup> *Report of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, New York, 17 March 2022, and Doha, 5–9 March 2023 (A/CONF.219/2023/3)*, chap. I, resolution 2.

<sup>615</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).

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*Reaffirming* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>616</sup> the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,<sup>617</sup> the Paris Agreement,<sup>618</sup> the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030<sup>619</sup> and the New Urban Agenda adopted in Quito by the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III),<sup>620</sup>

*Highlighting* the synergies between the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement, and noting with concern the findings contained in the special report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty, and looking forward to the convening of the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 30 November to 12 December 2023,

*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,

*Recognizing* that the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences, the adverse impact of climate change, biodiversity loss, desertification, pollution and other environmental degradation aspects, rising geopolitical tensions and conflicts with widespread effects on people, planet, prosperity and peace affect the situation of food security, energy security, extreme poverty and inequality, global trade and market stability, which put the very viability of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 at great risk,

*Recalling* its resolution [77/177](#) of 14 December 2022,

*Looking forward* to the Summit of the Future in 2024,

*Looking forward also* to the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, to be held in Antigua and Barbuda from 27 to 30 May 2024 under the overarching theme “Charting the course towards resilient prosperity”,

*Looking forward further* to the successful convening of the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, to be held in Kigali from 18 to 21 June 2024, under the theme “Driving partnerships for progress”,

*Recalling* Economic and Social Council resolution [2023/29](#) of 25 July 2023 on the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the decade 2022–2031,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolutions [59/209](#) of 20 December 2004 and [67/221](#) of 21 December 2012 on a smooth transition for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries,

*Recalling further* General Assembly resolutions [74/270](#) of 2 April 2020 on global solidarity to fight the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), [74/274](#) of 20 April 2020 on international cooperation to ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to face COVID-19 and [76/175](#) of 16 December 2021 on ensuring

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<sup>616</sup> Resolution [70/1](#).

<sup>617</sup> Resolution [69/313](#), annex.

<sup>618</sup> Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.

<sup>619</sup> Resolution [69/283](#), annex II.

<sup>620</sup> Resolution [71/256](#), annex.

equitable, affordable, timely and universal access for all countries to vaccines in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,

*Recognizing* that the least developed countries have been severely hit by the adverse impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic owing to the fragility of their health systems, limited access to vaccines, test-to-treat and diagnosis, and the slow pace of vaccinations, limited fiscal space, limited coverage of their social protection systems, limited financial and other resources, and vulnerability to external shocks,

*Recognizing also* the special challenges facing all developing countries in pursuing sustainable development, in particular least developed countries,

*Noting* the Transforming Education Summit convened and organized under the auspices of the Secretary-General in New York on 19 September 2022,

*Recognizing* the contributions of migrants in mitigating the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in both their countries of origin and destination, noting with concern the significant socioeconomic consequences that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on migrant workers and refugees from the least developed countries, including those in the low-wage informal economy, and noting with concern that the prospects of upward growth rate of remittances are likely to moderate in 2022 in many countries, highlighting that promoting faster, safer and cheaper remittances and reducing to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances will have positive impacts on the millions of people who depend heavily on them,

*Noting* the importance of the work of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries in promoting networking among researchers and research institutions, helping such countries to access and utilize critical technologies on mutually agreed terms, drawing together bilateral initiatives and support by multilateral institutions and the private sector, and implementing projects contributing to the use of science, technology and innovation for economic development in the least developed countries; and recalling with appreciation the contributions that Bangladesh, Guinea, India, Italy, Norway and Türkiye have made, as well as the pledges made by the Sudan,

*Welcoming* the convening of the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development,” 2018–2028, from 22 to 24 March 2023,

*Taking note* of the 2023 Ministerial Declaration of the Least Developed Countries,<sup>621</sup>

*Welcoming* the convening of the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development held in New York on 20 September 2023,

*Welcoming also* the political declarations adopted by the high-level meeting on the fight against tuberculosis,<sup>622</sup> the high-level meeting on universal health coverage<sup>623</sup> and the General Assembly high-level meeting on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response,<sup>624</sup> in September 2023,

*Reaffirming* its resolution 75/233 of 21 December 2020 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, as well as its resolution 72/279 of 31 May 2018 on the repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and emphasizing the importance of their full and timely implementation,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries<sup>625</sup> and on ensuring the effective implementation of the functions of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States;<sup>626</sup>

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<sup>621</sup> A/78/528, annex.

<sup>622</sup> Resolution 78/5, annex.

<sup>623</sup> Resolution 78/4, annex.

<sup>624</sup> Resolution 78/3, annex.

<sup>625</sup> A/78/112-E/2023/94.

<sup>626</sup> A/77/984.



2. *Calls upon* the least developed countries, with the support of their development partners, to take action to implement the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, including by developing an ambitious national implementation strategy regarding the Programme of Action and integrating its provisions into their national policies and development frameworks and conducting regular reviews with the full involvement of all key stakeholders;

3. *Also calls upon* the least developed countries, in cooperation with their development partners, to broaden their existing country-level review mechanisms and report dissemination, including those for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the implementation of poverty reduction strategy papers, nationally determined contributions, United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks and the existing consultative mechanisms, to cover the review of the Doha Programme of Action and extend them to all least developed countries;

4. *Calls upon* development partners and all other relevant actors to implement the Doha Programme of Action by integrating it into their respective national cooperation policy frameworks, programmes and activities, as appropriate, to ensure enhanced, predictable and targeted support to the least developed countries, as set out in the Programme of Action, and the delivery of their commitments, and to consider appropriate measures to overcome shortfalls or shortcomings, if any;

5. *Invites* the United Nations system, including the governing bodies of the United Nations funds and programmes and other multilateral organizations, including the World Bank Group, the International Monetary Fund and other international financial institutions, as well as the World Trade Organization, to contribute to the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action and to integrate it into their programmes of work, as appropriate and in accordance with their relevant mandates, and invites those organizations to participate fully in reviews of the Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels;

6. *Welcomes* the work of the Inter-Agency Consultative Group for Least Developed Countries, led by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, notes the steps taken by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and the High-level Committee on Programmes in supporting the coordination and follow-up of the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action on a system-wide basis, and reiterates its invitation to the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of the Chief Executives Board, to include the implementation of the Programme of Action in the agenda of the Board;

7. *Recalls* the strong commitment of the Heads of State and Government and representatives of States to advancing the concrete deliverables of the Doha Programme of Action with respect to exploring the feasibility, effectiveness and administrative modalities of a system of stockholding or alternative means, such as cash transfers, taking into account possible economic implications and risks, an online university or other equivalent platforms, an international investment support centre, a sustainable graduation support facility, and comprehensive multi-hazard crisis mitigation and resilience-building measures for least developed countries, and requests the Secretary-General to further elaborate on these deliverables and calls upon the development partners and other stakeholders to fully support the processes;

8. *Decides* to include the Doha Programme of Action as part of its review of the implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, including the review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

9. *Notes with concern* the estimates that by 2030 much of the world's poor will live in the least developed countries, which indicate that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is not on track, stresses the need for global support for the least developed countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as ensuring that no one is left behind, and further recognizes the importance of enhancing good governance at all levels by strengthening democratic processes, institutions and the rule of law, increasing efficiency, coherence, transparency and participation, achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, reducing inequalities, protecting and promoting human rights, reducing corruption and strengthening the capacity of Governments of the least developed countries to play an effective role in their economic and social development;

10. *Expresses deep concern* at the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the least developed countries, takes note of the statement dated 28 April 2020 of the Group of Least Developed Countries on



COVID-19<sup>627</sup> and commits to supporting its implementation, as appropriate, and invites development partners, international organizations and other stakeholders to support the least developed countries in their recovery efforts and continued implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, further highlighting the need for greater collaboration and partnerships at all levels to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including the fulfilment of the least developed country-specific targets, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda;

11. *Expresses its concern* that the world is in the midst of a highly challenging environment in which global sustainable development prospects continue to diverge; stresses that, at the midpoint of the implementation timeline, the Sustainable Development Goals are facing big challenges, with only about 12 per cent on track and the rest either off track or regressed below the 2015 baseline and that, under current trends, 575 million people will still be living in extreme poverty in 2030; and expresses further concern that the increased pressure on food, energy and finance, elevated inflation, rising global interest rates, tightened financial conditions, high indebtedness, disruptions in supply chains, and geopolitical tensions and conflicts, together with the adverse impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss and digital divides, have exacerbated challenges for many countries in addition to those associated with COVID-19 recovery, increasing hunger, and all forms of malnutrition and poverty and inequality; and analysis of the most recent data reveals that the least developed countries are not on track to meet the targets of the Doha Programme of Action and the Sustainable Development Goals;

12. *Welcomes* the political declaration adopted by the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly (Sustainable Development Goals Summit), held in New York on 18 and 19 September 2023,<sup>628</sup> and urges timely action to ensure its full implementation;

13. *Welcomes* the Secretary-General's efforts to address the SDG financing gap through an SDG stimulus; and reiterates the commitment to advance the Secretary-General's proposal, in a timely manner through discussions at the United Nations as well as other relevant forums and institutions, to tackle the high cost of debt and rising risks of debt distress, to enhance support to developing countries and to massively scale up affordable long-term financing for development and expand contingency financing to countries in need;

14. *Reaffirms* that the least developed countries, as the most vulnerable group of countries, need enhanced global support to overcome the structural challenges, as well as recent devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, conflicts and climate change and the deteriorating situation of food security, lack of access to finance and energy, and increased poverty, that they face in implementing the 2030 Agenda, and in this regard calls upon the international community to prioritize and strengthen support from all sources to facilitate sustained recovery and rebuilding and the coordinated implementation and coherent follow-up to and monitoring of the Doha Programme of Action, the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda in the least developed countries;

15. *Recognizes* that many developing countries, especially the least developed countries, are faced with significantly higher borrowing costs to finance the response to COVID-19, leading to a greater finance divide that can undermine the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

16. *Also recognizes* that domestic public and private resources, including at the subnational level, supplemented by international assistance and foreign direct investment, as appropriate, will be critical for the realization of sustainable development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals; and that the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda acknowledge the centrality of domestic resources mobilization, underscored by the principle of national ownership;

17. *Welcomes* the commitment of development partners to ensuring the fulfilment of their respective official development assistance commitments to the least developed countries, ensuring the alignment of aid with the least developed countries' national priorities and increasing the alignment of aid with the least developed countries' national systems and procedures, also welcomes the decision by the European Union by which it reaffirms its collective commitment to achieving the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance within the time frame of the 2030 Agenda and to reach 0.20 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to the least developed countries within the time frame of the 2030 Agenda, encourages official development assistance providers to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of gross national income for official

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<sup>627</sup> See A/74/843, annex.

<sup>628</sup> Resolution 78/1, annex.

development assistance to the least developed countries, is encouraged by those that are allocating at least 50 per cent of their official development assistance to the least developed countries, and calls upon the development partners to continue their development assistance to the least developed countries in their efforts to overcome ongoing crises;

18. *Also welcomes* the global ambition to voluntarily channel 100 billion United States dollars of special drawing rights to developing and least developing countries, calls upon Member States with strong external positions to consider the voluntary channelling of special drawing rights to countries in need, particularly to the least developed countries, in a timely manner, including through the International Monetary Fund Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust, welcomes the operationalization of the International Monetary Fund Resilience and Sustainability Trust as a new mechanism to voluntarily channel special drawing rights to provide affordable long-term financing to the least developed countries and other vulnerable countries, with due consideration to national legal frameworks, and also welcomes the ongoing exploration of viable options to voluntarily channel special drawing rights through multilateral development banks; and calls for an urgent voluntary re-channelling of Special Drawing Rights to countries most in need, including through multilateral development banks, while respecting relevant legal frameworks and preserving the reserve asset character of Special Drawing Rights; and explore ways for future allocations of Special Drawing Rights to benefit those countries most in need;

19. *Notes* that the global macroeconomic outlook remains highly uncertain, and is particularly bleak for many developing countries, including a large number of least developed countries, faced with growing debt service burdens and tight fiscal constraints and that such a finance divide will, if left unaddressed, translate into a lasting sustainable development divide; and calls for improved international debt mechanisms to support debt review, debt payment suspensions, and debt restructuring, as appropriate, with an expansion of support and eligibility to vulnerable countries in need;

20. *Calls upon* official creditors to make long-term sustainable financing available to least developed countries through grants and concessional funding and to offer more fixed-interest lending at low interest rates, emphasizing that this is part of a mix of financing approaches that also include grants;

21. *Stresses* the urgency of enhancing ambition for climate action in the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change<sup>629</sup> and the Paris Agreement in relation to climate mitigation, adaptation and the provision of the means of implementation, especially finance to developing countries; urges the implementation of the decisions adopted at the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt; reaffirms its commitment to take concrete steps toward the operationalization of the new funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage, including the fund, by the twenty-eighth session; commits to continuing work to accelerate action to address climate change; and in this regard looks forward to the first global stock take of the Paris Agreement to take place at the twenty-eighth session;

22. *Notes with concern* that the current provision of climate finance for adaptation remains insufficient to respond to worsening climate change impacts in developing country parties and recognizes the importance of the adequacy and predictability of adaptation finance, welcomes that the parties<sup>630</sup> urged developed country parties to urgently and significantly scale up their provision of climate finance, technology transfer and capacity-building for adaptation so as to respond to the needs of developing country parties as part of a global effort, including for the formulation and implementation of national adaptation plans and adaptation communications, also recognizes that many least developed countries face challenges in gaining direct access to international public finance owing to a lack of technical capacity, supports the provision of assistance to least developed countries in preparing bankable projects and creating enabling environments, and encourages further efforts to enhance access to finance;

23. *Welcomes* that the parties<sup>631</sup> urged developed country parties to deliver in full on the 100 billion dollar goal urgently and through to 2025 and emphasizes the importance of transparency in the implementation of their pledges, also welcomes that they urged the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention, multilateral development banks and other financial institutions to further scale up investment in climate action, and

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<sup>629</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

<sup>630</sup> United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and/or Paris Agreement.

<sup>631</sup> United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and/or Paris Agreement.

calls for a continued increase in the scale and effectiveness of climate finance from all sources globally, including grants and other highly concessional forms of finance;

24. *Notes* that in 2021, electrification rates in the least developed countries continued to rise but remained low, at 56 per cent, 481 million people in the least developed countries were without any access to electricity in 2021, which was almost two thirds of the total global population living without access to electricity, and urgent international attention is needed to address the inequalities in access to sustainable energy that are faced by the least developed countries, and encourages the doubling of international public finance and the mobilization of resources from all sources to meet the urgent need for investment in power generation and transmission;

25. *Underlines* the need for reinforcing the existing comprehensive multi-hazard early warning system and comprehensive multi-hazard crises mitigation and resilience-building measures, including comprehensive disaster risk financing strategies for the least developed countries aligned with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 as a key instrument to build resilience against and mitigate the impacts of various shocks, and the commitment to making the best use of existing initiatives, providing support for capacity-building for adaptation planning and implementation, and technical assistance to develop operational national risk information systems to support policymaking, including in the insurance sector; welcomes the call by the Secretary-General to ensure every person on Earth is protected by early warning systems within five years, and requests the Secretary-General to undertake, with the least developed countries, a comprehensive study involving all relevant United Nations development system entities and other relevant stakeholders on the existing arrangements, lessons learned and gaps identified and to submit it to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session for further consideration;

26. *Calls upon* the developing countries, guided by the spirit of solidarity and consistent with their capabilities, to provide support for the effective implementation of the Doha Programme of Action in mutually agreed areas of cooperation within the framework of South-South and triangular cooperation, which is a complement to but not a substitute for North-South cooperation;

27. *Underlines* the importance of promoting an enabling business environment conducive to growth and development, the absence of corruption, a transparent and rules-based regulatory framework, simplifying business regulations and processes, reducing and streamlining administrative formalities, creating efficient national support mechanisms for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, improving supply chains, facilitating access to markets, reinforcing cooperation, building capacities to implement effective competition policies, and adopting open, transparent and clear regulatory frameworks for business and investment, with protection for property rights and land rights as appropriate and in accordance with national circumstances and consistent with international legal frameworks;

28. *Welcomes* the convening of the twelfth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Geneva from 12 to 17 June 2022, and the adoption of its ministerial declarations, and looks forward to concrete and positive results at the thirteenth Ministerial Conference; and also welcomes the convening of the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in Barbados from 3 to 7 October 2021, at which the Bridgetown Covenant<sup>632</sup> was adopted;

29. *Urges* the least developed countries and their development partners to make use of existing initiatives and programmes, such as the relevant ministerial decisions of the World Trade Organization on duty-free and quota-free market access for the least developed countries and on preferential rules of origin for those countries, as well as aid-for-trade, reiterates its commitment to increasing aid-for-trade support, in particular for the least developed countries, striving to allocate an increasing proportion of aid-for-trade to the least developed countries, in accordance with development cooperation effectiveness principles, welcomes additional cooperation among developing countries to that end, and encourages the least developed countries to mainstream trade in their national development plans;

30. *Recognizes* that the least developed countries face significant infrastructure gaps, including in the areas of transport, energy, water, sanitation and information and communications technology, and reaffirms the need to promote quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure and to enhance infrastructure connectivity with concrete actions and predictable financing, thereby maximizing synergies in infrastructure planning and development;

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<sup>632</sup> [TD/541/Add.2](#).

31. *Reaffirms* that the least developed countries are especially vulnerable to and disproportionately affected by the adverse effects of climate change, environmental degradation and other disasters, and recognizes the high importance of building resilience in the least developed countries through stepped-up capacity-building and finance for adaptation to climate change;

32. *Recalls* the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and reaffirms that disaster-prone developing countries need particular attention in view of their high vulnerability and exposure to adverse climate change impacts, recognizes that the development and implementation of risk-informed plans, policies, programmes and investments are essential for sustainable development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, also recognizes that the COVID-19 pandemic has increased vulnerability to wider, growing risks, notes with serious concern the stark warnings contained in the recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and notes that the Sendai Framework provides guidance relevant to a sustainable recovery from COVID-19 and also to identify and address underlying drivers of disaster risk in a systemic manner, further recognizes the health aspects of the Sendai Framework, and stresses the need for resilient health systems;

33. *Welcomes* the convening of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, held on 18 and 19 May 2023, to assess progress on integrating disaster risk reduction into policies, programmes and investments at all levels, identify good practices, gaps and challenges and accelerate the path to achieving the goal of the Sendai Framework and its seven global targets by 2030, and affirms its commitment to scale up efforts towards the full and timely implementation of the Sendai Framework, including its guiding principles and four priorities for action;

34. *Recognizes* the need for dealing with severe food insecurity and malnutrition in least developed countries, and calls upon Member States and other relevant stakeholders to keep food and agriculture supply chains functioning; and calls upon the international financial institutions to find urgent, affordable and timely solutions to support developing countries, in particular those highly indebted, in responding to the food security crisis and achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2, through, but not limited to, facilitating, as appropriate, access to debt relief and concessional finance;

35. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Secretary-General, including with regard to a food import financing facility, a credit guarantee facility and a special food reserve system, and in this regard reiterates its requests to the Secretary-General, on the basis of voluntary contributions, to carry out a study, with secretariat support provided by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, in consultation with all relevant United Nations entities and taking into consideration and building upon the existing initiatives and programmes on food security, taking into account World Trade Organization members' existing obligations, in order to further assess the proposed recommendations for the least developed countries, outlining their modalities, terms of reference, governance and support structures, and looks forward to the submission of the report with his recommendations to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session for consideration by the Member States;

36. *Recognizes* that particular efforts are needed to ensure that all young people, including girls, enjoy equal access to lifelong learning opportunities and equal access to quality education at all levels, inclusive of early childhood, primary, secondary and tertiary education, as well as technical and vocational training, notes with concern, in this regard, the lack of progress in closing gender gaps in access to, retention in and completion of secondary education, particularly for girls, recognizes the need to continue to provide and encourage, as appropriate, institutes of higher education to allocate places and scholarships for students and trainees from the least developed countries, in particular in the fields of science, technology, business management and economics, and to strengthen support for institutions in relation to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls at the global, regional and national levels, and also recognizes that the least developed countries have the most to gain from sustainable development and utilizing the full skills and talents of their people, including women and girls;

37. *Emphasizes* the need for early conclusion of the feasibility studies, as mandated in the Doha Programme of Action, to explore the possibility of establishing an online university or other equivalent platforms to support online graduate and postgraduate university-level science, technology, engineering and mathematics education in the least developed countries and recently graduated countries with a view to, inter alia, providing policy support to promote distance education and open learning for graduate and postgraduate studies in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, ensuring gender balance at all levels while guaranteeing special access for the poorest and people in vulnerable situations, creating a virtual network of educational institutions within and beyond the least developed

countries, assisting in course design and curriculum development, and leading to scale and sustainability of the education system, taking into account all pre-existing initiatives developed by the relevant partners in a comprehensive manner, and in this regard looks forward to the report of the Secretary-General outlining, inter alia, the mapping of existing initiatives, possible new modalities, resource requirements, accreditation and sustainable funding sources to be submitted to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session for its consideration;

38. *Recognizes* that increasing participation, supporting the empowerment of women, youth and civil society, and strengthening collective action will contribute to the eradication of poverty and the achievement of sustainable development;

39. *Also recognizes* the need to support least developed countries in building capacity and a framework to scale up the development, deployment and sustainable utilization of emerging technologies for the Sustainable Development Goals, including strengthening of digital literacy and skills, as part of efforts to bridge digital and knowledge divides, as a prerequisite for inclusive participation in the digital economy, and to provide necessary financial and technical support to least developed countries to establish and strengthen national and regional science institutes to increase their capacity for research and development in science, technology and innovations and promote the adaptation and application of modern technologies for domestic uses;

40. *Supports* the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries as a focal point for the least developed countries to strengthen their science, technology and innovation capacity towards building sustainable productive capacities and promoting structural economic transformation, also supports the Technology Bank in strengthening the science, technology and innovation capacity of least developed countries for structural transformation and productive capacity development, invites Member States, as well as international organizations, foundations and the private sector, to provide voluntary financial and in-kind resources to the Technology Bank in order to enhance its capacity and effectiveness, and decides to strengthen collaboration among Governments, the private sector and academia to advance science, technology and innovation research and development, build inclusive digital economies and bridge the digital divide, including by facilitating technology transfer mutually agreed terms; and also decides to include the topic “Report on the work of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries” under the sub-item entitled “Follow-up to the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries” at its seventy-ninth session, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report for its consideration;

41. *Reaffirms* the commitment to implementing the decision contained in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda to adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for the least developed countries, reiterates the decision<sup>633</sup> to provide financial and technical support for project preparation and contract negotiation, advisory support for investment-related dispute resolution, access to information on investment facilities, improving enabling environments, and risk insurance and guarantees such as through the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency, and in this regard reiterates its requests to the Secretary-General to conclude expeditiously the feasibility study on establishing an international investment support centre for the least developed countries in the form of a one-stop shop to mobilize support for the implementation of the investment promotion regime for the least developed countries and graduated countries, and to submit the study and recommendations to the General Assembly for its consideration at its seventy-ninth session;

42. *Also reaffirms* that achieving gender equality, the empowerment of all women and girls and the full realization of the human rights of all people is essential to achieving sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, and reiterates the need for gender mainstreaming, including targeted actions and investments in the formulation and implementation of all financial, economic, environmental and social policies in the least developed countries;

43. *Congratulates* those countries that have met the criteria for graduation from least developed country status, notes with appreciation that 4 countries have graduated since 2011, 1 will graduate in December 2023, another 5 have been designated to graduate by 2026 and 10 others have met the graduation criteria at least once, invites those countries to start the preparations for their graduation by formulating a smooth transition strategy, and requests all relevant organizations of the United Nations system, led by the Office of the High Representative, to extend the necessary support in this regard in a coordinated manner, through the full operationalization of the Sustainable Graduation Support Facility (iGRAD), while calling upon Member States to support this initiative with voluntary contributions;

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<sup>633</sup> Resolution 69/313, annex, para. 46.

44. *Reiterates its conviction* that no country graduating from the least developed country category should have its development progress disrupted or reversed, welcomes the fact that the United Nations graduation process helps to ensure that no graduating country has its special and differential treatment measures and exemptions reduced abruptly, invites development and trading partners to consider extending to graduated countries trade preferences previously made available as a result of least developed country status, or reducing them in a phased manner in order to avoid their abrupt reduction, notes that the Group of Least Developed Countries put forward various proposals at the World Trade Organization, pertaining to, among other things, trade-related challenges and those related to the smooth transition of the countries graduating from the least developed country category and seeks to further examine these issues, and calls upon the development partners to continue to provide, as appropriate, special climate change-related finance and technological support to graduated countries so as to support action towards the achievement of the goals of the Paris Agreement and for a period consistent with their vulnerabilities, sustainable development needs and other national circumstances and emerging challenges;

45. *Underlines* the importance of integrating support for graduating and graduated countries into the relevant work programmes of the entities of the United Nations development system in the light of the increasing number of graduating countries and their need for continued support from the United Nations development system;

46. *Recommits* to take action to strengthen international, national and local data systems efforts to collect high-quality, timely, relevant, disaggregated and reliable data on Sustainable Development Goals progress and to intensify efforts to strengthen data and statistical capacities in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries;

47. *Recognizes* that the activities relating to the least developed countries carried out within the Secretariat need to be further coordinated and consolidated in order to ensure the effective monitoring and follow-up of the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action, led by the Office of the High Representative, and to provide well-coordinated support to realizing, inter alia, the target of enabling 15 additional least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2031;

48. *Also recognizes* that, over the years, the responsibilities of the Office of the High Representative have increased considerably in their scope and complexity and that, in addition to its original mandate, the requirement to undertake research and analytical work, monitor sectoral policy developments at the level of intergovernmental processes, follow up on actions taken at the national level, further strengthen the network of national focal points of least developed countries, develop operational guidelines for United Nations entities support to countries in conflict and post-conflict situations and support the graduating and graduated countries have increased;

49. *Recommends* that the United Nations development system organizations develop internal guidelines on how to translate the stated priorities for least developed countries into their budget allocations or their capacity development projects, and invites the World Bank Group, the International Monetary Fund, other international financial and development institutions to provide tailored programmes to support the least developed countries; further invites international organizations to consider how the Doha Programme of Action may inform their efforts; and also requests the United Nations development system to further expand the use of the least developed country category in programming and budgeting;

50. *Approves* the proposal of the Secretary-General for strengthening the capacity and functions of the Office of the High Representative in view of the increased demand from the three groups of countries, improving its strategic position in dealing with key development issues and processes relevant to the most vulnerable countries and providing important service benefits to them while improving its performance implementation rate, and requests the Secretary-General to address the allocation of adequate resources for the Office in the context of the proposed programme budget for the year 2025;

51. *Invites* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and other donors to contribute in a timely manner to the trust fund in support of activities undertaken by the Office of the High Representative to support the implementation, follow-up and monitoring of the Doha Programme of Action and the participation of the representatives from the least developed countries in the high-level political forum on sustainable development of the Economic and Social Council as well as in other relevant forums, and in this regard expresses its appreciation to those countries that have made voluntary contributions to the trust fund;

52. *Expresses its profound gratitude* to the Government and the people of the State of Qatar for hosting the second part of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and for providing all the necessary support to the Conference and its preparatory process;

#### IV. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Second Committee

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53. *Requests* the Secretary-General, with the assistance of relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the Department of Global Communications of the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Office of the High Representative, to take the measures necessary to intensify their public information efforts and other appropriate initiatives to enhance public awareness on the outcome of the Conference, including by highlighting its programme of action, objectives, key deliverables and significance;

54. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and the Doha Programme of Action, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “Groups of countries in special situations”, the sub-item entitled “Follow-up to the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries”.



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## RESOLUTION 78/171

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/472, para. 57)<sup>1</sup>

### 78/171. Persons with albinism

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>2</sup> and recalling relevant international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>3</sup> the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>4</sup> the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,<sup>5</sup> the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,<sup>6</sup> the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women<sup>7</sup> and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>8</sup>

*Reaffirming also* the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development<sup>9</sup> and the further initiatives for social development adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session,<sup>10</sup> and the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons,<sup>11</sup>

*Recalling* its resolution 76/130 of 16 December 2021 and its previous resolutions on persons with albinism,

*Recalling also* Human Rights Council resolutions 23/13 of 13 June 2013 on attacks and discrimination against persons with albinism<sup>12</sup> and 24/33 of 27 September 2013 on technical cooperation for the prevention of attacks against persons with albinism,<sup>13</sup> as well as resolutions 28/6 of 26 March 2015,<sup>14</sup> 37/5 of 22 March 2018<sup>15</sup> and 46/12 of 23 March 2021<sup>16</sup> pertaining to the mandate of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism,

*Recalling further* its resolution 69/170 of 18 December 2014, by which the General Assembly decided to proclaim 13 June as International Albinism Awareness Day, with effect from 2015,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the social development challenges faced by persons with albinism<sup>17</sup> and the recommendations contained therein,

<sup>1</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Austria, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Fiji, France, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Kiribati, Latvia, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Sweden, Tunisia, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

<sup>2</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>3</sup> See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 660, No. 9464.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., vol. 2515, No. 44910.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid., vol. 1249, No. 20378.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>9</sup> *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

<sup>10</sup> Resolution S-24/2, annex.

<sup>11</sup> A/37/351/Add.1 and A/37/351/Add.1/Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII, recommendation 1 (IV).

<sup>12</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/68/53)*, chap. V, sect. A.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid., *Supplement No. 53A (A/68/53/Add.1)*, chap. III.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid., *Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/70/53)*, chap. III, sect. A.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid., *Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/73/53)*, chap. IV, sect. A.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid., *Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/76/53)*, chap. V, sect. A.

<sup>17</sup> A/76/769.

*Recalling* the report on persons with albinism submitted by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-fourth session,<sup>18</sup> and recalling also all the reports of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism to the General Assembly and to the Council,

*Recalling also* African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights resolutions 263 of 5 November 2013 on the prevention of attacks and discrimination against persons with albinism and 373 of 22 May 2017 on the Regional Action Plan on Albinism in Africa (2017–2021), and the Pan-African Parliament resolution on persons with albinism in Africa of 18 May 2018,

*Expressing grave concern* at all attacks against persons with albinism, including women and children,

*Welcoming* the steps taken and the efforts made by the countries concerned, including the initiation of legal action against perpetrators of attacks against persons with albinism, public condemnation of attacks against persons with albinism and public campaigns to raise awareness,

*Expressing concern* that persons with albinism are disproportionately affected by poverty, owing to the discrimination and marginalization that they face, and in this regard recognizing that there is a need for resources to develop and implement programmes to prevent and combat prejudice, to foster inclusion and to create an environment conducive to respect for their rights and dignity,

*Expressing concern also* that women and girls with albinism may face multiple forms of discrimination, and a higher risk of sexual abuse, especially in communities where they are falsely perceived to have the power to cure HIV and AIDS, including being targets of witchcraft-related attacks,

*Recognizing* that persons with albinism continue to face environmental, structural and attitudinal barriers that prevent their full participation in economic, social, political and cultural life,

*Recognizing also* the need to address the root causes of attacks and discrimination against persons with albinism, particularly the interrelated factors, including the mythologization of albinism and the related lack of understanding of the scientific bases of the condition, poverty, discrimination and economic and social marginalization, witchcraft practices and other aggravating factors, which contribute to the ongoing outbreaks of attacks and discrimination against persons with albinism, particularly on the African continent,

*Recognizing further* that implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>19</sup> will contribute, inter alia, to the promotion of social inclusion of persons in vulnerable situations, including persons with albinism, and reaffirming that Member States, in implementing the 2030 Agenda, should, inter alia, respect, protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including persons with albinism, without discrimination of any kind,

*Expressing concern* about the continuing lack of information and disaggregated data on the status of persons with albinism, which are important to inform appropriate policy responses by Member States and the United Nations system, while acknowledging that some Member States have examples of good practices of collecting disaggregated data on persons with albinism,

*Recognizing* that access to full and productive employment and decent work is an important aspect of participation in social and economic life,

*Reaffirming* the need for the participation of persons with albinism in development efforts at the local, national, regional and international levels, and in this regard stressing the need to strengthen the effectiveness of national, regional and international policy and development programmes related to persons with albinism,

1. *Urges* Member States to continue to meet their obligations to uphold the human rights of all persons, including persons with albinism, including the rights to life, liberty, security of person, education, work, an adequate standard of living and the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;

2. *Encourages* Member States to adopt, if necessary, national action plans and legislation, as appropriate, on the rights of persons with albinism, in conformity with their international human rights obligations and commitments,

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<sup>18</sup> [A/HRC/24/57](#).

<sup>19</sup> Resolution [70/1](#).

notably the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;

3. *Also encourages* Member States to address the root causes of discrimination and violence against persons with albinism, including through awareness-raising campaigns, the dissemination of accurate information on albinism and other measures, such as the integration of albinism into education curricula, and to collaborate with organizations representing persons with albinism, including civil society organizations, as appropriate, in their efforts to drive public awareness on albinism;

4. *Further encourages* Member States to end impunity for violence against persons with albinism, including sexual and gender-based violence, by amending laws, where applicable, and by bringing perpetrators to justice;

5. *Calls upon* Member States to work to ensure accountability through the conduct of impartial, speedy and effective investigations into crimes and attacks against persons with albinism falling within their jurisdiction, to hold those responsible accountable and to ensure that victims, survivors and family members have access to appropriate remedies, as well as accessible therapy and psychosocial, socioeconomic, legal and medical support, as appropriate;

6. *Encourages* Member States to take effective steps to promote regional cooperation for the prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution and punishment of cross-border crimes affecting persons with albinism, notably trafficking of persons, children and body parts;

7. *Calls upon* the international community to provide financial and technical assistance to Member States, upon their request, in support of measures to prevent and combat discrimination against persons with albinism, including strengthening the capacity of their health-care systems to provide affordable dermatological and ophthalmological services;

8. *Encourages* Member States and relevant United Nations agencies to collect, compile and disseminate disaggregated data on persons with albinism, where applicable, to identify patterns of discrimination and to assess progress towards the improvement of their status;

9. *Encourages* Member States to develop, if necessary, policies and measures to address the social development challenges faced by persons with albinism, who may require assistance in order to enjoy equal access to benefits and services, notably in the fields of education, employment and health, and to promote their participation in political, civil, economic, social and cultural life;

10. *Calls upon* Member States to support the participation of persons with albinism in social, economic, political, civil and cultural life, as well as their consultation and active involvement in the design, implementation and evaluation of laws, policies, campaigns and training programmes, and further urges Member States to implement, if necessary, national measures to ensure that persons with albinism are not left behind, recognizing that persons with albinism are often disproportionately affected by poverty, discrimination and lack of decent work and employment, and to commit to working towards the social integration of persons with albinism;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at the main part of its eightieth session, under the item entitled “Social development”, on the various social development challenges faced by persons with albinism, taking into consideration the specific needs of women and children, including those related to social inclusion, health, education and employment, and measures taken, with recommendations for further action to be taken by Member States and other relevant stakeholders to address identified challenges, and encourages the Secretary-General to collect information from Member States and all relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in the preparation of the report;

12. *Decides*, taking into account the multifaceted nature of the challenges faced by persons with albinism, to consider the issue of persons with albinism at its eightieth session, under the item entitled “Social development”.

## RESOLUTION 78/172

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/472, para. 57)<sup>20</sup>

### **78/172. Inclusive policies and programmes to address homelessness, including in the aftermath of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19)**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its previous resolution 76/133 on the inclusive policies and programmes to address homelessness, including in the aftermath of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), adopted on 16 December 2021,

*Recalling also* the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled “World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world”, held in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000, and their outcomes,

*Reaffirming* that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development<sup>21</sup> and the further initiatives for social development adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session<sup>22</sup> constitute the basic framework for the promotion of social development for all with people at the centre, and encouraging the continued global dialogue on social development issues,

*Recalling* the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>23</sup> which, inter alia, recognizes the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which the Assembly recognized to ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services, and to implement social protection systems and measures for all, including floors for all, and affirmed its commitment to the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development,

*Recalling further* General Assembly resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,<sup>24</sup> which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

*Recalling* Economic and Social Council resolution 2020/7 of 18 June 2020, entitled, “Affordable housing and social protection systems for all to address homelessness”, and the commitments thereto,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Affordable housing and social protection systems for all to address homelessness”,<sup>25</sup> in which he encouraged Member States to develop comprehensive intersectoral national strategies and specific policy interventions to address homelessness, build broad-based partnerships with relevant stakeholders, including with civil society, to prevent people from falling into homelessness, and to combat stereotypes and discrimination against people experiencing homelessness,

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<sup>20</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Fiji, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Lebanon, Madagascar (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States), Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Türkiye, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

<sup>21</sup> *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution I, annexes I and II.

<sup>22</sup> Resolution S-24/2, annex.

<sup>23</sup> See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

<sup>24</sup> Resolution 69/313, annex.

<sup>25</sup> E/CN.5/2020/3.



*Reaffirming* the Paris Agreement<sup>26</sup> and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,<sup>27</sup> the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway<sup>28</sup> and the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants,<sup>29</sup> as each document contributes to the improvement of the situation of homelessness and the promotion of the right of individuals to adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, without discrimination,

*Recalling* the importance of the full realization of Agenda 2063 of the African Union, as well as its first 10-year implementation plan (2014–2023), as a strategic framework for ensuring a positive socioeconomic transformation in Africa within the next 50 years, and its continental programme embedded in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the New Partnership for Africa's Development<sup>30</sup> and regional initiatives, such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme,

*Recalling also* the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>31</sup> in which States parties recognized the right of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development,

*Recalling further* the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,<sup>32</sup> which advances the full realization of the human rights of women, including the right to social security, and the outcomes of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing, in 1995,<sup>33</sup> towards advancing the goals of gender equality, development and peace for all women and girls in the interest of all humanity,

*Recalling* the New Urban Agenda,<sup>34</sup> which, inter alia, promotes cities and human settlements that fulfil their social function, including the social and ecological function of land, with a view to progressively achieving the full realization of the right to adequate housing for all, as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, without discrimination, including for persons with disability,

*Noting* the importance of aggregated and disaggregated data for formulating effective policies to address homelessness and the need to make concerted efforts to identify people experiencing homelessness, both temporarily and chronically,

*Recalling* Economic and Social Council resolutions 2016/7 and 2016/8, of 2 June 2016, in which Governments were encouraged to continue to develop, improve, extend and implement inclusive, effective, fiscally sustainable and nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures and in which it was acknowledged that social protection floors can provide a basis from which to address poverty, vulnerability and homelessness, and are therefore essential to end the situation of marginalization of persons experiencing and at risk of homelessness and help them to integrate into society,

*Recognizing* that addressing homelessness through affordable housing and other targeted policies and social protection systems for all assists Member States in realizing the right to adequate housing as part of their implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the achievement of the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda,

*Noting with concern* that individuals and families can become homeless temporarily or for prolonged periods as a result of armed conflicts, natural disasters or humanitarian emergencies, or pandemics, including the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), and that climate change is predicted to increase the frequency, irregularity and intensity of sudden or slow-onset natural hazards, heightening the risk of disaster-related homelessness,

*Concerned* that the right to adequate housing is not realized for many throughout the world and that millions continue to live in substandard housing, or are experiencing homelessness, or are at immediate risk of homelessness,

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<sup>26</sup> See [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21, annex.

<sup>27</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

<sup>28</sup> Resolution 69/15, annex.

<sup>29</sup> Resolution 71/1.

<sup>30</sup> [A/57/304](#), annex.

<sup>31</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

<sup>33</sup> *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

<sup>34</sup> Resolution 71/256, annex.

*Noting with concern* that homelessness among adolescents and youth is a major concern in many countries, and that youth living in poverty experience additional deprivations to their standard of living, including lack of access to decent jobs, quality education and training and health, putting them at greater risk of bearing the negative economic consequences of shocks such as pandemics,

*Mindful* of the particular challenges faced by homeless women and girls, including gender-based violence and lack of access to adequate hygienic equipment and health facilities, and recognizing the need for gender-responsive, disability-inclusive and locally relevant measures to combat homelessness,

*Recalling* its resolution [74/270](#) of 2 April 2020, entitled “Global solidarity to fight the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)”, and its resolution [74/274](#) of 20 April 2020, entitled “International cooperation to ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to face COVID-19”, which all call for multilateral and multisectoral approaches to address the global pandemic,

*Recalling also* its resolution [75/156](#) of 16 December 2020, entitled “Strengthening national and international rapid response to the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on women and girls”, which identified the existing and potential impacts of coronavirus disease on women and girls and put a clear and comprehensive road map for addressing these impacts,

*Noting* that homelessness is not merely a lack of physical housing, but is often a disaffiliation process interrelated with poverty, lack of full and productive employment, decent work and access to infrastructure, as well as other socioeconomic issues that may constitute a loss of family, community and a sense of belonging, and, depending on national context, can be described as a condition where a person or household lacks safe habitable space, which may compromise their ability to enjoy social relations, and includes people living on the streets, in other open spaces or in buildings not intended for human habitation, people living in temporary accommodation or shelters for people experiencing homelessness, and, in accordance with national legislation, may include, among others, people living in severely inadequate accommodation without security of tenure and access to basic services,

*Noting with concern* that people, inter alia, women and girls, experiencing or at risk of homelessness are already in vulnerable situations and disproportionately affected by serious health concerns, which further increase their vulnerability to global pandemics such as COVID-19, recognizing that this is influenced by a lack of housing and housing inadequacy, nutritious food, a lack of access to safe drinking water and sanitation and health-care services, as well as inequalities and poverty, particularly in the wake of lockdowns,

*Stressing* the urgent need to build on COVID-19 recovery efforts and to accelerate action at all levels and by all stakeholders to fulfil the vision and goals of the 2030 Agenda, and emphasizing the need for concerted action pursuant to all relevant major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields and their outcomes, including the World Summit for Social Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030<sup>35</sup> and the New Urban Agenda,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>36</sup>

2. *Notes with concern* that homelessness is a global problem, affecting people of different ages and with diverse economic, social and cultural backgrounds, in both developed and developing countries, while acknowledging the lack of up-to-date data on the number of persons suffering from homelessness, with the last estimation carried out by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) in 2005, in which it estimated that 100 million persons were experiencing homelessness, and that 1.6 billion people lived in inadequate housing conditions, with about 15 million persons forcefully evicted every year;

3. *Calls upon* Member States to ensure the promotion and protection of all human rights, in accordance with their obligations under international human rights law, while recognizing that homelessness constitutes an affront to human dignity and may be an obstacle to the enjoyment of human rights and that urgent national and international action is therefore required to address it;

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<sup>35</sup> Resolution [69/283](#), annex II.

<sup>36</sup> [A/78/236](#).

4. *Reiterates* that the eradication of poverty, hunger and malnutrition, in particular as they affect people experiencing and at risk of homelessness and other people in vulnerable situations, is crucial for the advancement of global sustainable development;

5. *Urges* Member States to consider people experiencing homelessness in designing, implementing, creating and evaluating policies, programmes and strategies for full, equal, meaningful, effective, constructive and sustainable participation in society and access to affordable, stable, safe and adequate housing, as part of the human right to an adequate standard of living, and that those efforts are compliant with their applicable international human rights obligations as well as oriented towards achieving sustainable development goals and fulfilling the commitment of leaving no one behind;

6. *Stresses* that the responsibility for developing integrated, holistic, inclusive and effective policies and programmes affecting people experiencing homelessness, as well as coherent multisectoral efforts globally and evaluating this issue regularly as part of follow-up action lies foremost with Member States and local governments, in consultation, as appropriate, with individuals and families with a lived experience, civil society organizations, especially those currently serving the identified demographic, and other relevant stakeholders;

7. *Welcomes* the implementation of inclusive, social and public housing programmes, and encourages Member States to continue to enable all persons in vulnerable situations to access adequate housing by constructing, maintaining and managing housing programmes at affordable prices and costs, as well as providing income subsidies, as a means to prevent homelessness and informal housing, and to share the best practices;

8. *Calls upon* Member States to collect disaggregated data on demographics related to homelessness and establish categories of homelessness, accompanying the existing measurement tools, and encourages Member States to harmonize the measurement and collection of data on homelessness to enable national and global policymaking;

9. *Encourages* national and local governments to improve access to affordable housing through integrated housing policies and social protection measures, including social protection on both the demand and the supply sides, including by addressing legal and policy barriers to equal and non-discriminatory access to adequate housing, including for women of all ages and women-headed households, and providing access to credit facilities, as well as through protection against unlawful eviction, the provision of adequate emergency and temporary shelter and services and security of tenancy and support for the development of affordable housing, which is especially important for low-income households;

10. *Emphasizes* that poverty eradication requires that Member States implement and strengthen nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, ensuring access thereto for the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including women, children, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and those in informal employment, in an effort to prevent and address homelessness;

11. *Recognizes* that the international community faces increasing challenges posed by the negative impact of climate change, natural disasters and environmental degradation, which have exacerbated vulnerabilities and inequalities for people experiencing homelessness, particularly in developing countries and small island developing States, and stresses the need to anticipate, plan for and reduce disaster risk, including through the implementation of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, and to ensure the right to an adequate standard of living is promoted and respected;

12. *Urges* Member States to effectively address the structural and circumstantial drivers of homelessness, including inequalities, poverty, a loss of housing and livelihood, a lack of decent job opportunities, lack of access to affordable housing, lack of social protection, lack of access to land, credit or financing, and high costs of energy or health care, as well as lack of financial and legal literacy, through appropriate means;

13. *Emphasizes* the need for accessible, publicly available and affordable health-care services in order to address specific medical needs of people experiencing homelessness, who are often at risk of contracting communicable diseases such as COVID-19 and HIV/AIDS;

14. *Recognizes* the need to implement measures to promote and improve the mental health and well-being of all, specifically people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, including scaling up of comprehensive and integrated psychosocial support services for the prevention and treatment of mental disorders and other mental health conditions, through psychosocial support, raising awareness and tackling stigma, promoting well-being, addressing social determinants of health and fully respecting their human rights;

15. *Urges* Member States to address all forms of violence including gender-based violence against women of all ages, children, and persons with disabilities especially the challenges faced by those experiencing or at risk of homelessness, as well as negative social norms and gender stereotypes that perpetuate all forms of discrimination, violence and harmful practices;

16. *Recognizes* the importance of strengthening intergenerational programmes, partnerships and solidarity among generations, and in this regard the importance of targeted programmes throughout the life course to mitigate and address homelessness including through the provision of supportive services, assistance in locating housing, health-care services and mental health services, quality education and training, employment counselling, childcare, food, and trauma services, as well as basic material necessities such as food and hygienic equipment, to people experiencing and at risk of homelessness, giving special attention to interventions with families, women and children who are at risk of violence, in order to break the cycle of intergenerational homelessness and poverty;

17. *Urges* Member States and other stakeholders to close digital divides and promote digital inclusion, particularly of people experiencing homelessness, by taking into account national and regional contexts and addressing the challenges associated with access, affordability, digital literacy and digital skills, including media and information literacy, and by ensuring that the benefits of new technologies, including information and communications technologies, are available to all, taking into account the needs of those who are in vulnerable situations;

18. *Urges* Member States to take concerted action, in accordance with their obligations under international law, to remove obstacles to the enjoyment of human rights, including the right to an adequate standard of living, including housing, through increased availability of adequate housing, resources and basic services in order to promote the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;<sup>37</sup>

19. *Also urges* Member States to address legal, administrative, social, economic, digital and cultural barriers, irrespective of geographic location, that limit people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, in all its forms, from full, equal and meaningful participation, representation and input at all levels, while enabling the capacities, resources, information, technology, support, space and skills needed to empower and ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation of the poor, female-headed households and others in vulnerable situations;

20. *Encourages* Member States to increase the pool of affordable housing with social supports, particularly in urban areas, upgrade slums and take steps to end arbitrary evictions and the commodification of housing, through such actions as taxing empty units, requiring a certain percentage of new housing construction to include affordable housing, providing access to legal remedies, promoting housing cooperatives, promoting caps on rental costs and moderating housing costs;

21. *Also encourages* Member States to ensure, in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and similar situations, that people experiencing homelessness have access to personal protective equipment, health-care services, medical supplies, medicines, vaccines and testing, the provision of sufficient safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene facilities, and access to easily comprehended information about the situation, enabling people experiencing homelessness to follow mandated health recommendations without fear of persecution or personal risk;

22. *Encourages* close collaboration, broad-based partnership at all levels and the sharing of good practices between Member States as well as other relevant stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, to educate, to raise awareness, to prevent people from falling into homelessness, to support those experiencing homelessness, to develop long-term sustainable solutions to end homelessness, and to support the empowerment of all persons in vulnerable situations, including those experiencing homelessness;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its eightieth session, an updated report on the implementation of the present resolution.

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<sup>37</sup> Resolution 70/1.

## RESOLUTION 78/173

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/472, para. 57)<sup>38</sup>

### 78/173. Addressing the challenges of persons living with a rare disease and their families

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>39</sup> the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>40</sup> the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,<sup>41</sup> the Convention on the Rights of the Child<sup>42</sup> and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,<sup>43</sup>

*Reaffirming* its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a wide, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, and its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, with the endeavour to reach the furthest behind first, including persons living with a rare disease,

*Recalling* its resolution 76/132 of 16 December 2021,

*Recalling also* its resolutions 76/154 of 16 December 2021 and 77/189 of 15 December 2022 and previous relevant resolutions, and relevant resolutions of the Human Rights Council and of the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions,

*Recognizing* the need to promote and protect the human rights of all persons, including the estimated 300 million persons living with a rare disease worldwide, many of whom are children, by ensuring equal opportunities to achieve their optimal potential development and to fully, equally and meaningfully participate in society,

*Reaffirming* the right of every human being, without distinction of any kind, to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of oneself and one’s family, including adequate food, safe drinking water, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions, with particular attention to the alarming situation of millions of people for whom access to health-care services and medicines remains a distant goal, owing to a number of different barriers, in particular people who are in vulnerable situations, including those in developing countries,

*Recognizing* that some persons living with a rare disease have disabilities and impairments, which may have a greater impact on their health, and that they may also face attitudinal and environmental barriers, which may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others,

*Reaffirming* that health is a precondition for and an outcome and indicator of the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and acknowledging the reciprocal benefits between the attainment of Sustainable Development Goal 3 and the achievement of all other Goals,

*Recognizing* the fundamental importance of equity, social justice and social protection mechanisms as well as the elimination of the root causes of discrimination and stigma in health-care settings to ensure universal and equitable

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<sup>38</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Chad, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Cyprus, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Niger, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

<sup>39</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>40</sup> See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

<sup>41</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

<sup>42</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>43</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

access to quality health services without financial hardship for all people, particularly for those who are in vulnerable situations, including those living with a rare disease,

*Recognizing also* that persons living with a rare disease and their families should have access to social protection and assistance that enables them to contribute towards the full and equal enjoyment of their rights and to ensure a safe and supportive family environment,

*Recalling* the outcomes of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage, held in New York on 21 September 2023, and reaffirming its political declaration, entitled “Universal health coverage: expanding our ambition for health and well-being in a post-COVID world”,<sup>44</sup> including the commitment therein to strengthen efforts to address rare diseases as part of universal health coverage,

*Deeply concerned* that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic perpetuates and exacerbates existing inequalities, and that those disproportionately at risk are women and girls and persons in vulnerable situations, recognizing the unprecedented and multifaceted effects of the pandemic, including the impact on access to essential health services, recognizing also the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on the health, social and economic situation of persons living with a rare disease,

*Concerned* that reaching the correct diagnosis can take over five years, that many persons living with a rare disease never receive an adequate diagnosis, and that insufficient screening programmes, including newborn screening, and unequal access to diagnostic services, infrastructure and expertise contribute to delayed diagnosis, when nearly half of genetic diseases start in childhood,

*Recognizing* that timely diagnosis and early access to health services can slow disease progression, save lives, and provide greater visibility and facilitate full inclusion on equal basis with others for persons living with a rare disease,

*Recalling* the commitment to scale up efforts and further implement the political declaration of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage of 2023 and to achieve the health-related Sustainable Development Goals and targets through, inter alia, strengthening national efforts, international cooperation and global solidarity at the highest political level,

*Expressing concern* that persons living with a rare disease and their families can be at greater risk of being disproportionately affected by stigma, discrimination and social exclusion, and that one of the major barriers to improving the inclusion and participation of persons living with a rare disease and their families in society is the lack of knowledge and expertise in the field and a lack of awareness regarding the issue,

*Underscoring* the need to address the root causes of inequality and discrimination faced by persons living with a rare disease and their families, and in this regard recognizing that there is a need for policies and programmes to prevent and combat prejudice, to foster inclusion and to create an environment conducive to respect for their rights and dignity,

*Recognizing* that persons living with a rare disease and their families may be psychologically, socially and economically vulnerable throughout their life course, facing specific challenges in several areas, including but not limited to health, education, employment and leisure,

*Reaffirming* that inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities without discrimination are essential for the full, equal and meaningful participation in all aspects of social, cultural, political and economic life, and recognizing that, in particular, children living with a rare disease may face multiple challenges in accessing quality education owing to the inaccessibility of facilities and non-adapted teaching methods, among others,

*Reaffirming also* that access to full and productive employment and decent work is also an important aspect of full, equal and meaningful participation in society and economic life, and that persons living with a rare disease and their families face challenges in access to, retention of and return to employment,

*Reaffirming further* the need to achieve gender equality and to empower women and girls, and concerned by the fact that women and girls living with a rare disease face more discrimination and barriers in accessing health-care

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<sup>44</sup> Resolution 78/4, annex.

services, including sexual and reproductive health-care services, and education, as well as fully, equally and meaningfully participating in public life, and that women and girls undertake a disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work when a member of their household or family lives with a rare disease, and that women face more barriers in accessing decent work,

*Deeply concerned* that persons living with a rare disease, especially women and children, often face barriers in accessing water and sanitation facilities that are accessible and appropriate to their needs, which has an impact on their ability to participate fully in all aspects of life, including their access to education, and for women to live independently and ensure their access to employment, which is particularly concerning in situations of homelessness,

*Recognizing* the need to foster innovation and the positive contribution that innovation can make in promoting social cohesion, reducing inequalities and expanding opportunities for all, including persons living with a rare disease and the most vulnerable people, and in that regard recognizing the need to support, streamline and increase attention to research on rare diseases,

*Expressing concern* at the lack of disaggregated data, including by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability, geographical location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, on persons living with a rare disease, which would help to identify and address the barriers faced in exercising their human rights,

*Recognizing* the important role that civil society organizations play in collecting, analysing and disseminating the limited existing information on the challenges of persons living with a rare disease and in providing support services to them and advocating on their behalf for better lives,

*Recognizing also* the need for the participation of persons living with a rare disease in civil, political, social, economic and cultural life, and that the effective and meaningful participation of persons living with a rare disease in decision-making, including through their representative organizations, can strengthen the effectiveness of national, regional and international policy and development programmes related to persons living with a rare disease,

1. *Calls upon* Member States to strengthen health systems, and referral systems between primary health care and other levels of care, in order to provide universal access to a wide range of health-care services that are safe, of quality, accessible, available and affordable, timely, clinically and financially integrated, and gender-responsive, with full respect for human rights, which will help to empower persons living with a rare disease, whether genetic or acquired, including those with rare cancers, rare infections and rare allergic conditions, as well as those with an undiagnosed rare disease, in addressing their physical and mental health needs to realize their human rights, including their right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, to enhance health equity and equality, end discrimination and stigma, eliminate gaps in coverage and create a more inclusive society;

2. *Encourages* Member States to adopt gender-sensitive national strategies, action plans and legislation, to contribute to the well-being of persons living with a rare disease and their families, including on the protection and enjoyment of their human rights, consistent with their obligations under international law;

3. *Also encourages* Member States to address the root causes of all forms of discrimination against persons living with a rare disease, including through awareness-raising, the dissemination of accurate information on rare diseases and other measures, as appropriate;

4. *Emphasizes* the important role of cultural, family, ethical and religious factors, including the key role played by religious leaders in the treatment, care and support of persons living with a rare disease;

5. *Encourages* Member States and relevant United Nations agencies to collect, analyse and disseminate disaggregated data on persons living with a rare disease, including by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability, geographical location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, where applicable, to identify discrimination and to assess progress towards the improvement of the status of persons living with a rare disease;

6. *Encourages* Member States to foster the creation of networks of experts and multidisciplinary specialized expert hubs, inter alia, for rare diseases, to promote correct and timely diagnoses and care coordination plans, and to increase support for research, by strengthening international collaboration and coordination of research efforts and the generation and sharing of data, while respecting data protection and privacy;



7. *Also encourages* Member States:

(a) To develop national sustainable programmes for undiagnosed diseases, aligned with national efforts to achieve universal health coverage, to enable rapid and equitable access to diagnosis and social support;

(b) To structure and coordinate, at the national and international levels, knowledge on the subject of rare diseases, and information-sharing to optimize the use of existing resources and facilitate access for all persons with an undiagnosed rare disease, while acknowledging the need to support developing countries in building expertise and in developing local and regional manufacturing capacities for health products and technologies;

(c) To promote the participation of persons living with a rare disease and other relevant stakeholders in the governance of undiagnosed disease programmes and international networks to adequately address the priorities of persons living with an undiagnosed rare disease and contribute to improving the quality of health care;

(d) To promote, through existing initiatives, ethical and responsible international data-sharing to support diagnosis, increase clinical collaboration, facilitate research and accelerate treatment of undiagnosed and rare conditions;

(e) To facilitate collaboration among national authorities overseeing drug development cycles and clinical trials for treatments for persons living with a rare disease;

8. *Urges* Member States to implement, as appropriate, national policies and measures to ensure that persons living with a rare disease are not left behind, recognizing that persons living with a rare disease are often disproportionately affected by poverty, discrimination and lack of decent work and employment, and that they may require assistance in order to enjoy equal access to benefits and services, notably in the fields of education, employment and health, and to promote their full, equal and meaningful participation in society, and to commit to working towards the social integration and physical and mental well-being of persons living with a rare disease and their families and caregivers without any discrimination;

9. *Urges* Member States, United Nations agencies and other stakeholders, in consultation with persons living with a rare disease and their families, including through their representative organizations, to design and implement policies and programmes, to share experiences and best practices with the aim of fulfilling the rights of all persons living with a rare disease, and to ensure that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>45</sup> is inclusive of and accessible to persons living with a rare disease;

10. *Affirms* that all persons, including those living with a rare disease, and especially children, have the right to education and lifelong learning opportunities on the basis of equal opportunity and non-discrimination, and urges Member States to ensure full and equal access to education and lifelong learning opportunities for persons living with a rare disease on an equal basis with others;

11. *Urges* Member States to implement effective programmes to promote mental health and psychosocial support for persons living with a rare disease, and to promote policies and programmes that enhance the well-being of their families and caregivers;

12. *Calls upon* Member States to accelerate efforts towards the achievement of universal health coverage by 2030 to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all persons, including those persons living with a rare disease, as well as those with an undiagnosed rare disease, all throughout the life course, and in this regard re-emphasizes the resolve:

(a) To progressively cover persons living with a rare disease, and those with an undiagnosed rare disease, with quality essential health products, health services, including adequate preventive measures such as newborn screening, and quality, safe, effective, affordable and essential medicines and therapies, diagnostics, with the particular aim of shortening and easing the pathway to a diagnosis and treatment for persons living with a rare disease, health technologies, and strengthened primary health care, referral pathways, multidisciplinary care coordination plans, increased registration efforts, and access to specialized care, with a view to completely covering all persons living with a rare disease by 2030;

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<sup>45</sup> Resolution 70/1.

(b) To reverse the trend of catastrophic out-of-pocket health expenditure, which carries psychosocial and economic consequences for both persons living with a rare disease and their families, by providing measures to ensure financial risk protection and eliminate impoverishment due to health-related expenses by 2030, with special emphasis on persons living with a rare disease;

13. *Encourages* Member States to take appropriate steps to provide affordable, accessible and good-quality care facilities for children and other dependants living with a rare disease and measures promoting the equal sharing of household responsibilities between women and men, including all adult members of the household, recognizing, reducing and redistributing women's and girls' disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work when a member of the family lives with a rare disease, and fully engaging men and boys as agents and beneficiaries of change and as strategic partners and allies in this regard;

14. *Also encourages* Member States to promote access to full and productive employment and decent work, along with appropriate measures for financial inclusion for persons living with a rare disease and their families by addressing challenges in access to, retention of and return to employment, inter alia, through the creation of suitable working conditions for persons living with a rare disease and their families, expanding flexible working arrangements, including through the use of new information and communications technologies, and providing and/or expanding leave arrangements, such as sick leave and caregiver's leave, and adequate social security benefits for both women and men, taking appropriate steps to ensure that they are not discriminated against when availing themselves of such benefits;

15. *Further encourages* Member States to eliminate barriers faced by persons living with a rare disease and their families in accessing water, sanitation and hygiene, including physical, institutional, social and attitudinal barriers, and to promote appropriate measures in cities and other human settlements that facilitate such access for persons living with a rare disease and their families, on an equal basis with others, in both rural and urban areas;

16. *Invites* Member States, in collaboration with non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders, to raise awareness on the specific challenges and needs faced by persons living with a rare disease and their families, through national campaigns, educational programmes and information dissemination, with the goal of promoting greater understanding and global solidarity;

17. *Invites* the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with the Director General of the World Health Organization, to inform the General Assembly about the implementation of the present resolution during its eightieth session;

18. *Decides*, considering the multifaceted nature of the challenges faced by persons living with a rare disease, to consider the issue of persons living with a rare disease at its eightieth session, under the item entitled "Social development".

#### RESOLUTION 78/174

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/472, para. 57)<sup>46</sup>

#### **78/174. Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly**

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* all previous resolutions on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, including resolution 77/188 of 15 December 2022,

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<sup>46</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Cuba (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Kazakhstan and North Macedonia.

*Recalling* the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled “World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world”, held in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,

*Reaffirming* that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development<sup>47</sup> and the further initiatives for social development adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session,<sup>48</sup> as well as a continued global dialogue on social development issues, constitute the basic framework for the promotion of social development for all at the national and international levels,

*Welcoming* the progress made towards the full implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action through concerted action at the national, regional and global levels, and expressing its deep concern that, more than 20 years after the convening of the World Summit for Social Development, progress has been slow and uneven, and major gaps remain,

*Welcoming also* the adoption, in its entirety, of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>49</sup> in which it is recognized that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development,

*Welcoming further* the adoption of the political declaration of the 2023 high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly at the Sustainable Development Goals Summit,<sup>50</sup> in which Heads of State and Government emphasized that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development,

*Noting* the proposal contained in the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Our Common Agenda”<sup>51</sup> to convene a world social summit in 2025, to be discussed and agreed upon by Member States, including its modalities, title, objectives, scope and possible outcomes, and emphasizing that the possible summit’s outcome should have a social development approach, including the need to place people at the centre of development and the pledge to make poverty eradication, full employment and social integration the overriding development objectives, and give momentum towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda,

*Noting also* the Transforming Education Summit, convened and organized under the auspices of the Secretary-General in New York on 19 September 2022,

*Welcoming* the adoption of the political declaration of the General Assembly high-level meeting on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, held in New York on 20 September 2023,<sup>52</sup> the political declaration of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage, held in New York on 21 September 2023,<sup>53</sup> and the political declaration of the high-level meeting on the fight against tuberculosis, held in New York on 22 September 2023,<sup>54</sup>

*Reaffirming* the need to achieve sustainable development by promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities within and among countries, raising basic standards of living and fostering equitable and inclusive social development and the sustainable management of natural resources,

*Recognizing* that the three core themes of social development, namely, poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work for all and social integration, are interrelated and mutually reinforcing, and that an enabling environment therefore needs to be created so that all three objectives can be pursued simultaneously,

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<sup>47</sup> *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution I, annexes I and II.

<sup>48</sup> Resolution S-24/2, annex.

<sup>49</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>50</sup> Resolution 78/1, annex.

<sup>51</sup> A/75/982.

<sup>52</sup> Resolution 78/3, annex.

<sup>53</sup> Resolution 78/4, annex.

<sup>54</sup> Resolution 78/5, annex.

*Recognizing also* that social justice for all is the foundation for overcoming inequalities and advancing a people-centred approach to development and that social development and social justice cannot be attained in the absence of peace and security or in the absence of respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

*Recognizing further* the need for integrated, coordinated and coherent action in support of social justice, including by addressing inequalities and informality, fostering opportunities for productive employment through education, lifelong learning and training and skills development, extending social protection and promoting decent work and labour rights, and noting in this regard the convening of the World of Work Summit: Social Justice for All, held in Geneva on 14 and 15 June 2023, under the auspices of the 111th International Labour Conference,

*Emphasizing* the need to enhance the role of the Commission for Social Development in the follow-up to and review of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, and welcoming the decision of the Economic and Social Council that the Commission, given its mandates and experience in promoting people-centred inclusive development, will report on social aspects related to the agreed main theme of the Council in order to contribute to its work,<sup>55</sup> including by offering inputs regarding the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda in a holistic and inclusive manner,

*Welcoming* the decision of the Economic and Social Council that the Commission for Social Development will consider one priority theme at each session on the basis of the follow-up to and review of the World Summit for Social Development and its linkages to the social dimensions of the 2030 Agenda, proposing an action-oriented resolution with recommendations to the Council in order to contribute to its work, and that the priority theme for the 2024 session, which shall allow the Commission to contribute to the work of the Council, will be “Fostering social development and social justice through social policies to accelerate progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to achieve the overarching goal of poverty eradication”,

*Recalling* the ministerial declaration adopted at the high-level segment of the 2023 session of the Economic and Social Council and the 2023 high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Council, on the theme “Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels”,

*Reaffirming* that the Declaration on the Right to Development<sup>56</sup> also informs the 2030 Agenda, along with other relevant instruments, such as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,<sup>57</sup> Agenda 2063 adopted by the African Union, and the International Labour Organization Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization,<sup>58</sup> and reaffirming also 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,

*Affirming* its strong support for fair globalization and the need to translate growth into the reduction of inequalities, eradication of poverty and commitment to strategies and policies that aim to promote full, freely chosen and productive employment and decent work for all and that these strategies and policies should constitute fundamental components of relevant national and international policies and national development strategies, including inequality and poverty reduction strategies, reaffirming that employment creation and decent work for all should be incorporated into macroeconomic policies, taking fully into account the impact and social dimension of globalization, the benefits and costs of which are often unevenly shared and distributed, and noting in this regard that the decent work agenda of the International Labour Organization, with its four strategic objectives, has an important role to play in achieving the objective of social protection and elimination of inequalities, as reaffirmed in the International Labour Organization Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization,

*Recognizing* that social inclusion is a means for achieving social integration and is crucial for fostering stable, safe, harmonious, peaceful and just societies and for improving social cohesion so as to create an environment for development and progress and to leave no one behind,

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<sup>55</sup> Economic and Social Council resolution 2016/6, para. 3.

<sup>56</sup> Resolution 41/128, annex.

<sup>57</sup> Resolution 69/313, annex.

<sup>58</sup> A/63/538-E/2009/4, annex.

*Stressing* the need to close all digital divides, which have been aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic, both between and within countries and including rural-urban, youth-older persons and gender digital divides, and to promote digital inclusion, by taking into account national and regional contexts and addressing the challenges associated with access, affordability, digital literacy and digital skills and awareness and by ensuring that the benefits of new technologies are available to all, taking into account the needs of those who are in vulnerable situations, and noting the efforts to help to bridge digital divides and expand access, including the Connect 2030 Agenda for Global Telecommunication/Information and Communication Technology, including Broadband, for Sustainable Development,

*Recognizing* the importance of new and emerging challenges and vulnerabilities in regard to developing country external and domestic debt sustainability, and the importance of improved international debt mechanisms to support debt review, debt payment suspensions, and debt restructuring, as appropriate, with an expansion of support and eligibility to vulnerable countries in need,

*Deeply concerned* that extreme poverty and the feminization of poverty persist in all countries of the world, regardless of their economic, social and cultural situation, and that the extent and manifestations thereof, such as hunger and malnutrition, vulnerability to trafficking in persons, forced and child labour, disease, lack of adequate shelter and illiteracy, are heightened in developing countries and particularly severe in least developed countries, while acknowledging the significant progress made in several parts of the world in combating extreme poverty,

*Stressing* the importance of removing obstacles to the realization of the right of peoples to self-determination, in particular of peoples living under colonial or other forms of alien domination or foreign occupation, which adversely affect their social and economic development, including their exclusion from labour markets,

*Stressing also* the importance of establishing a just and lasting peace all over the world in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, supporting all efforts to uphold the sovereign equality of all States and respect their territorial integrity and political independence, and refraining in international relations from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

*Welcoming* the third edition of the Aswan Forum for Sustainable Peace and Development, held in Cairo in June 2022 under the theme “Africa in an era of cascading risks and climate vulnerability: pathways for a peaceful, resilient, and sustainable continent”,

*Recognizing* that terrorism, trafficking in arms, organized crime, trafficking in persons, money-laundering, ethnic and religious conflict, civil war, politically motivated killing and genocide pose increasing challenges to States and societies in the attainment of conditions conducive to social development, including reduction of inequalities, and that they further present urgent and compelling reasons for action by Governments individually and, as appropriate, jointly to foster social cohesion while recognizing, protecting and valuing diversity,

*Recognizing also* that, since the convening of the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen in 1995, advances have been made in addressing and promoting social integration, including through the adoption of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,<sup>59</sup> the World Programme of Action for Youth,<sup>60</sup> the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,<sup>61</sup> the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples<sup>62</sup> and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,<sup>63</sup>

*Welcoming* the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015–2024), which urges Member States to promote the social development of people of African descent, particularly women and girls, by eradicating any form of discrimination, ensuring access to quality education and eliminating challenges and specific risks with regard to health,

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<sup>59</sup> *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8–12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

<sup>60</sup> Resolution 50/81, annex, and resolution 62/126, annex.

<sup>61</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

<sup>62</sup> Resolution 61/295, annex.

<sup>63</sup> *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

*Reaffirming* the commitment to promoting the rights of Indigenous Peoples in the areas of education, employment, housing, sanitation, health and social protection and social security, and noting the attention paid to those areas in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,

*Reaffirming also* the efforts of Governments to achieve all health-related Sustainable Development Goal targets, in particular Goal 3 of ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all throughout the life course, by integrating those aims into their national plans and policies, as well as the significant progress made in increasing life expectancy, reducing maternal, newborn and child mortality and combating communicable diseases,

*Recognizing* that action to achieve universal health coverage by 2030 is inadequate and that the level of progress and investment to date is insufficient to meet target 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and that the world has yet to fulfil its promise of implementing, at all levels, measures to address the health needs of all,

*Recalling* the outcome of the World Health Assembly held in May 2019, the agreement to accelerate and scale up action to prevent and treat non-communicable diseases, the agreement on a common approach to antimicrobial resistance, the adoption of a new global strategy on health, the environment and climate change, and the adoption by the Assembly of the eleventh revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, which went into effect on 1 January 2022,

*Reaffirming* the commitments made in the 2030 Agenda, including to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all,

*Noting with concern* that, despite the progress achieved, at least half of the world's population lacks access to essential health services, more than 800 million people bear the burden of catastrophic spending of at least 10 per cent of their household income on health care and out-of-pocket expenses drive almost 100 million people into poverty each year,

*Reaffirming* education for sustainable development as a vital means of implementation for sustainable development, as outlined in the Aichi-Nagoya Declaration on Education for Sustainable Development,<sup>64</sup> and as an integral element of the Sustainable Development Goal on quality education and a key enabler of all the other Goals, and welcoming the increased international recognition of education for sustainable development in quality education and lifelong learning,

*Acknowledging* the importance for achieving sustainable development of delivering quality education to all girls and boys, which will require reaching children living in extreme poverty, children with disabilities, migrant and refugee children and those in conflict and post-conflict situations and providing safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all, and recognizing the importance of scaling up investments and international cooperation to allow all children to complete free, equitable, inclusive and quality early childhood, primary and secondary education, including through scaling up and strengthening initiatives, such as the Global Partnership for Education, and by upgrading education facilities that are child-, disability- and gender-sensitive and increasing the percentage of qualified teachers in developing countries, including through international cooperation, especially in the least developed countries and small island developing States,

*Reiterating* the contribution of education to eradicating poverty in all forms and dimensions by providing people with knowledge and skills, which increases productivity and income and helps in reducing inequality within countries,

*Acknowledging* the importance of adopting science, technology and innovation strategies as integral elements of national sustainable development strategies to help to strengthen knowledge-sharing and collaboration and the importance of scaling up investment in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education and enhancing technical, vocational and tertiary education, distance education and training and of ensuring equal access for all women and girls and encouraging their participation therein,

*Welcoming* the adoption of resolutions [74/270](#) of 2 April 2020 on global solidarity to fight the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), [74/274](#) of 20 April 2020 on international cooperation to ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to face COVID-19, [74/306](#) of 11 September 2020, entitled "Comprehensive and

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<sup>64</sup> [A/70/228](#), annex.



coordinated response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic”, and [74/307](#) of 11 September 2020, entitled “United response against global health threats: combating COVID-19”,

*Concerned* that the COVID-19 crisis has contributed to the reversal of decades of progress in social development, leaving more people behind and that it has also had a negative impact on the abilities of Governments to realize the 2030 Agenda and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, stressing that at this critical moment in the decade of action to deliver the Goals by 2030 the visions, principles and commitments made at the World Summit for Social Development remain valid and are central to addressing emerging global challenges, and recalling that social policies have a key role to play in addressing the immediate effects of crises,

*Deeply concerned* that, in the post-COVID-19 pandemic world, severe disruptions to societies, economies, employment, global trade, supply chains and travel, and agricultural, industrial and commercial systems, continue to have a devastating impact on sustainable development and humanitarian needs, including on poverty eradication, livelihoods, ending hunger, food security and nutrition, education, environmentally sound waste management and access to health care, especially for the poor and people in vulnerable situations and in countries in special situations and those countries most affected, have widened inequalities, including gender inequality, increased unemployment and the number of people who have left the labour force and continue to disproportionately impact people in vulnerable situations, including older persons, persons with pre-existing medical conditions, women and girls, children, youth, persons with disabilities, persons affected by conflict, migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, workers in the informal economy, people living in rural areas and other people in vulnerable situations, and are making the prospect of achieving all Sustainable Development Goals more difficult, including eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions by 2030, ending hunger and achieving food security and improved nutrition,

*Noting with alarm* that, despite improvements in many aspects of social development since 1995, including reductions in extreme poverty and food insecurity, as well as improved access to education and energy, progress has stagnated or reversed since 2020, owing to the multiple and widespread impacts of COVID-19, conflicts and climate change, and particularly concerned by the rise in extreme poverty, hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity, energy poverty, water scarcity, inequalities, education disruptions, violence against women and children, unemployment, barriers to access financial resources and to develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, additional social and economic vulnerabilities affecting in particular those already in the most vulnerable situations, in addition to the increased challenges posed by climate change, biodiversity loss, desertification and pollution,

*Noting with concern* that the digital divides, within and between countries, including the rural-urban, youth-older persons and gender digital divides, negatively impact equal learning opportunities and limit access to quality education,

*Stressing* that the encouragement and development of international cooperation in the scientific and cultural fields serve the realization of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, bearing in mind that everyone has the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>65</sup>

2. *Welcomes* the reaffirmation by Governments of their will and commitment to continue implementing the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, in particular to promote equality and social justice, eradicate poverty, promote full and productive employment and decent work for all and foster social integration to achieve stable, safe and just societies for all, and recognizes that the implementation of the Copenhagen commitments and the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals are mutually reinforcing;

3. *Reaffirms* its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced, holistic and integrated manner;

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<sup>65</sup> [A/78/211](#).



4. *Recognizes* that poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon, and encourages Member States to develop comprehensive, integrated and coherent poverty eradication strategies that effectively address the structural causes of poverty and inequality with an emphasis on job-rich growth; address and meet the basic human needs of people living in poverty; ensure their access to quality education, nutrition, health, water, sanitation, housing, electricity and other public social services, access to employment and decent work for all, as well as access to productive resources, including credit, land, training, technology and knowledge; and ensure their participation in decision-making on social and economic development policies and programmes in this regard;

5. *Expresses deep concern* that the global goal of eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions by 2030 is slipping from the world's reach, and recognizes that the multidimensional impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have exacerbated it, causing the extreme poverty rate to rise for the first time in a generation, increasing by 11 per cent in 2020, especially in low- and middle-income countries, and, inter alia, among women and girls and persons with disabilities;

6. *Stresses* the importance of taking targeted measures to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions everywhere, including extreme poverty, and achieve social development, so that no one is left behind, with enhanced international support and strengthened global partnerships, and notes the need for countries, the United Nations development system and all relevant stakeholders to ensure and promote a multidimensional coordinated approach in their work and efforts to eradicate poverty;

7. *Calls upon* Member States to adopt measures to recognize, reduce and redistribute women's and girls' disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work and the feminization of poverty, which was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, including through poverty eradication measures, labour policies, public services and gender-responsive social protection programmes;

8. *Emphasizes* that the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Summit, the International Conference on Financing for Development, in its Monterrey Consensus,<sup>66</sup> the 2005 World Summit, the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, in its Doha Declaration on Financing for Development,<sup>67</sup> the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the 2013 special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, the third International Conference on Financing for Development, in its Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, and the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit, have reinforced the priority and urgency of the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions within the United Nations development agenda;

9. *Recognizes* the complex character of the ongoing food insecurity situation, including food price volatility, as a combination of several major factors, both structural and conjunctural, which is also negatively affected by, inter alia, environmental degradation, drought and desertification, global climate change, natural disasters, the lack of the necessary technology, and armed conflicts, and also recognizes that a strong commitment from national Governments and the international community as a whole is required to confront the major threats to food security and to ensure that policies in the area of agriculture do not distort trade and worsen food insecurity;

10. *Also recognizes* that investing in the capacities of women and girls is important in reducing poverty, food insecurity, malnutrition and inequalities, as well as in achieving higher productivity and boosting social returns in terms of health, lower infant mortality and the well-being of their families;

11. *Reaffirms* the importance of supporting the African Union's development framework, Agenda 2063, as well as its 10-year plan of action, as a strategic framework for ensuring a positive socioeconomic transformation in Africa within the next 50 years, which is the African Union long-term strategy emphasizing industrialization, youth employment, improved natural resource governance and the reduction of inequalities, and its continental programme

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<sup>66</sup> *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

<sup>67</sup> Resolution 63/239, annex.

embedded in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the New Partnership for Africa's Development<sup>68</sup> and regional initiatives, such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme;

12. *Stresses* that the benefits of economic growth should be inclusive and distributed more equitably and that, in order to close the gap of inequality and avoid any further deepening of inequality, comprehensive social policies and programmes, including appropriate social transfer and job creation programmes and social protection systems, are needed;

13. *Reaffirms* that social integration policies should seek to reduce inequalities, promote access to basic social services, quality education for all and health care, eliminate discrimination, increase the participation and integration of social groups, particularly young people, older persons and persons with disabilities, noting the role of sports in this regard, and address the challenges posed to social development by globalization and market-driven reforms in order for all people in all countries to benefit from globalization;

14. *Stresses* that an enabling environment is a critical precondition for achieving equity and social development and that, while economic growth is essential, entrenched inequality and marginalization are an obstacle to the broad-based and sustained growth required for sustainable, inclusive and people-centred development, and recognizes the need to balance and ensure complementarity between measures to achieve growth and measures to achieve economic and social equity and inclusion in order for there to be an impact on overall poverty levels;

15. *Acknowledges* that investment in human capital and social protection has been proven to be effective in reducing poverty and inequality, and invites Member States to mobilize innovative sources of financing, including through public-private partnerships, to secure adequate levels of social expenditure necessary for expanding coverage towards universal access to health education, innovation, new technologies and basic social protection and to address the issues of illicit financial flows and corruption;

16. *Stresses* that international trade and stable financial systems can be effective tools to create favourable conditions for the development of all countries and that trade barriers and some trading practices continue to have negative effects on employment growth, particularly in developing countries, that good governance and the rule of law at the national and international levels and the need to promote respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms are essential for sustained economic growth, sustainable development, the reduction of inequalities, the eradication of poverty, hunger and malnutrition and for addressing the most pressing social needs of people living in poverty, and in this regard also stresses the importance of economic, social and cultural rights and the importance of the principles of non-discrimination, inclusivity and meaningful participation for the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development;

17. *Acknowledges* that inequalities persist within and among countries, posing significant challenges to social cohesion, reaffirms that the eradication of poverty, the promotion of prosperity, gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the reduction of inequality within and among countries are fundamental to achieving sustainable development for all, and that this requires collective and transformative efforts to leave no one behind and put the furthest behind first, and adapt institutions and policies to take into account the multidimensional nature of inequality and poverty and the inherent interlinkages between different Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda;

18. *Urges* Member States to strengthen social policies, as appropriate, paying particular attention to the specific needs of disadvantaged and marginalized social groups, inter alia, women, children, youth, persons with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS, older persons, Indigenous Peoples, refugees, internally displaced persons, migrants and other persons in vulnerable situations, as well as to address all forms of violence in its many manifestations, including domestic violence, and discrimination, including xenophobia, against them, to ensure that these groups are not left behind, and recognizes that violence increases the challenges faced by States and societies in the achievement of poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work for all, and social integration;

19. *Reaffirms* the commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, as well as to the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into all development efforts, recognizing that they are critical for achieving sustainable development and for efforts to combat hunger and malnutrition, poverty and disease, to strengthening policies and programmes that improve, ensure and broaden the full participation of women in all spheres of political,

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<sup>68</sup> [A/57/304](#), annex.

economic, social and cultural life as equal partners and to improving the access of women to all resources needed for the full exercise of all their human rights and fundamental freedoms by removing persistent barriers and allocating adequate resources for the elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination against women, including in the workplace, inter alia, by addressing wage inequality, ensuring equal access to full and productive employment and decent work for all, reconciliation of work and private life for both men and women, as well as strengthening their economic independence;

20. *Recognizes* that youth participation is important for development, and urges Member States and United Nations entities, in consultation with youth and youth-led and youth-focused organizations, to explore and promote new avenues for the full, effective, structured and sustainable participation of young people and youth-led organizations in relevant decision-making processes and monitoring, in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life, including in designing and implementing policies, programmes and initiatives, in particular while implementing the 2030 Agenda;

21. *Reaffirms* the right to food and acknowledges the importance of promoting sustainable farming and agriculture, and, recognizing the important contribution that family farming and smallholder farming can play in providing food security, reducing inequality in access to food and nutrition, calls upon Governments to ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round;

22. *Urges* Governments, with the cooperation of relevant entities, to establish nationally appropriate social protection that supports labour market participation and addresses and reduces inequality and social exclusion, and social protection systems and floors, including through streamlining fragmented social protection systems/programmes, ensuring that such programmes are gender-responsive and disability-sensitive, and progressively extend their coverage to all people throughout their life cycle, including for workers in the informal economy, invites the International Labour Organization, upon request, to support government efforts to strengthen social protection strategies and policies on extending social protection and social security coverage, urges Governments, while taking account of national circumstances, to focus on the needs of those living in, or vulnerable to, poverty and to give particular consideration to universal access to basic social security systems, including the implementation of social protection floors, which can provide a systemic base upon which to address poverty and vulnerability, and in this regard takes note of the International Labour Organization recommendation on social protection floors;

23. *Stresses* the need to address challenges faced by those working in informal or vulnerable jobs, by investing in the creation of more decent work opportunities, including providing access to decent jobs in the formal sector in accordance with International Labour Organization recommendation No. 204 concerning the transition from the informal to the formal economy, and enhancing the productive capacities of people, and strengthen labour institutions and employment and labour-market policies, taking into consideration the specific circumstances of each country and by promoting close partnerships with relevant stakeholders;

24. *Urges* Member States to strengthen, as appropriate, the authority and capacity of national mechanisms for promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, at all levels, which should be placed at the highest possible level of government, with sufficient funding, and to mainstream a gender perspective across all relevant national and local institutions, including labour, economic and financial government agencies, in order to ensure that national planning, decision-making, policy formulation and implementation, budgeting processes and institutional structures contribute to women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work;

25. *Also urges* Member States to address the high rates of youth unemployment, underemployment, vulnerable employment, informal employment and young people not in employment, education or training by developing and implementing targeted and integrated local and national youth employment policies for inclusive, sustainable and innovative job creation, improved employability, skills development and vocational training to facilitate the transition from school to work and to increase the prospects for integrating youth into the sustainable labour market, and through increased entrepreneurship, including the development of networks of young entrepreneurs at the local, national, regional and global levels that foster knowledge among young people about their rights and responsibilities in society, and encourages Member States to invest in education, support lifelong learning and provide social protection for all youth and to request donors, specialized United Nations entities and the private sector to continue to provide assistance to Member States, including technical and funding support, as appropriate;

26. *Recognizes* that promoting full employment and decent work for all also requires investing in education, training and skills development for women and men, and girls and boys, strengthening social protection and health

systems and applying international labour standards, and urges States and, as appropriate, the relevant entities of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, as well as civil society, the private sector, employer organizations, trade unions, the media and other relevant actors, to continue to develop and strengthen policies, strategies and programmes to enhance, in particular, the employability of women and youth and to ensure their access to full and productive employment and decent work for all, including by improving access to formal and non-formal education, skills development and vocational training, lifelong learning and retraining and long-distance education, inter alia, in information and communications technology and entrepreneurial skills, particularly in developing countries, including with a view to supporting the economic empowerment of women in the different stages of their lives;

27. *Reaffirms* the New Urban Agenda,<sup>69</sup> which envisages cities and human settlements that fulfil their social function, including the social and ecological function of land, with a view to progressively achieving the full realization of the right to adequate housing, as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, without discrimination, universal access to safe and affordable drinking water and sanitation, as well as equal access for all to public goods and quality services in areas such as food security and nutrition, health, education, infrastructure, mobility and transportation, energy, air quality and livelihoods;

28. *Stresses* the importance of stepping up efforts to achieve universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, including through enhanced international cooperation to assist developing countries to, inter alia, ensure access to electricity through increased financing and by promoting decentralized solutions for expanding access in rural areas, including mini-grids and stand-alone systems;

29. *Recognizes* that the negative effects of climate change and environmental disasters have differential impacts, with people in vulnerable situations, poor and rural communities and low-income countries being disproportionately exposed to floods, droughts and other natural disasters, and that they have a lower capacity and assets to recover from such external shocks, and expresses concern that climate change may cause high and volatile food and commodity prices and hit them hardest;

30. *Acknowledges* the important nexus between international migration and social development, and stresses the importance of effectively enforcing labour laws with regard to labour relations and working conditions of migrant workers, inter alia, those related to their remuneration and conditions of health, safety at work and the right to freedom of association;

31. *Reaffirms* that social development requires the active involvement of all actors in the development process, including civil society organizations, corporations, the public sector and small businesses, and that partnerships among all relevant actors within countries are increasingly becoming part of national and international cooperation for social development, also reaffirms that, within countries, partnerships among the Government, civil society and the private sector can contribute effectively to the achievement of social development goals, and acknowledges the role of the public and private sectors as employers and enablers for the effective generation of new investments, full and productive employment and decent work for all, including through partnerships with the United Nations system, civil society and academia;

32. *Stresses* the importance of the policy space and leadership of national Governments for implementing policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development, while remaining consistent with relevant international rules and commitments, in particular in the areas of human rights, social expenditure and social protection programmes, and calls upon international financial institutions and donors to support developing countries in achieving their social development, in line with their national priorities and strategies, by, among other things, providing debt relief within the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

33. *Underlines* the responsibility of the private sector, at both the national and the international levels, including small and large companies and transnational corporations, regarding not only the economic and financial implications, but also the development, social, gender and environmental implications of their activities, their obligations towards their workers and their contributions to achieving sustainable development, including social development, emphasizes that transnational corporations and other business enterprises have a responsibility to respect human rights, applicable laws and international principles and standards, to operate transparently, in a socially and environmentally responsible manner, and to refrain from affecting the well-being of peoples, and also emphasizes

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<sup>69</sup> Resolution 71/256, annex.

the need to take further concrete actions on corporate responsibility and accountability, including through the participation of all relevant stakeholders, inter alia, for the prevention or prosecution of corruption, and to prevent human rights abuses;

34. *Reaffirms* the necessity of improving availability, affordability and efficiency of health products by increasing transparency of prices of medicines, vaccines, medical devices, diagnostics, assistive products, cell- and gene-based therapies and other health technologies across the value chain, including through improved regulations and building constructive engagement and a stronger partnership with relevant stakeholders, including industries, the private sector and civil society, in accordance with national and regional legal frameworks and contexts, to address the global concern about the high prices of some health products, and in this regard encourages the World Health Organization to continue its efforts to biennially convene the Fair Pricing Forum with Member States and all relevant stakeholders to discuss the affordability and transparency of prices and costs relating to health products;

35. *Recognizes* that health is an investment in human capital and social and economic development, towards the full realization of human potential, and significantly contributes to the promotion and protection of human rights and dignity as well as the empowerment of all people;

36. *Welcomes* the renewed commitment in the political declaration of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage to achieve universal health coverage, which implies that all people have access, without discrimination, to nationally determined sets of the needed promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative essential health services, and essential, safe, affordable, effective and quality medicines and vaccines, while ensuring that the use of these services does not expose the users to financial hardship, with a special emphasis on those who are marginalized;

37. *Reaffirms* that achieving universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all, is essential to eradicate poverty, and reduce inequality and achieve sustainable development for all;

38. *Acknowledges* that expanding health care is a challenge, as well as that the rising cost of medications and health products is threatening the sustainability of health systems in many countries, and stresses the responsibility of States to ensure access for all, without discrimination of any kind, to medicines, in particular essential medicines, that are affordable, safe, effective and of quality;

39. *Expresses concern* at the estimated global shortfall of 10 million health workers by 2030, primarily in low- and middle income countries, recognizes the need to train, build and retain a skilled health workforce, including nurses, midwives and community health workers, who are an important element of strong and resilient health systems, and also recognizes that increased investment in a more effective and socially accountable health workforce can unleash significant socioeconomic gains and contribute to the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, the empowerment of all women and girls and the reduction of inequality;

40. *Calls upon* States, at the international level, to take steps, individually and/or through international cooperation, in accordance with applicable international law, including international agreements, to ensure that their actions as members of international organizations take into due account the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and that the application of international agreements is supportive of public health policies that promote broad access to safe, effective and affordable medicines;

41. *Encourages* all States to apply measures and procedures for enforcing intellectual property rights in such a manner as to avoid creating barriers to the legitimate trade in medicines, and to provide for safeguards against the abuse of such measures and procedures;

42. *Calls upon* Member States to make greater investments and promote decent work in the health and social sectors, enable safe working environments and conditions, effective retention and equitable and broad distribution of the health workforce, and strengthen capacities to optimize the existing health workforce, including through expanding rural and community-based health education and training to contribute to the achievement of universal health coverage;

43. *Encourages* Governments to end all forms of malnutrition, including the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons;

44. *Welcomes* the rapid expansion in school enrolment worldwide, with literacy rates rising steadily over the past 50 years to reach 68 per cent in 2016, and the improvement in the access to early childhood, primary, secondary, tertiary and distance education and throughout the life course, and calls upon the international community to provide inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels so that all people may have access to lifelong learning opportunities that help them to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to exploit opportunities to participate fully in society;

45. *Calls for* mitigating the effects of school closures and cuts in national education budgets, including on learning, child nutrition and all forms of violence, by, inter alia, safely reopening schools, providing safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all, taking all possible actions to ensure qualified teachers and learners' re-enrolment and re-engagement, learning recovery and well-being through a non-discriminatory, accessible, integrated, multisectoral, child-sensitive and gender-responsive approach, and encourages the scaling-up of efforts for remedial, accelerated learning and catch-up strategies to mitigate learning losses, equipping children and adolescents with foundational skills, such as literacy and numeracy, and taking actions to ensure quality education and learning programmes beyond the schools for out-of-school children and youth and illiterate adults, particularly for the poorest and those in vulnerable situations;

46. *Recognizes* the limited access to and high rates of dropout from school and secondary education, the increased rates of exclusion from education with age and the existence of large disparities in school attendance and learning acquisition by region, wealth, sex, urban or rural residence and other factors such as Indigenous identity or disability, underscoring the challenges ahead, and also recognizes that poverty may affect access to quality education at the secondary and tertiary levels;

47. *Also recognizes* that factors such as poverty, residing in a rural area or having a disability all too often prevent children and adolescents from accessing quality education, especially at the secondary and tertiary levels;

48. *Encourages* all States to measure progress in the realization of the right to education, such as by developing national indicators as an important tool for the realization of the right to education and for policy formulation, impact assessment and transparency;

49. *Encourages* States to increase investments and international cooperation to allow all girls and boys to complete free, equitable, inclusive and quality early childhood, primary and secondary education, including by scaling up and strengthening initiatives, such as the Global Partnership for Education, and to explore additional innovative mechanisms based on models combining public and private resources, while ensuring that all education providers give due respect to the right to education;

50. *Urges* States to support the efforts of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, to realize progressively the right to education, including the progressive realization of the equal enjoyment of the right to education by every girl through appropriate resources, including financial and technical resources, in support of country-led national education plans;

51. *Reaffirms* the right to education, and calls upon the international community to provide universal access to inclusive, equal and non-discriminatory quality education at all levels – early childhood, primary, secondary, tertiary and distance education, including technical and vocational training – as well as to promote the completion of primary and secondary education so that all people may have access to lifelong learning opportunities that help them to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to exploit opportunities to participate fully in society and contribute to sustainable development;

52. *Recognizes* that substantial and efficiently spent investments are needed to improve the quality of education and vocational training and in order to enable millions of people to acquire skills for decent work, and takes note with appreciation of the report of the International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity and the recommendations contained therein, as appropriate;

53. *Urges* Member States to promote and respect women's right to education throughout the life course at all levels, especially for those who have been left furthest behind, and eliminate gender disparities in access to all areas of secondary and tertiary education, promote financial literacy and inclusion, digital literacy and entrepreneurship, ensure that women and girls have equal access to career development, training, scholarships and fellowships and adopt positive action to build women's and girls' leadership skills and influence, and adopt measures that promote, respect and guarantee the safety of women and girls in the school environment and that support women and girls with disabilities at all levels of education and training;

54. *Underlines* that the pandemic has accelerated the pace of digital transformation and accentuated its central role in recovering better and achieving the 2030 Agenda, and in this regard encourages Member States to promote multi-stakeholder partnerships, including with science, technology and innovation communities, academia, civil society, the private sector and intergovernmental institutions, including the United Nations, to close the digital divides, achieve universal Internet connectivity and promote responsible and inclusive Internet governance;

55. *Urges* States to continue to take action to bridge the digital divides and spread the benefits of digitalization, expand participation of all countries, in particular developing countries, in the digital economy, including by enhancing their digital infrastructure connectivity, building their capacities and access to technological innovations through stronger partnerships and improving digital literacy, leverage digital technology to expand the foundations on which to strengthen social protection systems, build capacities for inclusive participation in the digital economy and strong partnerships to bring technological innovations to all countries, and reaffirms that the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online;

56. *Invites* the United Nations system to continue to support Member States in their pursuit of socially just transitions towards sustainable development and facilitate international cooperation in the field of digital technologies for developing countries, upon their request, with the aim of achieving the 2030 Agenda for the common future of present and coming generations, and close the digital divides which are exacerbating existing inequalities globally, especially during and after the pandemic, and stresses the commitment of Member States to reinvigorating and strengthening multilateralism to collectively address global challenges and to support countries in need in their efforts to enable an inclusive, sustainable and resilient recovery, including through mobilizing all means to strengthen their education, health-care and social protection systems and mitigate and adapt to the negative effects of climate change;

57. *Reaffirms* that international cooperation has an essential role in assisting developing countries, including the least developed and middle-income countries, in strengthening their human, institutional and technological capacity;

58. *Underlines* that South-South cooperation is an important element of international cooperation for development as a complement to, not a substitute for, North-South cooperation, recognizes its increased importance, different history and particularities, and stresses that it should be seen as an expression of solidarity among peoples and countries of the South, based on their shared experiences and objectives, and that it should continue to be guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit;

59. *Emphasizes* that international public finance plays an important role in complementing the efforts of countries to mobilize public resources domestically, especially in the poorest and the most vulnerable countries with limited domestic resources, and that an important use of international public finance, including official development assistance, is to catalyse the mobilization of additional resources from other public and private sources, and notes that official development assistance providers have reaffirmed their respective commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.2 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to the least developed countries;

60. *Welcomes* the increase in the volume of official development assistance since the adoption of the Monterrey Consensus, expresses its concern that many countries still fall short of their official development assistance commitments, reiterates that the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments remains crucial, commends those few countries that have met or surpassed their commitment to 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance and the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to the least developed countries, urges all other countries to step up efforts to increase their official development assistance and to make additional concrete efforts towards the official development assistance targets, welcomes the decision by the European Union reaffirming its collective commitment to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance within the time frame of the 2030 Agenda and undertaking to meet collectively the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to the least developed countries in the short term and to reach 0.20 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to the least developed countries within the time frame of the 2030 Agenda, and encourages official development assistance providers to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to the least developed countries;



61. *Stresses* the essential role that official development assistance plays in complementing, leveraging and sustaining financing for development efforts in developing countries and in facilitating the achievement of development objectives, including the internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Sustainable Development Goals, and welcomes steps to improve the effectiveness and quality of aid based on the fundamental principles of national ownership, alignment, harmonization, managing for results and mutual accountability;

62. *Welcomes* the contribution to the mobilization of resources for social development by the initiatives taken on a voluntary basis by groups of Member States based on innovative financing mechanisms, including those that aim to provide further access to drugs at affordable prices to developing countries on a sustainable and predictable basis, such as the International Drug Purchase Facility, UNITAID, as well as other initiatives such as the International Finance Facility for Immunization and the Advance Market Commitment for Vaccines;

63. *Emphasizes* that a coordinated global response is critical to assisting countries in preserving or increasing social protection systems when facing the COVID-19 pandemic and as they recover from it, including by strengthening international solidarity, multilateralism, international cooperation and global partnerships among all stakeholders, in order to recover better to achieve the objectives of the World Summit and the 2030 Agenda, while leaving no one behind, with an endeavour to reach the furthest behind first;

64. *Encourages* Governments to support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all;

65. *Stresses* that the international community shall enhance its efforts to create an enabling environment for social development and poverty eradication through increasing market access for developing countries, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, financial aid and a comprehensive solution to the external debt problem;

66. *Reaffirms* that each country has the primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, including their importance in safeguarding and increasing social spending to fully implement the 2030 Agenda, and underlines the importance of adopting effective measures, including new financial mechanisms, as appropriate, to support the efforts of developing countries to achieve sustained economic growth, sustainable development, poverty eradication and the strengthening of their democratic systems;

67. *Stresses* that the international community should support national commitments to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions with the goal to ensure that no one is left behind, and recognizes the need for greater international cooperation to further reduce inequality between and within countries and increase capacity-building support to countries with the most constrained resources to ensure that social expenditures meet certain targets;

68. *Reconfirms* the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and recognizes the need to take steps to significantly increase investment to close resource gaps, including through the mobilization of financial resources from all sources, including public, private, domestic and international resource mobilization and allocation;

69. *Reaffirms* that the Commission for Social Development, as a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council, in promoting the integrated treatment of social development issues in the United Nations system, shall review, on a periodic basis, issues related to the follow-up to and implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action, in a manner consistent with the functions and contributions of the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and shall advise the Council thereon;

70. *Also reaffirms* that the Commission for Social Development continues to have the primary responsibility for the follow-up to and review of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, and that it serves as the main United Nations forum for an intensified global dialogue on social development issues, and calls upon Member States, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and civil society to enhance their support for its work;

71. *Further reaffirms* the mandate of the Commission for Social Development and that social development is a cross-cutting element in discussions surrounding the 2030 Agenda, and calls upon Member States, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, civil society and relevant stakeholders to

enhance their support for the high-level political forum on sustainable development as it builds upon the work of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, including the Commission, while reflecting the integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals as well as the interlinkages between them;

72. *Requests* the United Nations funds, programmes and agencies to continue to support national efforts of Member States to achieve inclusive social development in a coherent and coordinated manner, to mainstream the goal of full and productive employment and decent work for all into their policies, programmes and activities, as well as to support efforts of Member States aimed at achieving this objective, and invites financial institutions to support efforts in this regard;

73. *Invites* the Secretary-General, the Economic and Social Council, the regional commissions, the relevant specialized agencies, the funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental forums, within their respective mandates, to continue to integrate into their work programmes and give priority attention to the Copenhagen commitments and the Declaration on the tenth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development,<sup>70</sup> to continue to be actively involved in their follow-up and to monitor the achievement of those commitments and undertakings;

74. *Calls upon* the Commission for Social Development to continue to address inequality in all its dimensions, in the context of the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action, as well as the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and invites the Commission to emphasize the increased exchange of national, regional and international experiences, the focused and interactive dialogues among experts and practitioners and the sharing of best practices and lessons learned;

75. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue engaging with Member States to sustain and further strengthen the political momentum on health-related issues, including the realization of universal health coverage and, in close collaboration with relevant United Nations agencies and other stakeholders, including regional organizations, to strengthen existing initiatives that are led and coordinated by the World Health Organization to provide assistance to Member States, upon their request, towards the achievement of universal health coverage and all health-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals;

76. *Calls upon* the international community to provide inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels throughout the life course – early childhood, primary, secondary, tertiary and distance education, including technical and vocational training – so that all people, particularly those in vulnerable situations, may have access to lifelong learning opportunities that help them to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to exploit opportunities to participate fully in society and contribute to sustainable development;

77. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “Social development”, the sub-item entitled “Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly”, with a particular focus on how to ensure access to and use of new information and digital technologies, and bridge the digital divides, within and between countries, especially for people living in poverty, to contribute to fulfilling social development goals, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the question to the General Assembly at that session.

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<sup>70</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 6 (E/2005/26)*, chap. I, sect. A; see also Economic and Social Council decision 2005/234.

## RESOLUTION 78/175

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/472, para. 57)<sup>71</sup>

### 78/175. Cooperatives in social development

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 47/90 of 16 December 1992, 49/155 of 23 December 1994, 51/58 of 12 December 1996, 54/123 of 17 December 1999, 56/114 of 19 December 2001, 58/131 of 22 December 2003, 60/132 of 16 December 2005, 62/128 of 18 December 2007, 64/136 of 18 December 2009, 65/184 of 21 December 2010, 66/123 of 19 December 2011, 68/133 of 18 December 2013, 70/128 of 17 December 2015, 72/143 of 19 December 2017, 74/119 of 18 December 2019 and 76/135 of 16 December 2021 concerning cooperatives in social development,

*Recognizing* that cooperatives, in their various forms, promote the fullest possible participation in the economic and social development of local communities and all people, including women, young people, older persons, persons with disabilities and Indigenous Peoples, whose inclusion strengthens economic and social development, and contribute to the eradication of poverty and hunger,

*Recognizing also* that, as cooperative enterprises often serve the socially excluded and vulnerable sectors of the population that traditional profit-driven businesses may not be best placed to address, they are therefore important for the support of socially inclusive policies that drive inclusive development, particularly in developing countries,

*Recognizing further* that cooperatives and other social organizations can be instrumental in promoting a just transition while working on climate change adaptation and mitigation,

*Reaffirming* the adoption of the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,<sup>72</sup> and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,<sup>73</sup> and noting the acknowledgement therein of the role of cooperatives in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and in relation to financing for development,

*Recalling* its resolution 77/281 of 18 April 2023, entitled “Promoting the social and solidarity economy for sustainable development”, in which it recognized that the social and solidarity economy encompasses enterprises, organizations and other entities that are engaged in economic, social and environmental activities to serve the collective and/or general interest, which are based on the principles of voluntary cooperation and mutual aid, democratic and/or participatory governance, autonomy and independence and the primacy of people and social purpose over capital in the distribution and use of surpluses and/or profits, as well as assets,

*Recognizing* the important contribution and potential of all forms of cooperatives to the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women, including their five-year reviews, the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), the World Food Summit, the Second World Assembly on Ageing, the International Conference on Financing for Development, the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda,

<sup>71</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Zambia.

<sup>72</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>73</sup> Resolution 69/313, annex.

*Recognizing also* that cooperatives can make important contributions towards and benefit from improved global food security through their role as stakeholders in national pathways of transformation toward sustainable, resilient and inclusive food systems,

*Noting that*, globally, there are about 3 million cooperatives, and 10 per cent of workers worldwide are either employed by a cooperative or are worker-owners within a cooperative,

*Recognizing* that cooperatives may contribute to the economic status of women, as well as to their capacity-building, including education and training in key skills, and promote the social and economic development of all persons, including young people, older persons and persons with disabilities,

*Noting with appreciation* the potential role of cooperative development in the improvement of the social and economic conditions of Indigenous Peoples and rural communities,

*Noting* the proposal contained in the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Our Common Agenda” to convene a world social summit in 2025, to be discussed and agreed upon by Member States, including its modalities, title, objectives, scope and possible outcomes, and emphasizing that the possible summit’s outcome should have a social development approach and give momentum towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda,

*Welcoming* the efforts of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to showcase the role of agricultural cooperatives, including in improving food security and nutrition, particularly in rural areas, promoting sustainable agricultural practices, improving the agricultural productivity of farmers, including by providing capacity-building and training, and facilitating access to markets, savings, credit, insurance and technology, and in so doing strengthen sustainable food systems,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>74</sup>
2. *Notes with appreciation* the celebration of the International Year of Cooperatives, in 2012;
3. *Calls for* the proclamation of another International Year of Cooperatives in 2025, and encourages all Member States, as well as the United Nations and all other relevant stakeholders, to take advantage of the International Year of Cooperatives as a way of promoting cooperatives and raising awareness of their contribution to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and to overall social and economic development;
4. *Encourages* all Member States, as well as the United Nations and all other relevant stakeholders, to share best practices identified through activities implemented during the International Year of Cooperatives and to continue those activities, as appropriate;
5. *Encourages* Governments, as appropriate, to consult with cooperatives as part of their preparations for their voluntary national reviews for the high-level political forum on sustainable development;
6. *Draws the attention* of Governments to the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General to focus support on cooperatives as sustainable and successful business enterprises by strengthening the entrepreneurial ecosystem for cooperatives, enabling them to further contribute directly to decent employment generation, poverty and hunger eradication, education, social protection, including universal health coverage, financial inclusion and the creation of affordable housing options across a variety of economic sectors in urban and rural areas and to review existing legislation and regulations to make the national legal and regulatory environment more conducive to the creation and growth of cooperatives by improving existing laws and regulations and/or by establishing new ones, especially in the areas of access to capital, autonomy, competitiveness and fair taxation;
7. *Invites* Governments and international organizations, in partnership with cooperatives and cooperative organizations, to strengthen and build the capacity of all forms of cooperatives, especially those run by the poor, young people, women, older persons, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities and those in vulnerable situations, so that they can empower people to transform their lives and communities positively and build inclusive societies, and to ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and young people in cooperatives, in particular in their decision-making processes;

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<sup>74</sup> [A/78/187](#).

8. *Invites* Governments to strengthen efforts to enhance food security and nutrition to foster sustainable production and consumption, to promote the progressive realization of the right to adequate food and to focus efforts on smallholders and women farmers, as well as on agricultural and food cooperatives and farmers' networks, supported by measures to improve access to markets and financial capital, create enabling domestic and international environments and strengthen collaboration across the many initiatives in this area, including regional initiatives;

9. *Encourages* Governments to promote access to information and communications technologies as a vital channel for collaboration and the expansion of cooperatives, especially in rural areas, working towards closing the digital divides, including for all women and girls, persons with disabilities and older persons;

10. *Also encourages* Governments to intensify and expand the availability, accessibility and dissemination of evidence-based research on the operations and contribution of cooperatives, to develop a statistical framework for the systematic collection of comprehensive and disaggregated data on and the best practices of cooperative enterprises, taking into consideration available methodologies, such as the guidelines concerning statistics of cooperatives, in collaboration with all stakeholders, and to raise public awareness of the linkages between cooperatives and sustainable development, especially in the areas of social inclusion, decent employment creation, poverty eradication in all its forms and dimensions, inequality reduction, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and peacebuilding;

11. *Invites* Governments, relevant international organizations, the specialized agencies and local, national and international cooperative organizations to continue to observe the International Day of Cooperatives annually, on the first Saturday of July, as proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution [47/90](#);

12. *Invites* Governments, in collaboration with the cooperative movement, to develop programmes aimed at enhancing the capacity-building of cooperatives, including by strengthening the organizational, management and financial skills of their members, while respecting the principles of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and to introduce and support programmes to improve the access of cooperatives to new technologies;

13. *Encourages* Governments to take appropriate measures to adopt or develop legislation and policies that provide women with equal access to land and support women's cooperatives and agricultural programmes and enable women's cooperatives to benefit from public and private sector procurement processes and increase trade;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the relevant United Nations and other international organizations and national, regional and international cooperative organizations, to continue to render support to Member States, as appropriate, in their efforts to create a supportive environment for the development of cooperatives, integrating cooperative values, principles and business models into educational programming, including school curricula, as appropriate, providing assistance for human resources development, technical advice and training and promoting an exchange of experience and best practices through, inter alia, conferences, workshops and seminars at the national and regional levels, within existing resources;

15. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its eightieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

#### RESOLUTION 78/176

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee ([A/78/472](#), para. 57)<sup>75</sup>

#### **78/176. Preparations for and observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions [44/82](#) of 8 December 1989, [50/142](#) of 21 December 1995, [52/81](#) of 12 December 1997, [54/124](#) of 17 December 1999, [56/113](#) of 19 December 2001, [57/164](#) of 18 December 2002, [58/15](#) of 3 December 2003, [59/111](#) of 6 December 2004, [59/147](#) of 20 December 2004, [60/133](#) of 16 December 2005, [62/129](#) of

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<sup>75</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Belarus, Cuba (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, Türkiye and Uzbekistan.

18 December 2007, [64/133](#) of 18 December 2009, [66/126](#) of 19 December 2011, [67/142](#) of 20 December 2012, [68/136](#) of 18 December 2013, [69/144](#) of 18 December 2014, [71/163](#) of 19 December 2016, [72/145](#) of 19 December 2017, [73/144](#) of 17 December 2018, [74/124](#) of 18 December 2019, [75/153](#) of 16 December 2020, [76/139](#) of 16 December 2021 and [77/191](#) of 15 December 2022, concerning the proclamation of, preparations for and observance of the International Year of the Family and its tenth, twentieth and thirtieth anniversaries,

*Recognizing* that the preparations for and observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2024 provide a useful opportunity to continue to raise awareness of the objectives of the International Year for increasing cooperation on family issues at all levels and for undertaking concerted action to strengthen family-oriented policies and programmes as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development,

*Recognizing also* that the objectives of the International Year and its follow-up processes, especially those relating to family-oriented policies in the areas of poverty, work-family balance and intergenerational issues, with attention given to the rights and responsibilities of all family members, can contribute to ending poverty, ending hunger, ensuring a healthy life and promoting well-being for all at all ages, promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all, ensuring better education outcomes for children, including early childhood development and education, enabling access to employment opportunities and decent work for parents and caregivers, achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and eliminating all forms of violence, in particular against women and girls, and supporting the overall quality of life of families, including families in vulnerable situations, so that family members can realize their full potential, as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development,

*Acknowledging* that the family-related provisions of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits and their follow-up processes continue to provide policy guidance on ways to strengthen family-oriented components of policies and programmes as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development,

*Acknowledging also* that the International Year and its follow-up processes have served as catalysts for initiatives at the national, regional and international levels, including family-oriented policies and programmes to reduce poverty and hunger and promote the well-being of all at all ages, and can boost development efforts, contribute to better outcomes for children and help to break the intergenerational transfer of poverty in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>76</sup>

*Expressing concern* over the continuous socioeconomic impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on families, and recognizing the need to build more effective, inclusive, resilient and gender-sensitive systems to protect and support families, in particular those families in vulnerable situations, inter alia, by providing access to full and productive employment and decent work, as well as effective, inclusive and resilient social protection systems and public services, and measures to ensure work-family and work-life balance, while also acknowledging that women and girls undertake a disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work, and while also stressing the need to recognize and adopt measures to reduce, redistribute and value unpaid care and domestic work by promoting the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men within the household,

*Acknowledging* that strengthening intergenerational relations, through such measures as promoting intergenerational living arrangements and encouraging extended family members to live in close proximity to each other, has been found to promote the autonomy, security and well-being of children and older persons and that initiatives to promote involved and positive parenting and to support the role of grandparents have been found to be beneficial in advancing social integration and solidarity between generations, as well as in promoting and protecting the human rights of all family members,

*Acknowledging also* that the preparations for the observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2024 should offer an opportunity to focus on megatrends, such as technological change, urbanization, migration, demographic change and climate change and their impact on families and their well-being,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>77</sup>

2. *Encourages* Governments to continue their efforts to implement the objectives of the International Year of the Family and its follow-up processes and to develop strategies and programmes aimed at strengthening national

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<sup>76</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>77</sup> [A/78/61-E/2023/7](#).

capacities to address national priorities relating to family issues and to step up their efforts, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, to implement those objectives, in particular in the areas of fighting poverty and hunger, to prevent the intergenerational transfer and feminization of poverty and ensure the well-being of all at all ages in order to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

3. *Calls upon* Member States, United Nations entities, within their respective mandates, and other relevant stakeholders, to offer support to family members, including working parents, and provide access to full and productive employment and decent work, as well as effective, inclusive, resilient and gender-responsive social protection systems and public services, expanded child and family benefits, paid parental leave and sick leave, improved flexibility of working arrangements and investments in parenting education;

4. *Calls upon* Member States, United Nations entities and relevant stakeholders to promote the preparations for the observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2024 at the national, regional and international levels through practical initiatives, including family-oriented policies and programmes responding to the needs of all families;

5. *Invites* relevant stakeholders, as part of the preparations for the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family, to support research and awareness-raising activities at the national, regional and international levels on the impact of technological, urbanization, migration, demographic and climate change trends on families;

6. *Invites* Member States and relevant stakeholders, as part of the preparations for the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family, within the area of technological change and its impact on families, to bridge the digital divide, including between developed and developing countries, as well as the gender digital divide, to enable equal access to risk-informed information, knowledge and communications, by taking concrete measures to promote equal access for all to digital training, capacity-building, through equal access to information and communications technologies, mobile devices and the Internet, so as to promote their empowerment and digital literacy, and to improve access to the Internet, higher-speed Internet and digital devices for families, especially those in vulnerable situations, invest in the digital literacy skills of all family members, invest in parenting education, including through the use of technology, as a valuable preventive strategy against cyberbullying and violence against children in digital contexts and for reducing child neglect, and support the healthy development of children, as part of child-focused policies and as a component of wider family-oriented policies and programmes;

7. *Encourages* Member States, as part of the preparations for the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family, to integrate a family-oriented approach to relevant policymaking;

8. *Invites* relevant stakeholders, including Member States, to promote work-family balance in the digital world, grant workers with family responsibilities flexibility in work schedules to enable them to meet the needs of work and family and invest in reliable technology support and education;

9. *Invites* Member States and relevant stakeholders, as part of the preparations for the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family, within the area of urbanization and its impact on families, to invest in sustainable urbanization, including through the provision of adequate infrastructure, accessible transportation, affordable housing and intergenerational living arrangements;

10. *Invites* Member States to further invest in services for families, social service centres and transportation, to benefit families and prevent family homelessness and address its causes, including poverty, domestic violence and the lack of affordable housing, and to build inclusive and sustainable communities free from discrimination;

11. *Invites* all relevant stakeholders to incorporate into urban planning a wide range of stakeholders, including low-income households, female-headed households, women, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, those experiencing homelessness, those living in poverty, including extreme poverty, and those in vulnerable situations, and to promote planned and well-managed urbanization through effective coordination between local and state governments and long-term public-private financial partnerships;

12. *Invites* Member States and all relevant stakeholders to promote reunification policies under national law related to migration, with the best interest of the child as the basic concern, while also taking into consideration the overall well-being of the family;

13. *Encourages* Member States to promote social protection systems for all, in line with national policies, and to target families in vulnerable situations, such as migrant families, those in precarious housing situations, those living



in conflict zones or areas susceptible to natural disasters induced by climate change, Indigenous families and families with a member with disabilities;

14. *Invites* Member States and other stakeholders to invest in awareness-raising and media campaigns to disseminate information on the availability of housing, employment, educational opportunities and social services for families and their members;

15. *Encourages* Member States to integrate and maintain a gender perspective in family-related policies, in particular in the context of migration and homelessness;

16. *Encourages* Member States and other relevant stakeholders to expand evidence-based research on the impact of rapid technological change, demographic change, migration, urbanization and climate change, in order to develop adequate policies supporting migrant and urban families in these contexts, as part of the preparations for the observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family;

17. *Invites* Member States to invest in a variety of inclusive, family-oriented gender-sensitive policies and programmes, which take into account the different needs and expectations of all families, as important tools for, inter alia, fighting poverty, social exclusion, discrimination and inequality, promoting work-family balance and gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and advancing social integration and intergenerational solidarity, to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

18. *Encourages* Member States to continue to enact inclusive and responsive family-oriented policies for poverty reduction to confront family poverty and social exclusion, recognizing the multidimensional aspects of poverty, focusing on inclusive and quality education and lifelong learning for all, health and well-being for all at all ages, full and productive employment, decent work, social security, livelihoods and social cohesion, including through gender- and age-sensitive social protection systems and measures, such as child allowances for parents and pension benefits for older persons, and to ensure that the rights, capabilities and responsibilities of all family members are respected;

19. *Also encourages* Member States to recognize, reduce and redistribute unpaid care and domestic work, particularly by women, and enhance efforts to ensure equal pay for equal work or work of equal value, and to promote work-family balance as conducive to the well-being of children, youth, persons with disabilities and older persons and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, inter alia, through the improvement of working conditions for workers with family responsibilities, expanding flexible working arrangements, including through the use of new information and communications technologies, and providing and/or expanding leave arrangements, such as maternity leave and paternity leave, and adequate social security benefits for both women and men, taking appropriate steps to ensure that they are not discriminated against when availing themselves of such benefits and promoting men's awareness and use of such opportunities, for their children's developmental benefit and as a means of enabling women to increase their participation in the labour market;

20. *Further encourages* Member States to take appropriate steps to provide affordable, accessible and good-quality childcare facilities and facilities for children and other dependants and measures promoting the equal sharing of household responsibilities between women and men, recognizing, reducing and redistributing women's and girls' disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work and fully engaging men and boys as agents and beneficiaries of change and as strategic partners and allies in this regard;

21. *Encourages* Member States to invest in family-oriented policies and programmes that enhance strong intergenerational interactions, such as intergenerational living arrangements, parenting education, including for family caregivers, and support for grandparents, including grandparents who are primary caregivers, in an effort to promote inclusive urbanization, active ageing, intergenerational solidarity and social cohesion;

22. *Also encourages* Member States to invest in family-oriented policies and programmes and to provide universal and gender-sensitive social protection systems, which are key to ensuring poverty reduction, including, as appropriate, targeted cash transfers for families in vulnerable situations, as can be the case of families headed by a single parent, in particular those headed by women, and which are most effective in reducing poverty when accompanied by other measures, such as providing access to basic services, high-quality education and health-care services, in addition to family services and counselling;

23. *Further encourages* Member States to provide legal identity including birth registration, in accordance with international law, including relevant provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child<sup>78</sup> and/or relevant provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>79</sup> and death registration, as a means of, inter alia, promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development and access to benefits, including social protection;
24. *Encourages* Member States to invest in parenting education as a tool to enhance children's well-being and prevent all forms of violence against children, including through promoting non-violent forms of discipline, and to ensure that parenting education programmes are inclusive of parents, grandparents and, where applicable, the members of the extended family or community as provided by local custom, legal guardians or other persons legally responsible for the children, maintaining a gender perspective throughout;
25. *Also encourages* Member States to establish policies that support all families in providing a nurturing environment, and in preventing and eliminating domestic violence and harmful practices, including female genital mutilation and child, early and forced marriage;
26. *Further encourages* Member States to improve the collection and use of data, disaggregated by age, sex and other relevant criteria, for the formulation and evaluation of family-oriented policies and programmes to effectively respond to the challenges faced by families and harness their contribution to development;
27. *Encourages* Governments to support the United Nations trust fund on family activities;
28. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, including United Nations entities, civil society, academic institutions and the private sector, in the development and implementation of relevant family-oriented policies and programmes;
29. *Encourages* further collaboration between the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the United Nations entities, agencies, funds and programmes, as well as other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations active in the family field, as well as the enhancement of research efforts and awareness-raising activities relating to the objectives of the International Year and its follow-up processes, including the preparations for the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family;
30. *Requests* the focal point on the family of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to enhance collaboration with the regional commissions, funds and programmes, recommends that the roles of focal points within the United Nations system be reaffirmed, and invites Member States to increase technical cooperation efforts, consider enhancing the role of the regional commissions on family issues and continue to provide resources for those efforts, facilitate the coordination of national and international non-governmental organizations on family issues and enhance cooperation with all relevant stakeholders to promote family issues and develop partnerships in this regard;
31. *Calls upon* Member States and agencies and bodies of the United Nations system, in consultation with civil society and other relevant stakeholders, to continue to provide information on their activities, including on good practices at the national, regional and international levels, including the relevant United Nations forums, in support of the objectives of the International Year and its follow-up processes, including the preparations for its thirtieth anniversary, to be included in the report of the Secretary-General;
32. *Encourages* Member States and other relevant stakeholders to organize and participate in events commemorating the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2024;
33. *Takes note* of the convening of the Doha conference to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family, on the theme "Family and contemporary megatrends", hosted by Qatar and organized by the Doha International Family Institute, to be held from 29 to 31 October 2024;
34. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its eightieth session, through the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the present resolution and on the observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year in 2024 at all levels;

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<sup>78</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>79</sup> See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

35. *Decides* to consider the topic “Preparations for and observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2024” at its seventy-ninth session under the sub-item entitled “Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, persons with disabilities and the family” of the item entitled “Social development”.

### RESOLUTION 78/177

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/472, para. 57)<sup>80</sup>

#### 78/177. Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 57/167 of 18 December 2002, in which it endorsed the Political Declaration and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,<sup>81</sup> its resolution 58/134 of 22 December 2003, in which it took note, inter alia, of the road map for the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, and its resolutions 60/135 of 16 December 2005, 61/142 of 19 December 2006, 62/130 of 18 December 2007, 63/151 of 18 December 2008, 64/132 of 18 December 2009, 65/182 of 21 December 2010, 66/127 of 19 December 2011, 67/139 and 67/143 of 20 December 2012, 68/134 of 18 December 2013, 69/146 of 18 December 2014, 70/164 of 17 December 2015, 71/164 of 19 December 2016, 72/144 of 19 December 2017, 73/143 of 17 December 2018, 74/125 of 18 December 2019, 75/152 of 16 December 2020, 76/138 of 16 December 2021 and 77/190 of 15 December 2022,

*Recognizing* that there has been steady participation of Member States in the fourth review and appraisal cycle of implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, although, in some parts of the world, awareness of the Madrid Plan of Action remains limited or non-existent, which limits the scope of implementation efforts,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>82</sup>

*Noting* that the voluntary national reviews submitted by Member States to the high-level political forum on sustainable development in the period 2016–2022 showed varying levels of awareness of and response to population ageing in the different world regions,

*Taking note* of other initiatives that the Secretary-General, United Nations agencies and United Nations entities have undertaken in order to achieve full and sustainable recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) as a vital step towards achieving the pledge to leave no one behind, in particular those regarding the impact of COVID-19 on older persons, and noting in this regard the importance of promoting equal access of older persons to social services, health-care services, information and communications technologies, including new technologies, assistive technologies, full and productive employment and decent work, encouraging their effective and meaningful participation, protecting their human rights, combating ageism and all forms of violence against them, as well as obtaining data disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographical location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts,

*Recalling* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>83</sup> and stressing the need to ensure that issues of relevance to older persons are taken into account in its implementation in order to ensure that no one is left behind, including older persons,

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<sup>80</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Canada, Croatia, Cuba (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Germany, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Malta, Mexico, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Serbia, Slovenia, Türkiye, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

<sup>81</sup> *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8–12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

<sup>82</sup> A/78/134.

<sup>83</sup> Resolution 70/1.

*Recalling also* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>84</sup> the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>85</sup> the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>86</sup> the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,<sup>87</sup> the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities<sup>88</sup> and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,<sup>89</sup>

*Noting* the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families<sup>90</sup> and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,<sup>91</sup>

*Noting also* the regional developments on the protection and promotion of the human rights of older persons, including the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa,

*Noting further* that, between 2022 and 2030, the number of persons aged 60 years or over is projected to grow by 31 per cent, from 1.1 billion to 1.4 billion, globally outnumbering youth and doubling the number of children under age 5,<sup>92</sup> and that this increase will be the greatest and the most rapid in the developing world, and recognizing that greater attention needs to be paid to the specific challenges affecting older persons, including in the field of human rights,

*Recalling* World Health Assembly resolutions on ageing, specifically resolution 58.16 of 25 May 2005 on strengthening active and healthy ageing,<sup>93</sup> which stressed the important role of public health policies and programmes in enabling the rapidly growing number of older persons to remain in good health and maintain their many vital contributions to the well-being of their families, communities and societies, resolution 65.3 of 25 May 2012 on strengthening non-communicable disease policies to promote active ageing,<sup>94</sup> which recognized that population ageing is among the major factors contributing to the rising incidence and prevalence of non-communicable diseases and noted the importance of lifelong health-promotion and disease-prevention activities, and resolution 69.3 of 29 May 2016, entitled "Global strategy and action plan on ageing and 2016–2020: towards a world in which everyone can live a long and healthy life",<sup>95</sup>

*Recalling also* the proclamation of the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021–2030) in its resolution [75/131](#) of 14 December 2020,

*Recalling further* the World Summit on the Information Society and its outcomes,<sup>96</sup> including its special track on information and communications technologies and older persons, as well as other relevant intergovernmentally agreed outcomes,

*Recognizing* that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a disproportionately heavy impact on older persons, in particular older women, and that responses to the COVID-19 pandemic need to respect their dignity, promote and protect their human rights and take into account all forms of violence, discrimination, stigmatization, exclusion, inequalities as well as neglect, social isolation and loneliness,

*Recognizing also* that COVID-19 has disproportionately affected older persons living in long-term care facilities, including those in the context of informal long-term care provision, and stressing the importance of testing for COVID-19, providing personal protective equipment in long-term care facilities, securing emergency funding for

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<sup>84</sup> Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

<sup>85</sup> See resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

<sup>86</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>87</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

<sup>88</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

<sup>89</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 660, No. 9464.

<sup>90</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2220, No. 39481.

<sup>91</sup> Resolution [61/295](#), annex.

<sup>92</sup> United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, *World Population Prospects: 2022 Revision*.

<sup>93</sup> See World Health Organization, document WHA58/2005/REC/1.

<sup>94</sup> See World Health Organization, document WHA65/2012/REC/1.

<sup>95</sup> See World Health Organization, document WHA69/2016/REC/1.

<sup>96</sup> See [A/C.2/59/3](#) and [A/60/687](#).

such facilities, applying telemedicine and telehealth methods for mitigation purposes, and achieving universal health coverage, ensuring fair and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics,

*Acknowledging* that many developing countries and countries with economies in transition are confronting a double burden of fighting communicable diseases, such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, in parallel with the increasing threat of non-communicable diseases, and expressing concern about the impact on older persons,

*Concerned* that many health systems are not sufficiently prepared to respond to the needs of the rapidly ageing population, including the need for preventive, curative, palliative and specialized care,

*Deeply concerned* that the situation of older persons in many parts of the world has been negatively affected by the world financial and economic crisis, and noting with concern the high incidence of poverty among them, particularly older single women,

*Recognizing* the essential contribution that older persons can continue to make to the functioning of societies and towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and recognizing also the importance of the full and effective enjoyment of their human rights,

*Concerned* about the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination that may create additional vulnerabilities for older persons and affect their enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and recognizing that, in particular, older women often face multiple forms of discrimination resulting from gender inequality and are at greater risk of physical and psychological abuse and violence,

*Acknowledging* the accelerated global trend of ageing of the population, which will require more care work and support, and stressing the need to promote and strengthen the estimation of the caregiving contribution and other activities of older persons to the economy, including recognition of unpaid care for family members, in particular by older women, and to ensure that national statistics in this regard inform policymaking,

*Recognizing* that the prevalence of disabilities increases with age and that many older persons live with a disability,

*Recognizing also* that ageism is a widely prevalent and prejudicial attitude that may rest on the assumption that neglect of, and discrimination against, older persons is acceptable, and that ageism is the common source of, the justification for and the driving force behind age discrimination,

*Recognizing further* that the social exclusion of older persons is a complex process involving the lack or denial of resources, rights, goods and services as people age, and the inability of older persons to participate in societal relationships and activities, including cultural activities, available to the majority of people across the varied and multiple domains of society, and that it affects both the quality of life of older persons and the equity and cohesion of an ageing society as a whole, with considerable implications for the enjoyment by older persons of their human rights,

*Acknowledging* the importance of exploring ways to increase the visibility of and attention to the specific challenges faced by older persons in the global development policy framework, including identifying possible gaps and how best to address them,

*Deeply concerned* by the increasing number and scale of humanitarian emergencies and their impact on older persons, particularly older women, reiterating the importance of giving due consideration to their specific needs, as well as their capacity to respond, and to the contributions of older persons to the planning and implementation of humanitarian assistance and efforts in disaster risk reduction, and noting with concern that the multiple forms of discrimination experienced by older women can be exacerbated during humanitarian emergencies and aggravate their potential vulnerabilities,

*Recognizing* the successful conclusion of the fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action, noting the results achieved at the international, regional and national levels, and acknowledging in that regard the recommendations of the Commission for Social Development at its sixty-first session, as endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution [2023/15](#) of 7 June 2023,

1. *Reaffirms* the Political Declaration and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002;

2. *Calls upon* all States and the international community to cooperate, support and participate in the global efforts towards an age-inclusive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to mobilize all necessary resources and support in that regard, according to national plans and strategies, including through an

integrated and multifaceted approach to improving the well-being of older persons, and in this regard encourages Member States to seize this opportunity to take into account issues of relevance to older persons in their efforts to promote the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals;

3. *Encourages* Member States to address the situation of older persons in their voluntary national reviews presented at the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

4. *Also encourages* Member States to accelerate their efforts to mainstream the linkages between population ageing and sustainable development into national policies and programmes across all levels of government, where appropriate, and to link ageing to frameworks for social and economic development and human rights;

5. *Recognizes* that the major challenges faced by older persons undermine their social, economic and cultural participation;

6. *Emphasizes* the need to take effective measures against ageism and to view older persons as active contributors to society and not as passive receivers of care and assistance and an impending burden on welfare systems and economies, while promoting and protecting their human rights;

7. *Encourages* Member States to intensify efforts towards identifying ageing as an opportunity, and recognizes that older persons make substantial contributions to sustainable development efforts, including through their active participation in society;

8. *Recognizes* the challenges related to the enjoyment of all human rights that older persons face in different areas and that those challenges require in-depth analysis and action to address protection gaps, and calls upon all States to promote and ensure the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for older persons, including by progressively taking measures to combat age discrimination, neglect, abuse and violence, as well as social isolation and loneliness, to provide social protection, access to food and housing, health-care services, employment, information and communications technologies, including new technologies, assistive technologies, legal capacity and access to justice and to address issues related to social integration and gender inequality through mainstreaming the rights of older persons into sustainable development strategies, urban policies and poverty reduction strategies, bearing in mind the crucial importance of intergenerational solidarity for social development;

9. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons and the renewal of the mandate at the fifty-first session of the Human Rights Council,<sup>97</sup> and stresses the importance of close coordination between the work of the Independent Expert and the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing established by the General Assembly in paragraph 28 of its resolution 65/182, while avoiding unnecessary duplication of their respective mandates and those of other special procedures and subsidiary organs of the Council, and relevant United Nations bodies and treaty bodies;

10. *Takes note* of the report of the Independent Expert issued in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 51/4,<sup>98</sup> and encourages Member States to be mindful of the recommendations contained therein;

11. *Notes* that the report of the Independent Expert examines the rights of older persons in the context of climate change-induced disasters, and encourages Member States to be mindful of the recommendations contained therein;

12. *Invites* Member States to continue to share their national experiences in developing and implementing policies and programmes aimed at strengthening the promotion and protection of the human rights of older persons, including within the framework of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing;

13. *Encourages* Governments to actively address, through national, regional and international efforts, issues that affect older persons and to ensure that the social integration of older persons and the promotion and protection of their rights form an integral part of development policies at all levels;

14. *Encourages* Member States to create an enabling environment for the equal, full, effective and meaningful participation of older persons in political, social, economic and cultural life, while taking into account the diversity of

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<sup>97</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53A, (A/77/53/Add.1)*, chap. III, sect. A, resolution 51/4.

<sup>98</sup> See A/78/226.

situation of older persons and responding to population ageing as well as to multiple forms of discrimination resulting from ageism and other inequality throughout the life course;

15. *Also encourages* Member States to adopt and implement non-discriminatory policies, legislation and regulations, to systematically review and amend these, where appropriate, if they discriminate against older persons, especially on the basis of age, and to take appropriate measures to prevent discrimination against older persons in, inter alia, employment, social protection and the provision of social, health-care and long-term care services;

16. *Calls upon* Member States to promote, in accordance with their national priorities, equitable and affordable access to sustainable basic physical and social infrastructure for all, without discrimination, including affordable serviced land, housing, modern and renewable energy, safe drinking water and sanitation, safe, nutritious and adequate food, waste disposal, sustainable mobility, health-care services and family planning, education, culture and information and communications technologies, and to ensure that these services are responsive to the rights and needs of older persons, while recognizing that planning for and providing opportunities for making cities inclusive of older persons' economic and social participation is an important dimension of the construction of sustainable cities;

17. *Recognizes* that the risk of poverty increases with old age in several ways, and that the pandemic has had a negative impact on the financial security of older persons, including older widows, and in this regard calls upon Member States to enable people to reach old age in better economic conditions by, inter alia, addressing barriers in labour markets and inadequate social protection systems and combating elder abuse and neglect as well as the adverse impact of all forms of discrimination and inequalities experienced by older persons, especially older women;

18. *Encourages* Member States to take into account the multidimensional nature of the vulnerability of older persons to poverty and economic insecurity, including through the promotion of good health, care and well-being, in their implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at the national level;

19. *Encourages* Governments to pay greater attention to building capacity to eradicate poverty among older persons, in particular older women and older persons with disabilities, by mainstreaming ageing issues into poverty eradication measures, women's empowerment strategies and national development plans, and to include both ageing-specific policies and ageing-mainstreaming efforts in their national strategies;

20. *Encourages* Member States to consider expanding, in accordance with domestic legislation and policies, the reach of sustainable pension schemes, including but not limited to strategies such as social pensions, and increasing their benefits, with a view to ensuring income security in old age;

21. *Also encourages* Member States to develop and implement long-term care strategies, as well as to conduct research on good practices of care strategies, recognizing and supporting both paid and unpaid care work for the benefit of older persons, and to further promote long-term care as a positive social and economic investment and a source of employment expansion;

22. *Further encourages* Member States to promote terms and conditions of care work guided by International Labour Organization standards for all care workers, including but not limited to migrants, and to adopt measures to tackle the gender and age stereotypes for care work;

23. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen their efforts to develop national capacities to address their national implementation priorities identified during the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action by considering and devising strategies that take into account the entirety of the human life course and foster intergenerational solidarity, the strengthening of institutional mechanisms, research, data collection and analysis and the training of necessary personnel in the field of ageing;

24. *Recommends* that Member States increase efforts to raise awareness of the Madrid Plan of Action and identify key priority areas for its implementation, including empowering older persons and promoting their rights, bearing in mind the crucial importance of intergenerational family interdependence, solidarity and reciprocity for social development, raising awareness of ageing issues and building national capacities, as well as promoting and supporting initiatives to advance a positive public image of older persons and their multiple contributions to their families, communities and societies and working with the regional commissions, as needed, and enlisting the help of the Department of Global Communications of the Secretariat in seeking increased attention for ageing issues;



25. *Encourages* Governments that have not done so to designate focal points for handling the follow-up of national plans of action on ageing, and also encourages Governments to strengthen existing networks of national focal points on ageing;

26. *Invites* Governments to conduct their ageing-related policies through inclusive and participatory consultations with relevant stakeholders and social development partners, in the interest of developing effective policies that create national policy ownership and consensus-building;

27. *Recommends* that Governments be inclusive in involving older persons and their organizations in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of policies and programmes that affect them, including through simple consultative mechanisms to co-research or co-design such policies and programmes with or by older persons and to take due account of involving those who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and are particularly vulnerable to high incidences of poverty and social exclusion;

28. *Encourages* Member States to involve older persons, where appropriate, in relevant international discussions, such as in the General Assembly and other processes held under the auspices of the United Nations, by considering incorporating them in their national delegations;

29. *Recommends* that Member States enhance their capacity to more effectively collect age-disaggregated data, statistics and qualitative information, disaggregated also, when necessary, by other relevant factors, including sex and disability, in order to improve assessment of the situation of older persons, recognizes that the data revolution presents new opportunities and challenges for the use of new data to help with the measurement of progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in particular its aspects of relevance to older persons, and to ensure that no one is left behind, and in this regard recalls the establishment by the Statistical Commission of the Titchfield Group on Ageing-Related Statistics and Age-Disaggregated Data and the consideration of its work;

30. *Encourages* Member States to enhance the capacity of national statistical offices to identify and address existing deficits in data on ageing, to contribute to the effective follow-up on the implementation of international agreed commitments, including in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

31. *Encourages* States parties to existing international human rights instruments, where appropriate, to address the situation of older persons more explicitly in their reports, and encourages treaty body monitoring mechanisms and special procedure mandate holders to pay due regard to the situation of older persons in their dialogue with Member States, particularly in their concluding observations and reports, respectively;

32. *Recognizes* the importance of strengthening intergenerational partnerships and solidarity, and in this regard calls upon Member States to promote opportunities for voluntary, constructive and regular interaction between young people and older generations in the family, the workplace and society at large;

33. *Encourages* Member States to adopt social policies that promote the development of community services for older persons, taking into account the psychological and physical aspects of ageing and the special needs of older women and older persons with disabilities;

34. *Also encourages* Member States to ensure that older persons have access to information about their rights so as to enable them to participate fully and justly in their societies and to claim full enjoyment of all human rights;

35. *Calls upon* Member States to develop their national capacity for monitoring and enforcing the rights of older persons, in consultation with all sectors of society, including organizations of older persons, through, inter alia, national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, where applicable;

36. *Also calls upon* Member States to strengthen and incorporate a gender and disability perspective into all policy actions on ageing, as well as to address and eliminate discrimination on the basis of age, sex or disability, and recommends that Member States engage with all sectors of society, in particular with relevant organizations with an interest in the matter, including organizations of older persons, women and persons with disabilities, in changing negative stereotypes about older persons, in particular older women and older persons with disabilities, and promote positive narratives of all older persons;

37. *Acknowledges* that universal health coverage implies that all people, including older persons, have access, without discrimination, to every country's determined sets of needed promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative basic health services and essential, safe, affordable, effective and quality medicines, while ensuring that the use of

such services does not expose older persons to financial hardship, with a special emphasis on the poor, vulnerable and marginalized;

38. *Emphasizes* the urgent need to ensure the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and to facilitate the development of robust health systems and universal health coverage, encompassing universal, timely, affordable and equitable access to all essential health technologies, diagnostics, therapeutics, medicines, safe, quality and effective vaccines, especially in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and other health emergencies, in order to ensure full access to COVID-19 immunization for all, in particular older persons, including those who are in vulnerable situations, especially older women;

39. *Urges* Member States to develop, implement and evaluate policies and programmes that promote healthy and active ageing and the highest attainable standard of health and well-being for older persons and to develop health care for older persons as part of primary care in the existing health systems;

40. *Recognizes* the importance of training, education, lifelong learning and capacity-building of the health workforce, including paid care workers and unpaid caregivers, for home-based care;

41. *Stresses* the need to close all digital divides, including, inter alia, both between and within countries, the rural-urban digital divide, the gender digital divide, and between youth and older persons, which can be experienced by older persons by providing universal and affordable access to and use of information and communications technologies, including new technologies and the meaningful use of digitally enabled services, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to people throughout their life course without discrimination based on age or other forms of discrimination, and welcomes efforts by the United Nations to assist Member States, upon their request, in achieving this;

42. *Encourages* Member States to promote digital literacy with a special focus on enhancing digital skills and competencies of older persons without discrimination of any kind, including socioeconomic status, education level, race and/or ethnicity, gender and disability as well as language barriers, by taking into account national and regional contexts;

43. *Also encourages* Member States to ensure that the principle of non-discrimination on the basis of age is incorporated and upheld in health and other policies and programmes and that the implementation of such policies and programmes is regularly monitored;

44. *Urges* Member States to strengthen intersectoral policy frameworks and institutional mechanisms, as appropriate, for the integrated management of the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, including health promotion, health-care services and social welfare services, in order to address the needs of older persons;

45. *Encourages* Member States to provide services and support to older persons, including grandparents, who have assumed responsibility for children who were abandoned or whose parents are deceased, have migrated, have been displaced, including in the context of humanitarian emergencies, or are otherwise unable to care for their dependants;

46. *Calls upon* Member States to address the issue of the well-being of and adequate health-care services for older persons, as well as any cases of neglect, abuse and violence against older persons, in particular older women, by designing and implementing more effective prevention strategies and stronger laws and by developing coherent and comprehensive policy frameworks to address these problems and their underlying factors;

47. *Urges* Member States to increase the resilience of older persons and ensure that they are able to achieve and maintain financial security during emergencies, through, inter alia, addressing the digital gap that currently affects many older persons and protecting them from violence and abuse in digital contexts; strengthening legal and social protection and adopting adequate employment measures; providing better care and support services, promoting long-term care and support at home, in the community and in institutional settings, with a view to ensuring their empowerment, as well as their autonomy and independence; adopting a people-centred, gender-sensitive comprehensive and integrated approach, with full respect for human rights, to health care to improve the well-being of older persons, including mental health care, non-communicable disease management and adult immunization efforts; and developing national vaccination plans that give priority to older persons and are guided by principles of equality and social justice;

48. *Calls upon* Member States to take concrete measures, in accordance with national circumstances and, as appropriate, international humanitarian law, to further protect and assist older persons in emergency situations, and invites all States to promote a culture of protection, taking into account the particular needs of older persons, in accordance with the Madrid Plan of Action and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030<sup>99</sup> by, inter alia, including older persons in disaster risk reduction and national and local emergency planning and response frameworks, collecting and using data disaggregated by age, sex and disability for policy design and implementation, as well as carrying out risk and vulnerabilities analyses of older women in humanitarian emergencies with a view to minimizing the risk to older women of all forms of violence in such emergencies;

49. *Encourages* Member States to integrate lessons learned from the pandemic with regard to older persons in order to combat ageism, protect the human rights of older persons and strengthen existing policies and laws to address all forms of discrimination in all areas of their life, as well as to take concrete measures that integrate age- and gender-responsive preparedness plans into relevant policy areas at the national and international levels and ensure that older persons and their representatives are consulted in planning and decision-making processes that affect them, on an equal basis with others, in order to address their specific needs;

50. *Encourages* national and local governments to improve access to affordable housing, particularly for older persons, through integrated housing policies and social protection measures, and to provide a range of support services that promote their dignity, autonomy and independence, including by addressing legal and policy barriers to equal and non-discriminatory access to adequate housing for them;

51. *Calls upon* Member States to ensure access to justice for older persons, whose right to adequate housing may have been violated due to discrimination based on age;

52. *Encourages* Member States to adopt measures to tackle homelessness and to protect older persons from arbitrary forced eviction, as well as to take all appropriate measures to ensure that adequate alternative housing or relocation is available, especially in situations of emergencies, such as during the COVID-19 pandemic;

53. *Stresses* that, in complementing national development efforts, enhanced international cooperation, in particular North-South cooperation, which is complemented by South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation, is essential to support developing countries in implementing the Madrid Plan of Action, while recognizing the importance of such assistance as well as the provision of financial assistance;

54. *Encourages* Member States to establish or to strengthen strategic approaches and policy options in relation to the physical and mental health of older persons in the light of new and emerging disease patterns, notably non-communicable diseases, as well as in relation to increased life expectancy, with particular attention to promoting good health and addressing health needs across a care continuum, including prevention, detection and diagnosis, management and rehabilitation, treatment and palliative care, with the aim of achieving comprehensive health-care coverage for older persons;

55. *Encourages* the international community, including international and bilateral donors, to enhance international cooperation to support national efforts to eradicate poverty, in keeping with internationally agreed goals, in order to achieve sustainable and adequate social and economic support for older persons, while bearing in mind that countries have the primary responsibility for their own economic and social development;

56. *Also encourages* the international community to support national efforts to forge stronger partnerships with civil society, including organizations of older persons, academia, research foundations, faith-based organizations, community-based organizations, including caregivers, and the private sector, in an effort to help to build capacity on ageing issues;

57. *Encourages* the international community and the relevant agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to support national efforts to provide funding for research and data-collection initiatives on ageing, as appropriate, in order to better understand the challenges and opportunities presented by population ageing and to provide policymakers with more accurate and more specific information with regard to a gender perspective on ageing, as well as to include indicators that provide an evidence base for the equitable delivery and effective

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<sup>99</sup> Resolution 69/283, annex II.

monitoring of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, the New Urban Agenda<sup>100</sup> and national policymaking, as well as to gain a better understanding of how to promote ageing in a way that is not adversely affected by rapid urbanization and gentrification;

58. *Recognizes* the important role of various international and regional organizations that deal with training, capacity-building, policy design and monitoring at the national and regional levels in promoting and facilitating the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, and acknowledges the work that is undertaken in various parts of the world, through the regional commissions and regional initiatives, as well as the work of institutes such as the International Institute on Ageing in Malta and the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research in Vienna;

59. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work of the Inter-Agency Group on Ageing, a network of United Nations entities that exchange information and integrate ageing into their work programmes on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

60. *Requests* the focal point on ageing of the United Nations system, the Programme on Ageing of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, to continue to enhance its collaboration with the focal points of the regional commissions, funds and programmes, and recommends that Member States reaffirm the roles of focal points within the United Nations system, increase technical cooperation efforts, consider expanding the role of the regional commissions on ageing issues and continue to provide resources for those efforts, facilitate the coordination of national and international non-governmental organizations on ageing and enhance cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, to promote ageing issues and develop partnerships in this regard;

61. *Reiterates* the need for additional capacity-building at the national level in order to promote and facilitate further implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, as well as the results of its review and appraisal cycle, and in this regard encourages Governments to support the United Nations trust fund for ageing so as to enable the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to provide expanded assistance to countries, upon their request;

62. *Requests* the United Nations system to strengthen its capacity to support, in an efficient and coordinated manner, national implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, where appropriate;

63. *Requests* relevant entities of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), to ensure that the situation of older women is mainstreamed and incorporated across their work and to support, in accordance with their respective mandates, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in particular its aspects of relevance to older persons, including gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls through, inter alia, the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women;

64. *Invites* relevant entities of the United Nations system, including UN-Women, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Food Programme, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Health Organization, among others, as well as the International Organization for Migration, to include in reports to their respective governing bodies relevant information on efforts made by Member States and the international community on issues of relevance to older persons, including their social inclusion;

65. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing,<sup>101</sup> and recognizes the positive contributions of Member States, as well as relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, including relevant human rights mandate holders and treaty bodies and the regional commissions, as well as national human rights institutions, intergovernmental and relevant non-governmental organizations with an interest in the matter and invited panellists, during the first 13 working sessions of the Working Group, and invites Member States, as well as relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders, to continue to make contributions to the work entrusted to the Working Group, as appropriate;

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<sup>100</sup> Resolution 71/256, annex.

<sup>101</sup> See [A/AC.278/2016/2](#), [A/AC.278/2017/2](#), [A/AC.278/2018/2](#), [A/AC.278/2019/2](#), [A/AC.278/2021/2](#), [A/AC.278/2022/2](#) and [A/AC.278/2023/2](#).

66. *Encourages* Member States to continue to contribute to the work of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, in particular by presenting measures to enhance the promotion and protection of the human rights and dignity of older persons, such as best practices, lessons learned and possible content for a multilateral legal instrument, as appropriate, in order to enable it to fulfil its existing mandate of strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons by considering the existing international framework of the human rights of older persons and identifying possible gaps and how best to address them, including by considering, as appropriate, the feasibility of further instruments and measures, and by considering adopting at each session intergovernmentally negotiated recommendations to be presented for consideration by the General Assembly;

67. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all necessary support to the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing for the organization of its fourteenth session, of four days, in March 2024, with the provision of conference services, including interpretation services, and to include the annual sessions of the Working Group in the Organization's calendar of conferences and meetings;

68. *Invites* the Independent Expert to address and engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session under the agenda item entitled "Social development";

69. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

### RESOLUTION 78/178

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/472, para. 57)<sup>102</sup>

#### 78/178. Promoting social integration through social inclusion

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000, and noting the role of the Commission for Social Development,

*Recalling also* Economic and Social Council resolution 2010/12 of 22 July 2010 on promoting social integration and General Assembly resolution 76/136 of 16 December 2021 and its previous resolutions on promoting social integration through social inclusion,

*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, and 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,

*Recalling* its resolution 74/4 of 15 October 2019, in which it endorsed the political declaration in the annex thereto entitled "Gearing up for a decade of action and delivery for sustainable development: political declaration of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit",

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<sup>102</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Andorra, Argentina, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Fiji, Finland, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Latvia, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Türkiye, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

*Welcoming* the fact that the 2030 Agenda reflects the cross-cutting nature and importance of social inclusion, through the relevant Sustainable Development Goals and associated targets, and acknowledging that its promotion is required to achieve sustainable development in all its dimensions,

*Reiterating* the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, and the wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to focusing our effort where the challenges are greatest, including by ensuring the inclusion and participation of those who are furthest behind,

*Recalling* that the 2030 Agenda includes, among the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, which are integrated and indivisible, a goal to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels,

*Reaffirming* 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,

*Deeply concerned* that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, multiple climate-related disasters, political and economic instability and other crises have eroded the ability of Member States to successfully implement the 2030 Agenda and to fulfil its promise that no one will be left behind and that the world's poorest and those who face any form of social exclusion have been among the hardest hit, thus exacerbating existing inequalities,

*Deeply concerned also* that a slowdown in the reduction of poverty rates since 2015, despite some signs of early progress around the time that the 2030 Agenda was adopted, was aggravated by the devastating economic and social consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to an increase in the number of people living in extreme poverty for the first time in a generation, reversing three decades of steady progress,

*Deeply concerned further*, in this regard, that poverty persists in all countries of the world, regardless of their economic, social and cultural situation, and is particularly severe in developing countries, and that it extends to and manifests itself in, among other things, social exclusion, hunger, discrimination, the feminization of poverty, vulnerability to trafficking in persons and disease, lack of adequate shelter, lack of access to basic services, illiteracy and hopelessness,

*Acknowledging* the need to develop a multidimensional perspective of poverty that is not limited to economic deprivation but also takes into account social inequities and the fact that a person's disadvantages in one or more areas can exacerbate the detrimental and cumulative impacts of other disadvantages, and recognizing that measures of multidimensional poverty account not only for insufficient income, but also for deprivation in areas such as health, education and living standards,

*Noting with deep concern* that many people live in multidimensional poverty across the world, including 1.1 billion in acute multidimensional poverty,

*Recalling* that the political declaration adopted by the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly (Sustainable Development Goals Summit), held in New York on 18 and 19 September 2023,<sup>103</sup> inter alia, emphasizes that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development,

*Reaffirming* that empowerment, participation and social protection are essential for social development, as well as for social inclusion, and that sustainable development requires the meaningful, full and equal participation of all,

*Recognizing* the great importance of promoting comprehensive systems of social protection that provide universal access to essential social services, consistent with national priorities and circumstances, in order to help to meet the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals,

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<sup>103</sup> Resolution 78/1, annex.



*Taking note with appreciation* of the commitment of several United Nations entities to mainstream social inclusion into their work, and encouraging others to do the same,

*Reaffirming* the commitment of the international community to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for everyone, as necessary, to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, which should be complemented, as appropriate, by effective social protection policies, including social inclusion policies,

*Reaffirming also* the importance of reducing inequalities within and among countries through the empowerment of all and the promotion of social, economic and political inclusion, especially for those in vulnerable or marginalized groups or situations,

*Recognizing* that the gains of economic growth should also benefit those in vulnerable or marginalized groups or situations,

*Affirming* its strong support for fair globalization and the need to translate growth into the reduction of inequalities, eradication of poverty and strategies and policies that promote full, freely chosen and productive employment and decent work for all and that these strategies and policies should constitute fundamental components of relevant national and international policies and national development strategies, including inequality and poverty reduction strategies, and reaffirming that employment creation and decent work for all should be incorporated into macroeconomic policies, taking fully into account the impact and social dimension of globalization, the benefits and costs of which are often unevenly shared and distributed,

*Recognizing* that the three core themes of social development, namely, poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work for all and social integration, are interrelated and mutually reinforcing, and that an enabling environment therefore needs to be created so that all three objectives can be pursued simultaneously,

*Reaffirming* its resolution [73/342](#) of 16 September 2019 on the International Labour Organization Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work, in which it reaffirmed that full and productive employment and decent work for all are key elements of sustainable development,

*Taking note* of the International Labour Organization global call to action for a human-centred recovery from the COVID-19 crisis that is inclusive, sustainable and resilient,

*Recognizing* that social inclusion and equality are intrinsically linked and that focusing on and investing in the most disadvantaged and excluded populations, which may include children, women, youth, persons with disabilities, older persons, migrants and Indigenous Peoples, is critically important for the effective achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Recognizing also* that social inclusion policies and systems play a critical role in promoting an inclusive society and are also crucial for fostering stable, safe, harmonious, peaceful and just societies and for improving social cohesion and inclusion so as to create an environment for development and progress,

*Reaffirming* the important role of corporate social responsibility and accountability in contributing to an enabling environment to promote inclusive economic growth and social integration,

*Recognizing* that social inclusion policies also strengthen the democratic process and play a critical role in progressively realizing economic, social and cultural rights for all,

*Stressing* that social inclusion policies should promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and equal access to opportunities and social protection for all, in particular for those in vulnerable or marginalized groups or situations, including women and girls who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence, considering that the empowerment of women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda,

*Recognizing* that women often make up a large portion of the workforce in self-employment and part-time or temporary work and continue to bear most of the responsibility for unpaid care work, having, as a result, lower rates of labour force participation and shorter formal working careers, which limits their ability to contribute to social security entitlements, and noting in this regard that mechanisms to build social protection over their life course, including care and support systems, can help to address this situation,



*Reaffirming* the importance of ensuring the social integration of older persons and the promotion and protection of their rights, as an integral part of development policies at all levels, and recognizing that older persons can make a significant contribution to sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental,

*Recognizing* persons with disabilities as both agents and beneficiaries of development, stressing the need to promote the rights of persons with disabilities and their participation, including through their representative organizations, in implementing the 2030 Agenda, and in that regard noting with appreciation the 2018 *Disability and Development Report: Realizing the Sustainable Development Goals by, for and with Persons with Disabilities*,<sup>104</sup> the first progress report on disability inclusion in the context of the 2030 Agenda, which is aimed at advancing efforts to remove barriers and empower persons with disabilities,

*Reaffirming* that youth participation is important for development, and encouraging Member States to explore and promote the participation of young people in relevant decision-making processes and monitoring, including in designing and implementing policies and programmes involving them, while implementing the 2030 Agenda,

*Recognizing* the important role played by civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in promoting social integration, inter alia, through social programmes and support for the development of socially inclusive policies,

*Acknowledging* that the participation of persons in vulnerable or marginalized groups or situations is crucial to formulating and implementing social inclusion policies that effectively achieve social integration, as appropriate,

*Reaffirming* the important role of cooperatives, especially in developing countries, in reducing inequality within and among countries and ensuring social inclusion while promoting more inclusive and equitable growth in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals with the aim of leaving no one behind,

*Recognizing* that each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development, and reaffirming the essential role of national policies and strategies in promoting sustainable development in all its forms, particularly the promotion of social inclusion,

*Recognizing also* the importance of an enabling international environment, and stressing the importance of enhanced international cooperation to support national efforts towards promoting social integration through social inclusion in every country, including the fulfilment of all commitments on official development assistance, debt relief, market access, financial and technical support and capacity-building,

*Expressing concern* that, in times of economic and financial crisis and ongoing concern about energy and food insecurity, social exclusion can be exacerbated, and stressing in this regard that sustainable and reliable social inclusion policies and programmes can play a positive role,

*Recalling* its resolution [76/195](#) of 17 December 2021 on financial inclusion for sustainable development, in which it recognized the importance of financial inclusion for achieving sustainable development,

*Recognizing* that digital technologies have profoundly transformed society, promote innovation and offer unprecedented opportunities and that they have the potential to accelerate the realization of the 2030 Agenda, advancing social development and promoting social inclusion, by ensuring access to lifelong quality education and training, health and related social services, decent work, affordable housing, social protection, especially for those who are vulnerable or in vulnerable situations, as well as fostering gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and in this regard considering that bridging the digital divide is essential for all and necessary for achieving social integration through social inclusion, while also acknowledging the risk that digitalization may contribute to rising inequalities and that it also poses new challenges regarding data protection and privacy,

*Recalling* its resolution [77/150](#) of 14 December 2022 on information and communications technologies for sustainable development,

*Recognizing* that, in order to leave no one behind and bring everyone forward, actions are needed for the promotion of equality of opportunity so that no person is denied basic economic and social opportunities, and recognizing also that the promotion of equality of opportunity contributes significantly to the enjoyment of all human rights,

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<sup>104</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No. 19.IV.4.

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>105</sup>
2. *Stresses* that Member States, which bear the main responsibility for social integration and social inclusion, should prioritize the creation of a “society for all” based on respect for all human rights and the principles of equality among individuals, non-discrimination, access to basic social services and promotion of the active participation of every member of society, in particular those in vulnerable or marginalized groups or situations, in all aspects of life, including civic, social, economic, cultural and political activities, as well as participation in decision-making processes;
3. *Reaffirms* that social integration policies should seek to reduce inequalities and that equity and social inclusion are important for achieving sustainable development, ensuring that individuals can participate without discrimination and contribute to its social, economic and environmental dimensions;
4. *Recognizes* that a framework for social development that is people-centred, gender-sensitive, respects human rights and has a particular focus on the poorest, most vulnerable and those furthest behind can promote social integration through social inclusion, and that the integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals requires a global response and can benefit from international cooperation;
5. *Calls upon* Member States and other relevant stakeholders to advance, with determination, bold and concerted actions to address the social, economic and health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, while striving to get back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by designing and implementing age-, disability- and gender-sensitive recovery strategies to accelerate progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>106</sup> as well as helping to enhance resilience to future shocks, as one of the measures to ensure social integration through the social inclusion of all;
6. *Recognizes* that the social integration of people living in poverty should encompass addressing and meeting their basic human needs, including safe, nutritious and sufficient food, health, safe drinking water and sanitation, housing and access to quality education and employment, through integrated development strategies, and reaffirms that the provision of basic social services in these areas should be seen as a means of fighting poverty, exclusion and promoting social integration, and in that regard encourages Member States to provide universal age-, disability- and gender-sensitive social protection systems, which are key to ensuring poverty reduction and eradicating extreme poverty, including, as appropriate, targeted cash transfers for people and families in vulnerable situations, which are most effective in reducing poverty when accompanied by other measures, such as providing access to essential services, high-quality education and health and related social services;
7. *Acknowledges* that investment in human capital and social protection has been proven to be effective in reducing poverty and inequality, and invites Member States to mobilize additional innovative sources of financing, as appropriate, including through public-private partnerships, to secure adequate levels of social expenditure necessary for expanding coverage towards universal access to health, education, innovation, new technologies and basic social protection, and to address the issues of illicit financial flows and corruption;
8. *Stresses* the importance of promoting inclusive and equitable quality education that is age-, disability- and gender-sensitive, as well as lifelong learning opportunities for all, especially for children, women, youth, persons with disabilities, older persons, migrants, Indigenous Peoples and persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, and of skills development and quality training as essential means for inclusive participation and integration in society;
9. *Calls upon* Member States to promote a more equitable participation in and access to economic growth gains, through, inter alia, policies that ensure inclusive labour markets and by implementing socially responsive macroeconomic policies, in which employment has a key role, and social inclusion strategies that promote social integration, implementing nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, particularly for those who are in vulnerable or marginalized groups or situations, as defined by each country in accordance with its individual circumstances, including on a demand-driven basis, and the promotion and protection of their social and economic rights;

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<sup>105</sup> [A/78/188](#).

<sup>106</sup> Resolution [70/1](#).

10. *Encourages* Member States to consider, when appropriate, the creation or the strengthening of national institutions or agencies for promoting, implementing and evaluating social inclusion programmes and mechanisms, at the national and local levels, in order to help to ensure that no one is left behind;

11. *Also encourages* Member States to consider promoting the increased civil, political and economic participation of women, young people, older persons, persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples and persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, including through promoting their involvement in political processes and their access to social protection, credit, vocational training and employment support services;

12. *Further encourages* Member States to ensure inclusive participatory and representative decision-making processes, at all levels, and to review existing legal frameworks, as appropriate, with a view to removing discriminatory provisions so as to reduce inequalities;

13. *Encourages* Member States to promote social inclusion as a matter of social justice in order to build the resilience of vulnerable populations and to help them to adapt to the negative impact of economic crises, humanitarian emergencies, natural disasters and climate change, and in this regard invites relevant United Nations entities and international institutions to support such efforts;

14. *Invites* Member States, and encourages regional organizations, to support national efforts to achieve inclusive societies, in particular in developing countries, upon their request, by providing, inter alia, financial and technical cooperation for the design and implementation of sound social inclusion policies;

15. *Encourages* Member States to mainstream social integration objectives into social inclusion policies, promoting the participation of persons in vulnerable or marginalized groups or situations in planning, implementing and monitoring processes, in collaboration, as appropriate, with relevant organizations of the United Nations development system, regional organizations, international and regional financial institutions, development and social partners, the private sector and civil society organizations;

16. *Also encourages* Member States, recognizing that all legal, social and economic barriers to the empowerment of all women and girls have to be removed, to promote the systematic mainstreaming and inclusion of a gender perspective in all social inclusion strategies or initiatives, while giving special consideration to the promotion of a gender-responsive policy environment in the workplace for the empowerment of women in the workplace;

17. *Further encourages* Member States to consider adopting and pursuing national financial inclusion strategies or initiatives that take into account a gender perspective and comprise, inter alia, measures for promoting full and equal access to formal financial services and financial literacy, as a way to increase the capacity of young people, women, persons with disabilities, older persons and Indigenous Peoples to leverage various types of opportunities for their full participation in society, such as entrepreneurs;

18. *Recognizes* that information and communications technologies have the potential to provide new solutions to development challenges, particularly in the context of globalization and the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and can foster sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, competitiveness, access to information and knowledge, trade and development, poverty eradication and social inclusion, accordingly reaffirms its commitment to bridging the digital divide, and calls upon Member States to implement policies and to accelerate their efforts to close the digital divide, as a measure to attain the social inclusion of all, with a focus on children, youth, women, persons with disabilities, older persons, migrants and Indigenous Peoples, without any discrimination;

19. *Urges* Member States, in collaboration with other stakeholders, to close the digital divide, both between and within countries and including rural-urban, youth-older persons and gender digital divides, and to promote digital inclusion, by taking into account national and regional contexts and addressing the lack of efficient, affordable and accessible digital technology infrastructure, access to the Internet and communication devices, especially in rural and remote areas, and the challenges associated with digital literacy, digital skills, training and awareness, by ensuring that the benefits of new technologies are available to all, taking into account the needs of those who are vulnerable or in vulnerable situations;

20. *Reaffirms* the commitment of the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016,<sup>107</sup> to embracing diversity in cities and human settlements, to strengthening social cohesion, intercultural dialogue and understanding, tolerance, mutual respect, gender equality, innovation, entrepreneurship, inclusion, identity and safety, and the dignity of all people, as well as to fostering liveability and a vibrant urban economy and to taking steps to ensure that local institutions promote pluralism and peaceful coexistence within increasingly heterogeneous and multicultural societies;

21. *Invites* Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, regional organizations, international and regional financial institutions, development and social partners, the private sector and civil society organizations to continue to share their experience in respect of practical initiatives to promote economic, civil and political participation and non-discrimination measures and other measures for advancing social integration;

22. *Invites* Member States to consider a systematic exchange of good practices in social integration at the regional and international levels so that policymakers and other stakeholders can apply them to their national circumstances and step up progress towards achieving a “society for all”;

23. *Encourages* Member States to improve the collection and use of high-quality, accessible, timely, reliable, disaggregated data and statistics, including, as appropriate, additional metrics of, inter alia, basic well-being and deprivation of basic human needs, to capture the prevalence of multidimensional poverty, for the formulation of policies and programmes aimed at achieving social inclusion, especially among those who face any form of social exclusion, and stresses the importance of international cooperation in this regard;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its eightieth session, a report on the implementation of the present resolution, taking into account the information provided by Member States and relevant actors of the United Nations system, with a particular focus on the role of social inclusion for addressing multidimensional poverty and promoting social integration;

25. *Decides* to consider the question further at its eightieth session under the item entitled “Social development”.

## RESOLUTION 78/179

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/472, para. 57)<sup>108</sup>

### 78/179. Policies and programmes involving youth

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>109</sup> the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action<sup>110</sup> and relevant international human rights instruments, in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political

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<sup>107</sup> Resolution 71/256, annex.

<sup>108</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belize, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Fiji, Georgia, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, India, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Lithuania, Malawi, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Namibia, Nepal, North Macedonia, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zambia.

<sup>109</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>110</sup> A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

Rights,<sup>111</sup> the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights<sup>112</sup> and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>113</sup>

*Reaffirming* its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which the General Assembly recognized youth as agents of change and pledged to leave no one behind, and recognizing that all of the Sustainable Development Goals apply to youth,

*Recalling* its resolutions on policies and programmes involving youth, the latest of which being resolution 76/137 of 16 December 2021, and the resolutions adopted by the Commission for Social Development on the same topic,

*Recalling also* its resolution 75/1 of 21 September 2020 on the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, in particular the commitments related to listening to and working with youth, as well as to placing women and girls at the centre,

*Recalling further* the World Programme of Action for Youth, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolutions 50/81 of 14 December 1995 and 62/126 of 18 December 2007,

*Recalling* the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes, adopted at the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, in 1998, and noting the Lisboa+21 Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes,<sup>114</sup> adopted at the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, in 2019,

*Noting* the inputs from recent relevant conferences, forums and global initiatives relating to youth at the international, regional and national levels,

*Recalling* that youth development is recognized in other frameworks, including but not limited to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,<sup>115</sup> the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,<sup>116</sup> the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries,<sup>117</sup> the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024,<sup>118</sup> the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,<sup>119</sup> the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration,<sup>120</sup> the Global Compact on Refugees<sup>121</sup> and the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III),<sup>122</sup>

*Reaffirming* that fulfilling the human rights, developmental needs and well-being of youth is critical to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as the goals of United Nations conferences and summits, including but not limited to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development<sup>123</sup> and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,<sup>124</sup> and the outcome documents of their review conferences,

*Recalling* its resolution 76/6 of 15 November 2021 on the follow-up to the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Our Common Agenda”, presented as a basis for further consideration by States, which contained several

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<sup>111</sup> See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

<sup>112</sup> Ibid.

<sup>113</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>114</sup> A/73/949, annex.

<sup>115</sup> Resolution 69/313, annex.

<sup>116</sup> Resolution 69/283, annex II.

<sup>117</sup> Resolution 76/258, annex.

<sup>118</sup> Resolution 69/137, annex II.

<sup>119</sup> Resolution 69/15, annex.

<sup>120</sup> Resolution 73/195, annex.

<sup>121</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/73/12 (Part I) and A/73/12 (Part II))*, part II.

<sup>122</sup> Resolution 71/256, annex.

<sup>123</sup> *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

<sup>124</sup> *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

proposals, inter alia, to promote effective and meaningful participation of youth and to ensure that their voices are more systematically integrated across the United Nations system, including through their empowerment and capacity-building,

*Noting* the progress made on the implementation of Youth 2030: The United Nations Youth Strategy, launched by the Secretary-General in 2018, to address the needs of youth and to fulfil their potential as agents of change, as well as the Generation Unlimited global partnership,

*Noting also* the Youth Declaration on Transforming Education, presented to Member States at the Transforming Education Summit, held in September 2022, which highlighted the positive contribution of young people in strengthening education systems,

*Acknowledging* the important contributions made by the Economic and Social Council youth forum, and that it serves as an important platform for the effective participation and substantive contributions of young people to share their vision with decision makers and representatives of Governments and civil society, for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its decade of action,

*Welcoming* the meaningful and effective participation and substantive contribution of youth representatives in national delegations at the General Assembly and in its subsidiary bodies, the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions, and relevant United Nations conferences and summits,

*Welcoming also* the work of the Envoys of the Secretary-General on Youth in addressing the needs of and placing young people as a cross-cutting priority of the United Nations, ensuring that their perspectives are reflected across the United Nations work, as well as, inter alia, as a harmonizer with different United Nations entities, Governments and their youth delegates, civil society, youth organizations, academia and media towards enhancing, empowering and strengthening young people within and outside the United Nations system,

*Taking note* of the appointment by the Secretary-General on 27 October 2023 of the first United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs,

*Welcoming* the establishment of the United Nations Youth Office, and noting its functions as contained in resolution 76/306 of 8 September 2022,

*Recalling* the decision to convene a one-day high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly, at the level of Heads of State and Government with the full and effective participation of youth, during the general debate of the eightieth session of the General Assembly in 2025, to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth,

*Recognizing* the important contribution of Model United Nations to diplomacy and international cooperation and to building the capacities of young people in the field of international affairs, providing them with greater knowledge and opportunities,

*Recalling* that Member States have the primary role of promoting and protecting human rights and in meeting the needs and aspirations of all young persons, including those in vulnerable situations and those facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, and recognizing that the ways in which they are able to fulfil their potential as agents of change will influence social, environmental and economic conditions and the well-being and livelihood of future generations,

*Recognizing* the important and positive contribution of young people in efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and reaffirming the commitment to the full implementation of the youth, peace and security agenda,

*Emphasizing* that fulfilling the needs and well-being of youth is critical to achieving inclusive and sustainable development, and underlining the important role that youth can play in the promotion of development,

*Emphasizing also* the importance of the full, meaningful, effective and inclusive participation of young people in decision-making, taking into account their diverse situations and conditions, which includes involving youth, youth-led and youth-focused organizations and movements at the national, regional and international levels, as appropriate, including in the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

*Emphasizing further* the importance of empowering youth, including young women and girls, in order to address global challenges, including but not limited to fully eradicating poverty, ending hunger and malnutrition, tackling food insecurity, structural inequalities, climate change, pollution, biodiversity loss as well as the effects of technological change, and reducing the widening gap between developed and developing countries across all spheres, promoting sustainable growth and full and productive employment and decent work for all young people,

*Recognizing* that the young generations will be most affected by today's decision-making, and therefore underlining that public policies should prioritize and ensure long-term sustainability, foster intergenerational solidarity and exchange of experiences, and consider impacts on future generations,

*Deeply concerned* with all forms of violence, discrimination, stigmatization and exclusion of young people, notably in schools and in the digital sphere, particularly in social media platforms, reiterating the need to tackle the spread of disinformation and misinformation and the rise in racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, stereotyping, and religious hatred, and emphasizing the importance of preventing and combating violations and abuses of human rights, and violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, as well as violence that occurs through or is amplified by the use of technology, sexual harassment and bullying, both online and offline,

*Recognizing* that, while young people represent a significant part of the online population, they may lack essential digital literacy and skills required for labour market access and future employability, and acknowledging the significance of providing them with digital educational resources, including online, and necessary digital tools,

*Acknowledging* the need to address juvenile crime and delinquency by giving priority to preventative approaches and measures as well as to rehabilitation services and programmes,

*Stressing* the importance of taking effective measures, in conformity with international law, to protect all young people from radicalization to violence, and acknowledging the important role that youth can play in preventing its occurrence,

*Acknowledging* the resilience and capacity of young people to respond to challenges, including the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), and that their innovation, volunteering and activism have actively contributed to mitigating the impact of the pandemic, both in the immediate and the long term, and recognizing that partnering with young people is key to achieving a sustainable recovery and the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Reaffirming* that generating decent work and quality employment for youth is one of the biggest challenges that needs to be tackled, emphasizing the need to develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment, with a focus on promoting quality education and lifelong learning, the acquisition of relevant skills, including literacy and numeracy, digital, technical and vocational skills and entrepreneurship, and the promotion of apprenticeships and internships, and taking note of the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth as well as the launch of the Green Jobs for Youth Pact,

*Recognizing* the need to invest in human capital development for youth by promoting entrepreneurship, education, vocational training and skills development programmes and partnerships, productive employment creation, in line with labour market needs, as well as in cooperation with the private sector and trade unions, with a view to reducing youth unemployment, avoiding brain drain and optimizing brain gain and harnessing the demographic dividend,

*Underlining* the importance of addressing the needs of all young people, including through the establishment in the national context of robust social security systems as well as social protection floors that respond to the needs and rights of youth, including all girls and young women,

*Mindful* of the critical importance of young people enjoying an adequate standard of living, including through the eradication of poverty, hunger and malnutrition as well as through addressing the drivers of food insecurity, including armed conflicts, climate change, economic downturns and pandemics, expressing concern that young people, particularly in developing countries, often lack equal access to adequate housing and to safe drinking water and sanitation, which leads to barriers in hygiene management, and recalling the need to enhance the capacities of developing countries to achieve universal health coverage,

*Reaffirming* our political commitment to achieve universal health coverage by 2030, recognizing that the well-being of young people is closely intertwined with the enjoyment of their right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, noting with concern that HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, malaria and tuberculosis continue to



disproportionately affect young people, especially in developing countries, and that the multidimensional impacts of COVID-19 placed unprecedented pressures on national health systems and youth, including young women and girls and those in vulnerable situations, including on their mental health, and reiterating the importance of addressing other health-related issues affecting youth, including but not limited to malnutrition, eating disorders, obesity and adolescent pregnancies, and of sustainable, affordable, fair, equitable, effective, efficient and timely access to medical countermeasures,

*Recognizing* that investment in universal, accessible, quality and inclusive education, at all levels, and professional training, both formal and non-formal, is the most important investment that States can make to ensure the immediate and long-term development of youth, and noting the development of guiding principles and tools, for consideration by States, on the human rights obligations of States to provide public education,

*Stressing* the role of education as an important tool for promoting respect of cultural diversity aimed at achieving intercultural and interreligious dialogue and tolerance,

*Recognizing* the role of arts and other forms of cultural expression, sports, and recreation, and equal access to them without any kind of discrimination, in promoting youth development, the well-being of young persons, such as health, education and social inclusion, and respect for cultural diversity, global citizenship and non-violence,

*Recognizing also* the important role of young people, including young women and girls, in accelerating climate action, and that tackling climate change requires coordinated action between Governments and other stakeholders, including youth and youth-led organizations,

*Recalling* youth initiatives held in preparation for the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, with the aim of contributing to the increase of youth-led climate ambition and implementing concrete actions to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement, and emphasizing the importance of the participation of young people in the Conferences of the Parties,

1. *Reaffirms* that all the 15 priority areas of the World Programme of Action for Youth<sup>125</sup> are interrelated and mutually reinforcing, and emphasizes the role that the Commission for Social Development plays in supporting States in its implementation;

2. *Reiterates* that the primary responsibility for implementing the World Programme of Action for Youth lies with Member States, and therefore urges Governments, in cooperation with youth, youth-led and youth-focused organizations and other stakeholders, to develop integrated, holistic, inclusive and effective youth policies and programmes and to evaluate them regularly, as part of the follow-up on and implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth at all levels, and to ensure that youth policies and programmes reflect the views, perspectives and priorities of youth and are adequately resourced, transparent and accountable;

3. *Calls upon* Member States to consider, on a voluntary basis, the set of indicators for the World Programme of Action for Youth, as proposed by the Secretary-General in his report,<sup>126</sup> when monitoring and assessing the implementation of the Programme of Action for Youth;

4. *Urges* Member States to promote equal opportunities for all, to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against all young people, including those based, inter alia, on race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, and to foster social inclusion and integration, including for young persons with disabilities, young migrants, young people in rural and remote areas and Indigenous youth on an equal basis with others;

5. *Also urges* Member States to protect, promote and fulfil the realization and full enjoyment by all young people of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant international human rights instruments, in the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth, while ensuring that youth policies and programmes and their planning, design, implementation, monitoring and review include the views, perspectives and priorities of youth and are adequately resourced, transparent and accountable;

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<sup>125</sup> Resolution 50/81, annex, and resolution 62/126, annex.

<sup>126</sup> E/CN.5/2013/8.

6. *Reiterates* that the eradication of poverty, hunger and malnutrition, in particular in the light of their consequence on children and youth, is crucial for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>127</sup> recalls the commitment to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions and promote sustained economic growth and sustainable development, including the strengthening of international cooperation through the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments and the transfer of appropriate technology and capacity-building with regard to youth;

7. *Reaffirms* the commitment of Heads of States and Government in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to leave no one behind, including youth, and reiterates the importance of formulating, implementing, following up and reviewing development strategies that adequately address youth needs and rights as a cross-cutting issue;

8. *Urges* Member States to provide all young people with opportunities for full, effective, meaningful, constructive and inclusive participation in society, in all spheres of political, civil, economic, social and cultural life, including engagement in policymaking and decision-making processes, including in designing and implementing policies, programmes and initiatives;

9. *Reiterates* the need for more ambitious efforts and investment in youth through policies and programmes, at an international, regional, national and local level, which nurture the potential and capabilities of young people and empower them, and underlines the need for those policies and programmes to be adequately resourced, transparent, accountable and inclusive of the views, perspectives and priorities of youth;

10. *Stresses* the need to strengthen the capacity of statistical offices to collect and analyse relevant and comparable data disaggregated, inter alia, by age and sex so as to contribute to the design, deployment and evaluation of all policies and programmes involving youth;

11. *Urges* Member States and relevant United Nations organs and entities, when designing, deploying or evaluating policies and programmes involving youth, including to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against all young people, to pay special attention to the specific needs of young women and girls, young persons with disabilities, young migrants, young people in rural and remote areas, Indigenous youth and young people belonging to vulnerable groups or in vulnerable situations;

12. *Urges* Member States to address the challenges faced by young women, including through combating gender stereotypes and negative social norms that perpetuate all forms of discrimination and violence against girls and young women, to engage, educate and support young men and boys to take responsibility for their behaviour in this regard, to support them to be positive role models for gender equality, and to take measures aimed at eliminating all forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, and harmful practices, including but not limited to female genital mutilation and child, early and forced marriage;

13. *Also urges* Member States to strengthen policies and programmes that seek to ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation of young women in all spheres of political, civil, economic, social and cultural life as equal partners;

14. *Recognizes* that the lack of access to quality education and economic opportunities, and inadequate investment as well as underdevelopment are among the key drivers that compel young people to leave their countries of origin in search of better opportunities, and therefore it remains crucial to promote sustainable development, generate employment, bridge the digital divides and empower youth to fully participate in their societies;

15. *Calls upon* Member States to guarantee systematic, equal, inclusive and meaningful youth participation in the digital environment, to promote safety on the Internet, to raise the awareness of young persons around harmful and sensitive content online, to take measures against cyberstalking and cyberbullying, to develop remedies for violations and abuses of privacy rights in the digital age and to hold perpetrators and social media platforms accountable, when such violations and abuses occur, and to take active measures to counter hate speech, racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, both online and offline;

16. *Urges* Governments to promote science, technology and innovation cooperation and collaboration with, as well as foreign direct investment in and trade with and among, developing countries, as well as international

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<sup>127</sup> Resolution 70/1.

support, which are fundamental to enhancing developing countries' ability to benefit from technological advances that could also benefit young people's skills;

17. *Emphasizes* the importance that all young persons enjoy their rights to work, to social security, to an adequate standard of living, to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, to education and to culture, without discrimination of any kind;

18. *Urges* Member States to address the high rates of youth unemployment, underemployment, vulnerable employment, informal employment and young people not in employment, to invest in vocational training and skills development, particularly in developing countries, particularly digital skills, to scale up social protection interventions for young people, to eradicate poverty and end hunger and malnutrition, to tackle the lack of adequate and affordable housing for young people, to invest in both formal and non-formal education, and in the redistribution of unpaid care and domestic work, and to promote cultural diversity through youth-oriented policies;

19. *Also urges* Member States to promote health literacy, including by raising awareness of the benefits of sports, physical activity and proper nutrition, to increase access to youth-friendly health-care services, including those related to sexual and reproductive health-care services, menstrual health, to provide youth-friendly information services about HIV/AIDS free from stigma, and treatment from malaria, hepatitis, Ebola, cholera, waterborne diseases, neglected tropical diseases and other communicable diseases, and to ensure sustainable, affordable, fair, equitable, effective, efficient and timely access to medical countermeasures;

20. *Emphasizes* the need to implement measures to promote and improve the mental health and well-being of young people, including by adopting and investing in mental health policies which respect the human rights of young people with mental health conditions and psychosocial disabilities, recognizing and addressing risk factors for mental health conditions, scaling up comprehensive and integrated services, both in person and in digital contexts, for the prevention of mental health conditions, including suicide prevention, as well as providing psychosocial support, including resilience training, while raising awareness of mental health issues, the impact of misuse of digital technology on young people's mental health and well-being and tackling stigma, discrimination and social exclusion, promoting well-being, strengthening the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, addressing social determinants of health and fully respecting their human rights;

21. *Calls upon* Member States to accelerate efforts to scale up scientifically accurate age-appropriate comprehensive education, relevant to cultural contexts, that provides adolescent girls and boys and young women and men, in and out of school, consistent with their evolving capacities, with information on sexual and reproductive health, gender equality and the empowerment of women, human rights, physical, psychological and pubertal development, and power in relationships between women and men, to enable them to build self-esteem and informed decision-making, communication and risk reduction skills and to develop respectful relationships, in full partnership with young persons, parents, legal guardians, caregivers, educators and health-care providers;

22. *Urges* Member States to strengthen intergenerational partnerships, multigenerational dialogue and intergenerational knowledge transfer, including by fostering opportunities for voluntary and regular interactions between young people and older persons, to involve youth and youth organizations in climate and environmental policymaking, to recognize that young people, particularly in developing countries, including African countries and small island developing States, are disproportionately vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change, and to develop preventative programmes to equip young people with the tools and skills to contribute to the prevention of violence;

23. *Encourages* Member States and relevant United Nations organs and entities to take concrete measures to assist and protect young people in situations of armed conflict, and to increase the full, meaningful and effective participation of youth, especially young women, in conflict prevention and resolution, in peacebuilding and in humanitarian action, while ensuring that young people continue to enjoy their rights to education and health even in situations of conflict, and recognizing the importance of protecting schools, universities, hospitals and medical facilities from attacks and military use, in contravention of international humanitarian law;

24. *Urges* Member States to take concerted action, in conformity with international law, to remove obstacles to the full realization of the rights of young people living under foreign occupation, colonial rule and in other areas of conflict or post-conflict situations in order to promote the achievement of the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

25. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General<sup>128</sup> and the recommendations contained therein;

26. *Encourages* Member States to include youth delegates in their delegations at all relevant discussions in the General Assembly and its subsidiary bodies, the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions and other relevant United Nations conferences, including the upcoming Summit of the Future, as appropriate, bearing in mind the principles of gender balance and non-discrimination, and emphasizes that such youth representatives should be selected through a transparent process;

27. *Encourages* the United Nations Youth Office to work closely with Member States, United Nations entities, civil society, youth organizations, academia and the media in fulfilling its mandate, in accordance with resolution [76/306](#);

28. *Calls upon* the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to continue efforts to further collaborate and coordinate, within its mandate, on youth-related economic and social matters, including, inter alia, with Governments on the United Nations Youth Delegate Programme;

29. *Calls upon* donors to actively contribute to the United Nations Youth Fund in order to facilitate the participation of youth representatives from developing countries in the activities of the United Nations, taking into account the need for greater geographical balance in terms of youth representation, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to take appropriate action to encourage contributions to the Fund;

30. *Requests* United Nations entities, within their existing mandates and within existing resources, to continue their coordination towards a more coherent, comprehensive and integrated approach to youth development, calls upon them to support local, national, regional and international efforts in addressing challenges hindering youth development, and encourages close collaboration with Member States and other relevant stakeholders, including civil society;

31. *Recommends* that the President of the General Assembly appoint two co-facilitators, one from a developing country and one from a developed country, to facilitate intergovernmental consultations on the organizational arrangements and modalities for the high-level plenary meeting, during the general debate of the eightieth session of the General Assembly in 2025, to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth;

32. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report, in an accessible format, to the General Assembly at its eightieth session on the implementation of the present resolution, and be prepared in consultation with Member States, with relevant United Nations organs and entities, including specialized agencies, funds, programmes and regional commissions, and with civil society, particularly youth, youth-led and youth-focused organizations.

### RESOLUTION 78/180

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee ([A/78/473](#), para. 24)<sup>129</sup>

#### **78/180. Violence against women migrant workers**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* all of its previous resolutions on violence against women migrant workers and those adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and also recalling the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,<sup>130</sup>

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<sup>128</sup> [A/78/189](#).

<sup>129</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Central African Republic, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Lebanon, Lesotho, Malawi, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Palau, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Ukraine, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

<sup>130</sup> Resolution [48/104](#).

*Reaffirming* the provisions concerning women migrant workers contained in the outcome documents of the World Conference on Human Rights,<sup>131</sup> the International Conference on Population and Development,<sup>132</sup> the Fourth World Conference on Women<sup>133</sup> and the World Summit for Social Development<sup>134</sup> and their reviews,

*Reaffirming also* the provisions concerning women migrants contained in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,<sup>135</sup> and calling upon States to promote and protect effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants regardless of migratory status, especially those of women and children, and to encourage their active participation, as appropriate, in processes that contribute to decision-making, planning and implementation of policies and programmes for sustainable development at all levels,

*Reaffirming further* that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women<sup>136</sup> and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>137</sup> and the Optional Protocols thereto,<sup>138</sup> as well as other relevant conventions and treaties, provide an international legal framework and a comprehensive set of measures for the elimination and prevention of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls and for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women,

*Recalling* the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>139</sup> acknowledging that the 2030 Agenda covers the achievement of gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls and the protection of labour rights and promotion of safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in informal employment, and also acknowledging the need, inter alia, to end all violence and discrimination against them,

*Reaffirming* the recognition in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development<sup>140</sup> that gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and women's full and equal participation and leadership in the economy are vital to the achievement of sustainable development and significantly enhance economic growth and productivity,

*Recalling* the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, held on 19 September 2016,<sup>141</sup>

*Recalling also* the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, adopted at the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, in Marrakech, Morocco, on 10 and 11 December 2018, and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 73/195 of 19 December 2018,

*Recalling further* that the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration is based on the following set of cross-cutting and interdependent principles: people-centred, international cooperation, national sovereignty, rule of law and due process, sustainable development, human rights, gender-responsive, child-sensitive, whole-of-government approach and whole-of-society approach,

*Acknowledging* the role of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), including in supporting national efforts, to increase women's access to economic opportunities,

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<sup>131</sup> A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

<sup>132</sup> *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

<sup>133</sup> *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

<sup>134</sup> *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

<sup>135</sup> Resolution 66/288, annex.

<sup>136</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

<sup>137</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>138</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2131, No. 20378; and vols. 2171, 2173 and 2983, No. 27531.

<sup>139</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>140</sup> Resolution 69/313, annex.

<sup>141</sup> Resolution 71/1.

including for women migrant workers, and to end violence against them, in the light of the UN-Women strategic plan 2022–2025,<sup>142</sup>

*Acknowledging* also the need to facilitate opportunities for safe, orderly and regular migration in order to promote a safe environment for migrant workers in all sectors, including women migrant workers in informal employment,

*Emphasizing* that violence against women and girls is a major impediment to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and that it violates and impairs or nullifies their full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

*Stressing* that laws addressing violence against women and girls, including sexual harassment, are often of limited scope, that those addressing sexual harassment do not cover many workplaces, such as those of domestic workers, including migrant domestic workers, and that gaps need to be addressed,

*Reaffirming* the outcomes of the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”,<sup>143</sup> and their reviews,

*Taking note* of the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-seventh session,<sup>144</sup> on the priority theme, “Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls”, particularly the paragraphs relevant to migrant women and girls,

*Taking note with appreciation* of the agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-seventh session,<sup>145</sup> and taking note, in particular, of the commitment, as appropriate, to further adopt and implement measures to ensure the social and legal inclusion and protection of women migrants, including women migrant workers in countries of origin, transit and destination, promote and protect the full realization of their human rights and their protection against violence and exploitation, implement gender-sensitive policies and programmes for women migrant workers and provide safe and legal channels that recognize their skills and education, provide fair labour conditions and, as appropriate, facilitate their productive employment and decent work as well as their integration into the labour force,

*Underlining* the importance of taking into account the root causes and consequences of migration, and acknowledging that poverty, in particular the feminization of poverty, underdevelopment, lack of opportunity, poor governance and environmental factors, are among the drivers of migration,

*Recalling* the establishment of the International Migration Review Forum as an intergovernmental global platform for Member States to discuss and share progress on the implementation of all aspects of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration,

*Recalling also* that the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development of 2013<sup>146</sup> recognized that women and girls account for almost half of all international migrants at the global level and the need to address the special situation and vulnerability of migrant women and girls by, inter alia, incorporating a gender perspective into policies and strengthening national laws, institutions and programmes to combat gender-based violence, including trafficking in persons and discrimination against them, and emphasized in this regard the need to establish appropriate measures for the protection of women migrant workers in all sectors, including those involved in care and domestic work,

*Taking note* of the adoption by the International Labour Conference of the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189),<sup>147</sup> the Domestic Workers Recommendation, 2011 (No. 201) and the Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190), encouraging States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination

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<sup>142</sup> UNW/2021/6.

<sup>143</sup> Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

<sup>144</sup> *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2023, Supplement No. 7 (E/2023/27)*, chap. I, sect. A.

<sup>145</sup> *Ibid.*, 2013, *Supplement No. 7 (E/2013/27)*, chap. I, sect. A.

<sup>146</sup> Resolution 68/4.

<sup>147</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2955, No. 51379.



against Women to take note of and consider general recommendation No. 26 (2008) on women migrant workers, adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in November 2008,<sup>148</sup> and encouraging States parties to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families<sup>149</sup> to take note of and consider general comment No. 1 on migrant domestic workers, adopted by the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families in December 2010,<sup>150</sup> acknowledging that they are complementary and mutually reinforcing,

*Recognizing* the urgency of combating trafficking in persons in all its forms, including for the purposes of forced or compulsory labour, particularly of women migrant workers, and in this regard taking note of the adoption by the International Labour Conference on 11 June 2014, at its 103rd session, of the Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29), and of Recommendation No. 203 on supplementary measures for the effective suppression of forced labour, of the International Labour Organization,

*Recognizing also* the increasing participation of women of all skill levels in international migration, driven in large part by socioeconomic factors, and that this feminization of migration requires greater gender sensitivity in all policies and efforts related to the subject of international migration,

*Recognizing further* that the demand for migrant care work appears to be rising, where the failure to resolve care deficits and secure public provision of care has increased the demand for care work, particularly in the private sphere, and that some migrant workers engaged in informal care work, particularly women, face serious human rights abuses owing to the invisible nature of their workplace, while many benefit from the economic opportunities offered by care work,

*Acknowledging* that a significant proportion of migrant women are engaged in domestic work, and, as highlighted in the 2022 report of the International Labour Organization entitled *Making the Right to Social Security a Reality for Domestic Workers: A Global Review of Policy Trends, Statistics and Extension Strategies*, the vast majority of domestic workers and care workers remain in informal employment with limited or no social or labour protections, and face heightened risk of labour exploitation and abuse,

*Recognizing* the roles and responsibilities of and need for cooperation among all stakeholders, in particular countries of origin, transit and destination, relevant regional and international organizations, workers' and employers' organizations, the private sector and civil society, in promoting an environment that prevents and addresses violence against women migrant workers, including in the context of discrimination, through targeted measures, and in this regard recognizing the importance of joint and collaborative approaches and strategies at the national, bilateral, regional and international levels,

*Recognizing also* that the positive contribution of women migrant workers has the potential to foster inclusive growth and sustainable development in countries of origin, transit and destination, underlining the value and dignity of their labour, in all sectors, including in care and domestic work, and encouraging efforts to improve public perceptions of migrants and migration,

*Recognizing further* the contribution of women migrant workers to the development of their families, inter alia, through the delivery of remittances,

*Recognizing* the valuable contributions of migrant women on the front lines of the responses to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, including women migrant workers, and stressing the need to integrate migrant workers into national COVID-19 prevention and response plans and policies, as well as the importance of ensuring that all migrant women and girls have access to essential public services, regardless of migration status, during pandemics and other emergencies,

*Recognizing also* that migrant workers, including women migrant workers, are among those who are in situations of vulnerability owing to the negative effects of the pandemic, making up a disproportionate share of the workforce in sectors that have remained open throughout the health emergency, and are also overrepresented in sectors hardest hit by the pandemic,

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<sup>148</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/64/38)*, part one, annex I, decision 42/I.

<sup>149</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2220, No. 39481.

<sup>150</sup> [CMW/C/GC/I](#).



*Recognizing further* the particular vulnerability and needs of women and their children at all stages of the migration process, extending from the moment of deciding to migrate, and including transit, engagement in formal and informal employment and integration into the host society, as well as during their return to and reintegration in their countries of origin,

*Expressing deep concern* at the continuing reports of grave abuses and violence committed against migrant women and girls, including gender-based violence, sexual violence, sexual exploitation and abuse, domestic violence, gender-related killing of women and girls, including femicide, racist and xenophobic acts and expressions, discrimination, abusive labour practices, exploitative conditions of work and trafficking in persons, including forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, while taking into account the particular difficulties in accessing justice that may be faced by women migrant workers,

*Recognizing* that one of the key causes of the labour exploitation suffered by migrants, including women migrant workers, is linked to the unscrupulous practices of some recruitment agencies and informal brokers that charge high recruitment costs and related fees, and noting with concern the reports of abuse committed by some recruitment agencies and employers,

*Recognizing also* that violence against women and girls, in particular migrant women, is rooted in historical and structural inequality in power relations between women and men, which further reinforces gender stereotypes and barriers to the full enjoyment by women and girls of their human rights,

*Recognizing further* that the intersection of, inter alia, age, class, race, disability and gender-based and ethnic discrimination and stereotypes can compound the discrimination faced by women migrant workers, and that gender-based violence is a form of discrimination,

*Reaffirming* the commitment to respect, protect and promote the human rights of all women, including, without discrimination, Indigenous women who migrate for work, and in this regard noting the attention paid in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples<sup>151</sup> to the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination against Indigenous women, as appropriate,

*Stressing* the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination that may be faced by Indigenous migrant women, who suffer at a disproportionately high rate from domestic violence and sexual abuse, and as victims of trafficking in persons,

*Noting with concern* that the availability and flexibility of pathways for safe and regular migration remain limited in many cases, and in this regard noting with concern also the increased risk of violence for women migrant workers,

*Concerned* that many migrant women who are employed in the informal economy and in less skilled work are especially vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, underlining in this regard the obligation of States to protect the human rights of migrants so as to prevent and address abuse and exploitation, observing with concern that many women migrant workers take on jobs for which they may be overqualified and in which, at the same time, they may be more vulnerable because of poor pay and inadequate social protection, and in this regard taking note of the adoption by the International Labour Conference on 12 June 2015, at its 104th session, of Recommendation No. 204 concerning the transition from the informal to the formal economy,

*Concerned also* that migrant women in informal employment may benefit from only limited legal protection of their labour rights, increasing the risk of exploitation,

*Concerned further* that women migrants, including those with irregular migration status, are more likely to be forced to work under deplorable working conditions and tend to experience discrimination, coercion, violence, abuse and the threat of arrest, deportation and family separation caused by perpetrators, who use these as means of exerting control over them,

*Emphasizing* the need for objective, comprehensive and broad-based information, including sex- and age-disaggregated data and statistics, indicators for research and analysis, and a wide exchange of experience and lessons

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<sup>151</sup> Resolution [61/295](#), annex.

learned by individual Member States and civil society in the formulation of targeted policies and concrete strategies to specifically address violence against women migrant workers, including in the context of discrimination,

*Realizing* that the movement of a significant number of women migrant workers may be facilitated and made possible by means of fraudulent or irregular documentation and sham marriages with the object of migration, that this may be facilitated through, inter alia, the Internet and that those women migrant workers are more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation,

*Recognizing* the importance of exploring the link between migration and trafficking in persons in order to further efforts towards protecting women migrant workers from violence, discrimination, exploitation and abuse and to provide appropriate care, assistance and services for trafficking victims, regardless of migratory status,

*Recognizing also* that women migrant workers experience a higher risk of trafficking in persons and that traffickers often use technology, including social media platforms that provide anonymity to perpetrators, to profile, recruit, control and exploit women migrant workers,

*Expressing grave concern* that, while access to digital technologies is crucial, all forms of violence, including gender-based violence, that occur through or are amplified by the use of technology directed towards women migrant workers, including online harassment and abuse, are an affront to their dignity and could affect their health, well-being and economic security, and expressing grave concern also at the use of technology for extortion and for the broadcasting of sexual violence perpetrated by smugglers to the community of migrant women, further stigmatizing and degrading women migrants,

*Recognizing* that the most common use of information and communications technology by perpetrators of trafficking in persons is for sexual exploitation and women and girls comprise the vast majority of victims, and recognizing also that women migrant workers experience a high risk of trafficking in persons, including for sexual exploitation,

*Recognizing also* that the vulnerabilities documented for women migrant workers highlight increasingly complex migration contexts and channels, where migrant workers may find themselves in life-threatening situations when entering other countries,

*Highlighting* measures adopted by some countries of destination to alleviate the plight of women migrant workers residing in their areas of jurisdiction and to promote access to justice, including through the establishment of gender-sensitive protection mechanisms for women migrant workers, by facilitating their access to mechanisms for reporting complaints or providing assistance during legal proceedings and by promoting actions to protect migrant women who are victims of violence,

*Underlining* the important role of relevant United Nations treaty bodies in monitoring the implementation of human rights conventions and of the relevant special procedures, as well as of the supervisory mechanisms of the International Labour Organization, in monitoring the implementation of international labour standards, within their respective mandates, in addressing the problem of violence against women migrant workers and in protecting and promoting their human rights and welfare,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>152</sup>

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,<sup>153</sup> which highlights, inter alia, that overall progress in the implementation of the Platform for Action has been particularly slow for women and girls who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and that marginalized groups of women, including migrant women, are at particular risk of discrimination and violence;

3. *Invites* Member States to consider ratifying relevant International Labour Organization conventions, including the Migration for Employment Convention (Revised), 1949 (No. 97),<sup>154</sup> the Migrant Workers (Supplementary

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<sup>152</sup> [A/78/292](#).

<sup>153</sup> [E/CN.6/2020/3](#).

<sup>154</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 120, No. 1616.

Provisions) Convention, 1975 (No. 143),<sup>155</sup> the Private Employment Agencies Convention, 1997 (No. 181)<sup>156</sup> and the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189), and to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,<sup>157</sup> the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,<sup>158</sup> the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons<sup>159</sup> and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness,<sup>160</sup> as well as all other human rights treaties that contribute to the protection of the rights of women migrant workers, calls upon States parties to comply with their relevant obligations under international law, and encourages Member States to implement the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons;<sup>161</sup>

4. *Takes note* of the reports of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants submitted to the Council at its fiftieth<sup>162</sup> and fifty-third<sup>163</sup> sessions and to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh<sup>164</sup> and seventy-eighth sessions;<sup>165</sup>

5. *Recalls* the adoption of the New Urban Agenda at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016,<sup>166</sup> in which Member States committed to recognizing the contribution of the working poor in the informal economy, particularly women migrant workers, to the urban economies;

6. *Encourages* all United Nations agencies and special rapporteurs on human rights whose mandates touch on the issues of violence against women migrant workers to improve the collection of information on and analysis of those areas within their mandates relating to the current challenges facing women migrant workers, including in supply chains, and also encourages Governments to cooperate with the agencies and special rapporteurs in this regard;

7. *Calls upon* all Governments to incorporate a human rights, gender-responsive and people-centred perspective into legislation, policies and programmes on international migration and on labour and employment, consistent with their human rights obligations and commitments under human rights instruments, for the prevention of and protection of migrant women against violence and discrimination, trafficking in persons, exploitation and abuse, to take effective measures to ensure that such migration and labour policies do not reinforce discrimination, and, where necessary, to conduct impact assessment studies of such legislation, policies and programmes, and to take into account the need for effective and meaningful participation of women migrant workers and relevant civil society organizations, as appropriate, in the formulation of such policies and programmes;

8. *Calls upon* Governments to adopt or strengthen measures to protect the human rights of women migrant workers, including domestic workers, regardless of their migratory status, including in policies that regulate the recruitment and deployment of women migrant workers, to consider expanding dialogue among States on devising innovative methods to promote legal channels of migration in order to deter irregular migration, to consider incorporating a gender perspective into immigration laws in order to prevent discrimination and violence against women, including in independent, circular and temporary migration, and to consider permitting, in accordance with national legislation, women migrant workers who are victims of violence, trafficking in persons or other forms of exploitation or abuse to apply for residency permits independently of abusive employers or spouses, and to eliminate abusive sponsorship systems;

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<sup>155</sup> Ibid., vol. 1120, No. 17426.

<sup>156</sup> Ibid., vol. 2115, No. 36794.

<sup>157</sup> Ibid., vol. 2237, No. 39574.

<sup>158</sup> Ibid., vol. 2241, No. 39574.

<sup>159</sup> Ibid., vol. 360, No. 5158.

<sup>160</sup> Ibid., vol. 989, No. 14458.

<sup>161</sup> Resolution 64/293.

<sup>162</sup> A/HRC/50/31.

<sup>163</sup> A/HRC/53/26.

<sup>164</sup> A/77/189.

<sup>165</sup> A/78/180.

<sup>166</sup> Resolution 71/256, annex.

9. *Encourages* Governments to adapt options and pathways for regular migration in a manner that facilitates labour mobility and decent work reflecting demographic and labour market realities, optimizes education opportunities, upholds the right to family life and responds to the needs of migrants in a situation of vulnerability, with a view to expanding and diversifying the availability of pathways for safe, orderly and regular migration;

10. *Encourages* Governments engaged in the International Migration Review Forum to ensure that the implementation, review and follow-up of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration<sup>167</sup> take into account relevant provisions regarding women migrant workers;

11. *Encourages* Governments to consider adopting measures to reduce the cost of labour migration and promote ethical recruitment policies and practices between sending and receiving countries;

12. *Encourages* States to invest in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals<sup>168</sup> to address inequalities that may act as drivers of women's migration, including violence and discrimination against women, inequitable access, control and ownership of productive resources, and the disproportionate effects that women face as a result of climate change and disasters, including by ensuring adequate capacity-building measures to empower women for disaster preparedness and to secure alternate means of livelihood in post-disaster situations, increasing the availability of decent work and social protection for women, as well as by ensuring the full, equal and meaningful participation of women, including women migrant workers, in policymaking;

13. *Urges* States to adopt or develop and implement legislation and policies, in accordance with their commitments and obligations under international law, to prevent and respond to gender-related killing of women and girls, including femicide, while taking into account the particular difficulties faced by women migrant workers in accessing justice;

14. *Encourages* Governments to seek to address the push and pull factors surrounding women's irregular migration, including the need to resolve care deficits in labour-importing countries and to regulate, formalize, professionalize and protect the terms and conditions of employment in care work, in line with national law and applicable obligations under international law;

15. *Urges* Governments to enhance bilateral, regional, interregional and international cooperation to address violence against women migrant workers, fully respecting international law, including international human rights law, as well as to strengthen efforts to reduce the vulnerability of women migrant workers by promoting decent work, by, inter alia, adopting minimum wage policies and employment contracts in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, facilitating effective access to justice and effective action in the areas of law enforcement, prosecution, prevention, capacity-building and victim protection and support, exchanging information and good practices in combating violence and discrimination against women migrant workers and fostering sustainable development alternatives to migration in countries of origin;

16. *Also urges* Governments to take into account the best interests of the child by adopting or strengthening measures to respect, promote and protect the human rights of migrant children, especially girls, including unaccompanied girls, regardless of their migratory status, so as to prevent trafficking in persons, labour and economic exploitation, discrimination, all forms of sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, violence and sexual abuse of migrant children, including in online and digital contexts;

17. *Further urges* Governments to strongly encourage all stakeholders, especially the private sector, including employment agencies involved in recruiting women migrant workers, to strengthen the focus on and funding support for the prevention of violence against women migrant workers, in particular by promoting the access of women to meaningful and gender-sensitive information and education on, inter alia, the costs and benefits of migration, rights and benefits to which they are entitled in the countries of origin and employment, overall conditions in countries of employment and procedures for legal migration, as well as to ensure that laws and policies governing recruiters, employers and intermediaries promote adherence to and respect for the human rights and, where applicable, labour rights of migrant workers, particularly women;

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<sup>167</sup> Resolution 73/195, annex.

<sup>168</sup> See resolution 70/1.

18. *Encourages* all States to remove obstacles that may prevent the transparent, safe, unrestricted and expeditious transfer of remittances of migrants to their countries of origin or to any other countries, including, where appropriate, by reducing transaction costs and implementing woman-friendly remittance transfer, savings and investment schemes, including diaspora investment schemes, in conformity with applicable national legislation, and to consider, as appropriate, measures to solve other problems that may impede women migrant workers' access to and management of their economic resources;

19. *Encourages* States to establish, elaborate or strengthen policies and programmes, in collaboration with relevant actors, that provide access to technology and connectivity for women migrant workers, and facilitate their training on digital and information technology skills, including for the purpose of acquiring knowledge and awareness of their rights and responsibilities, as well as of the laws and obligations of transit and destination countries;

20. *Also encourages* States to consider designing and implementing financial literacy training programmes for women migrant workers and, where appropriate, their families, and other programmes that may contribute to the full development impact of migration;

21. *Encourages* Governments to consider increasing the labour participation of and employment opportunities for women migrant workers, including those in domestic work, through the recognition of their skills, qualifications and competences, which will enhance their ability to transition from one job or employer to another, and, where appropriate, in order to facilitate their entry into the formal sector;

22. *Calls upon* States to address the structural and underlying causes of all forms of violence against women migrant workers, including through education and the dissemination of information and by raising awareness of gender equality issues, promoting their economic empowerment and access to decent work and, where relevant, their integration into the formal economy, in particular in economic decision-making, and promoting their participation in public life, as appropriate;

23. *Calls upon* Governments to promote access to adequate, quality and affordable health-care services and quality education for women migrant workers and their accompanying children;

24. *Also calls upon* Governments to recognize the right of women migrant workers and their accompanying children, regardless of their migratory status, to have access without discrimination to emergency health care, including in times of humanitarian crises, natural disasters, pandemics and other emergency situations, and in this regard to ensure that women migrant workers are not discriminated against on the grounds of pregnancy and childbirth and, in accordance with national legislation, to address the vulnerabilities to HIV experienced by migrant populations and support their access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support;

25. *Calls upon* Member States to take all the measures necessary to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on migrant workers and to continue to support them and their families in response to the economic and social challenges they face, such as, inter alia, facilitating access to decent work and social protection measures;

26. *Urges* Member States to establish an inclusive and gender-responsive public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic that addresses the specific needs of migrant women and provides equitable access to comprehensive health-care services for women migrant workers, including mental health and psychosocial support, palliative care and access to safe, quality, effective and affordable vaccination;

27. *Encourages* Governments to ensure the appropriate use of voluntary and confidential HIV testing and pregnancy testing to prevent unwarranted barriers prior to and during migration;

28. *Encourages* States to protect women migrant workers, including domestic workers, from becoming victims of trafficking in persons, through the implementation of programmes and policies that prevent victimization and through the provision of protection and access to justice, as well as medical and psychological assistance, where appropriate;

29. *Urges* States to recognize the significant contributions and leadership of women in migrant communities and to take appropriate steps to promote their full, equal and meaningful participation in the development of local solutions and opportunities, and to recognize the importance of protecting labour rights and a safe environment for women migrant workers in all sectors, including those in informal employment, including through fair and ethical recruitment and the prevention of exploitation, and to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration, as well as labour mobility;

30. *Urges* States that have not yet done so to adopt and implement legislation and policies that protect all women migrant workers, including those in domestic work, to include therein, and improve where necessary, relevant monitoring and inspection measures, in line with applicable International Labour Organization conventions and other instruments to ensure compliance with international obligations and to grant women migrant workers in domestic service access to gender-sensitive, transparent mechanisms for bringing complaints against recruitment agencies and employers, including terminating their contracts in the event of labour and economic exploitation, discrimination, sexual harassment, violence and sexual abuse in the workplace, while stressing that such instruments should not punish women migrant workers, and calls upon States to promptly investigate and punish all violations of their rights;

31. *Encourages* States to consider ensuring that all women migrant workers, regardless of their migration status, can exercise their human rights through safe access to basic services, notwithstanding that nationals and regular migrants may be entitled to more comprehensive service provision, while ensuring that any differential treatment must be based on law, be proportionate and pursue a legitimate aim, in accordance with international human rights law;

32. *Urges* Governments to support enhanced reception and reintegration assistance for those who return, with particular attention given to the needs of victims of trafficking in persons and of migrants in vulnerable situations, inter alia, children, older women and women with disabilities;

33. *Urges* States to adopt national gender-responsive migration policies and legislation, in line with relevant obligations under international law, to protect the human rights of all migrant women and girls, regardless of migration status; recognize the skills and education of women migrant workers to promote their economic empowerment in all sectors and, as appropriate, facilitate their productive employment, decent work and integration into the labour force, including in the fields of education and science and technology; recognize the importance of protecting labour rights and a safe environment for women migrant workers and those in precarious employment, including preventing and addressing abuse and exploitation, protecting women migrant workers in all sectors and promoting labour mobility; provide newly arrived migrant women with targeted, gender-responsive, child-sensitive, accessible and comprehensive information and legal guidance on their rights and obligations, including on compliance with national and local laws, obtaining work and resident permits, status adjustments, registration with authorities, access to justice to file complaints about rights violations, as well as access to basic services; encourage cooperation among various stakeholders, including countries of origin, transit and destination, in ensuring that migrant women and girls have adequate identification and the provision of relevant documents to facilitate access to social protection mechanisms; and facilitate the sustainable reintegration of returning migrant women and girls by providing them with equal access to social protection and services;

34. *Encourages* States to review existing recruitment mechanisms to guarantee that they are fair and ethical, to enhance the abilities of labour inspectors and other authorities to better monitor recruiters, employers and service providers in all sectors and to protect all migrant workers against all forms of exploitation and abuse in order to guarantee decent work and maximize the socioeconomic contributions of migrants in both their countries of origin and destination;

35. *Calls upon* Governments, in cooperation with international organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other stakeholders, to provide women migrant workers who are victims of violence, irrespective of their migratory status, in line with domestic legislation, access to the full range of emergency assistance and protection and, to the extent possible, with gender-sensitive services that are culturally and linguistically appropriate, which includes the provision of information on the rights of women migrant workers, hotlines, dispute resolution mechanisms, legal aid, victim advocacy, services for children, safety planning, psychological support and trauma counselling, social services, women-only spaces and access to women's shelters, where these exist, in accordance with relevant international human rights instruments and applicable conventions;

36. *Encourages* States, as appropriate, to address practical barriers, including language barriers, that women migrant workers may encounter in countries of destination, and provide them with adequate information about their rights, including to consular assistance, prior to their departure from their countries of origin;

37. *Calls upon* Governments to ensure that legislative provisions and judicial processes are in place to provide women migrant workers access to justice, to enhance, develop or maintain legal frameworks and specific gender-responsive policies to explicitly meet their needs and rights and, where necessary, to take appropriate steps to reform existing legislation and policies to capture their needs and protect their rights;

38. *Also calls upon* Governments, in particular those of the countries of origin and destination, to put in place penal and criminal sanctions, in order to punish perpetrators of violence against women migrant workers and intermediaries, and gender-sensitive redress and justice mechanisms that victims can access effectively and that allow their views and concerns to be presented and considered at appropriate stages of proceedings, including other measures that will allow victims to be present during the judicial process, when possible, and to protect women migrant workers who are victims of violence from revictimization, including by authorities;

39. *Calls upon* Governments of origin, transit and destination countries to take legislative or other measures to protect all migrant women from harassment and violence in all of its forms, including violence in the world of work and sexual exploitation, and put in place zero-tolerance policies towards all forms of violence and harassment, racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance against migrant women, and to hold perpetrators of violence accountable;

40. *Encourages* States to address the increased risk of violence, harassment and abuse that women migrant workers face during migration and after return, in particular those providing domestic and care services and working in rural areas in the agriculture sector;

41. *Encourages* Member States to ensure the safe and dignified return and sustainable reintegration of women migrant workers, including through awareness-raising, capacity-building, education and the provision of and access to public services, access to justice and decent work, and through policies and programmes that prevent and address violence;

42. *Urges* all States to adopt and implement effective measures to put an end to the arbitrary arrest and detention of women migrant workers and to take action to prevent and punish any form of illegal deprivation of the liberty of women migrant workers by individuals or groups;

43. *Encourages* States to adopt and implement effective measures that ensure respect, protection and fulfilment of women migrant workers' human rights along known migration routes and at State borders, as well as in prisons and detention centres, and address the tendency for increased violence in these places due to conditions such as overcrowding and insecure living conditions;

44. *Encourages* Governments to formulate, implement and refine training programmes for their law enforcement officials, immigration officers and border officials, diplomatic and consular officials, judiciary, prosecutors, public sector medical staff and other service providers, with a view to sensitizing those public sector workers to the issue of violence against women migrant workers and imparting to them the necessary skills and attitude to ensure the delivery of proper, professional and gender-sensitive interventions, including for those in detention facilities;

45. *Also encourages* Governments to promote coherence between migration, labour and anti-trafficking policies and programmes concerning women migrant workers, based on a human rights, gender-responsive and people-centred perspective, to ensure that the human rights of women migrant workers are protected throughout the migration process and to enhance efforts and increase action to prevent violence against women migrant workers, prosecute perpetrators and protect and support victims and their families;

46. *Calls upon* States, in accordance with the provisions of article 36 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations,<sup>169</sup> to ensure that, if a woman migrant worker is arrested or committed to prison or custody pending trial, or is detained in any other manner, the competent authorities respect her freedom to communicate with and have access to the consular officials of the country of her nationality and, in this regard, to inform without delay, if that woman migrant worker so requests, the consular post of her State of nationality;

47. *Invites* the United Nations system and other concerned intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to cooperate with Governments, within existing resources, towards a better understanding of the issues concerning women and international migration, and to improve the collection, dissemination and analysis of sex- and age-disaggregated data and information in order to assist in the formulation of migration and labour policies that are, inter alia, gender-responsive and that protect human rights, as well as to aid in policy assessment and to continue to support national efforts to address violence against women migrant workers in a coordinated way that ensures effective implementation, enhances their impact and strengthens positive outcomes for women migrant workers;

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<sup>169</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 596, No. 8638.



48. *Encourages* Governments, in accordance with their applicable legal obligations, to formulate national policies concerning women migrant workers that are based on up-to-date, relevant sex-disaggregated data and analysis, in close consultation with women migrant workers and relevant stakeholders throughout the policy process, and also encourages Governments to ensure that this process is adequately resourced and that the resulting policies have measurable targets and indicators, timetables and monitoring and accountability measures, in particular for employment agencies, employers and public officials, and provide for impact assessments and ensure multi-sector coordination within and between countries of origin, transit and destination through appropriate mechanisms;

49. *Encourages* concerned Governments, in particular those of countries of origin, transit and destination, to avail themselves of the expertise of the United Nations, including the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), to develop and enhance appropriate sex-disaggregated national data collection, analysis and dissemination methodologies that will generate comparable data, and tracking and reporting systems on violence against women migrant workers and, wherever possible, on violations of their rights at all stages of the migration process, and:

(a) To further study the costs of violence against women, including migrant workers, to the women themselves, their families and their communities;

(b) To analyse the opportunities available to women migrant workers and their impact on development;

(c) To further assess and measure recruitment costs and fees through the provision of appropriate sex-disaggregated data and analysis, where available;

(d) To support the improvement of macrodata on migration costs and on remittances, for appropriate policy formulation and implementation;

50. *Encourages* the United Nations system and related entities to continue and step up their efforts and promote partnerships with all stakeholders, including civil society organizations, and to coordinate their work in support, as appropriate, of effective implementation of relevant international and regional instruments in order to enhance their impact through concrete positive outcomes for the advancement of the rights of women migrant workers;

51. *Invites* Member States engaged in the International Migration Review Forum to take into consideration all relevant resolutions, including the present resolution, in their discussions for the Progress Declaration;

52. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide a comprehensive, analytical and thematic report to the General Assembly at its eightieth session on the problem of violence against women migrant workers, including domestic and care workers, and on the implementation of the present resolution, taking into account updated information from Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the International Labour Organization, the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations Development Programme, UN-Women and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as well as the reports of special rapporteurs that refer to the situation of women migrant workers and other relevant sources, including non-governmental organizations.

#### RESOLUTION 78/181

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/473, para. 24)<sup>170</sup>

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<sup>170</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Zimbabwe.

**78/181. Improvement of the situation of women and girls in rural areas**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions [56/129](#) of 19 December 2001, [58/146](#) of 22 December 2003, [60/138](#) of 16 December 2005, [62/136](#) of 18 December 2007, [64/140](#) of 18 December 2009, [66/129](#) of 19 December 2011, [68/139](#) of 18 December 2013, [70/132](#) of 17 December 2015, [72/148](#) of 19 December 2017, [74/126](#) of 18 December 2019, and [76/140](#) of 16 December 2021,

*Reaffirming* the obligation of all States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and also that all forms of discrimination, including discrimination against women and girls, are contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>171</sup> the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>172</sup> the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>173</sup> the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,<sup>174</sup> the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>175</sup> the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities<sup>176</sup> and other human rights instruments,

*Reaffirming also* the commitment made to gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including those in rural areas, contained in the outcome documents of relevant international conferences and summits, in particular the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women,<sup>177</sup> the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”<sup>178</sup> and the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples,<sup>179</sup> and recalling other instruments, as appropriate, such as the United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development,<sup>180</sup>

*Reaffirming further* the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,<sup>181</sup> and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,<sup>182</sup>

*Recalling* that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development addresses the need to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, in order to ensure that no one is left behind, and that the systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is crucial,

*Recognizing* that the achievement of full human potential and of sustainable development is not possible if one half of humanity continues to be denied its full human rights and opportunities,

*Taking note* of the Secretary-General’s High-level Panel on Women’s Economic Empowerment,

*Recognizing* its resolution [76/300](#) of 28 July 2022 on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment,

*Recognizing also* the threat that environmental degradation, climate change, biodiversity loss, desertification and unsustainable development pose to the enjoyment of all human rights by present and future generations, in particular women and girls,

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<sup>171</sup> Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

<sup>172</sup> See resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

<sup>173</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>174</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

<sup>175</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>176</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

<sup>177</sup> *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

<sup>178</sup> Resolution [S-23/2](#), annex, and resolution [S-23/3](#), annex.

<sup>179</sup> Resolution [69/2](#).

<sup>180</sup> Resolution [41/128](#), annex.

<sup>181</sup> Resolution [70/1](#).

<sup>182</sup> Resolution [69/313](#), annex.

*Acknowledging* that achieving gender equality, the empowerment of all women and girls and women's full, equal effective and meaningful participation and decision-making in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disaster risk reduction is essential for achieving sustainable development,

*Recalling* the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-second session<sup>183</sup> and its priority theme "Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls", which was reviewed at the sixty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women,

*Stressing* the need for Governments to take measures to support the rights, well-being and resilience of women and girls living in rural or remote areas and on islands,

*Recognizing* that progress on the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, in particular in rural areas, has been held back owing to the persistence of historical and structural barriers and unequal power relations between women and men, poverty and inequalities and disadvantages in access to resources and opportunities that limit women's and girls' capabilities, growing gaps in equality of opportunity, discriminatory laws, policies, attitudes, harmful customary and contemporary practices and gender stereotypes and negative social norms, as well as women's and girls' unequal share of unpaid care work and precarious working conditions experienced by many women engaged in paid care work, and taking into consideration the impacts of armed conflicts on rural women and girls and the spiralling effects of the cost-of-living crisis, climate and environment emergencies and the continuing effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic that have compounded underlying and persistent gender gaps and inequality,

*Expressing its deep concern* that discrimination and violence against women and girls, including those in rural areas, continue to occur in all parts of the world and that all forms of violence and discrimination, including multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, that women and girls face are impediments to the development of their full potential as equal partners with men and boys in all aspects of life, as well as obstacles to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Expressing its deep concern also* that, while agriculture continues to be the most important employment sector for women in low-income and lower-middle-income countries, with an estimated 25 per cent of employed women around the world working in agriculture, they are relegated to informal, low-paid, low-skilled, labour-intensive and vulnerable jobs, at risk of exploitation and abuse and disproportionately affected by hunger, malnutrition, food insecurity and poverty, including the feminization of poverty, in part as a result of gender inequality and discrimination,

*Expressing its deep concern further* that while women contribute more than 50 per cent of the food produced worldwide, they account for 70 per cent of the world's hungry, that a widening gender gap in food insecurity, which grew from 1.7 per cent in 2019 to 4.3 in 2021, with 31.9 per cent of women in a state of moderate or severe food insecurity compared with 27.6 per cent of men, indicates that women around the world and across regions are more food-insecure than men,

*Expressing concern* that many rural women continue to be economically and socially disadvantaged because of their limited access to economic resources and opportunities and their limited access or lack of access to quality education, health-care services, justice, land, sustainable and time- and labour-saving infrastructure and technology, water and sanitation and other resources, as well as to credit, extension services and agricultural inputs, and expressing concern also about their exclusion from planning and decision-making and their disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work,

*Emphasizing* that rural women's poverty is directly related to the absence of economic opportunities and autonomy and the lack of access to economic and productive resources, quality education and support services and of women's participation in the decision-making process, and recognizing that rural women's poverty and lack of empowerment as well as their exclusion from social and economic policies can place them at increased risk of violence that can impede their social and economic development, as well as the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Recognizing* that, despite gains in providing access to quality education, rural girls are still more likely than rural boys to remain excluded from education and that among the gender-specific barriers to girls' equal enjoyment of their

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<sup>183</sup> Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2018, Supplement No. 7 (E/2018/27), chap. I, sect. A.

right to education are the feminization of poverty, child labour undertaken by girls, child, early and forced marriage, female genital mutilation, early and repeat pregnancies, all forms of violence, including gender-based violence, abuse and harassment on the way to and from and at school, in their technology-mediated environment, the lack of safe and adequate sanitation facilities, including for menstrual hygiene management, the disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work performed by girls and gender stereotypes and negative social norms that lead families and communities to place less value on the education of girls than that of boys and may influence the decision of parents to allow girls to attend school,

*Recognizing also* the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security<sup>184</sup> and the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems,<sup>185</sup> endorsed by the Committee on World Food Security, which embrace gender equality as one of the main guiding principles of implementation in order to help to address the ongoing disparities with regard to access to and control of land and other natural resources,

*Deeply concerned* that climate change poses a challenge to poverty eradication and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, threatens food security and increases the risks of famine and adversely impacts the health and well-being of rural women and their families, and that rural women and girls, especially in developing countries, are disproportionately affected by the impacts of desertification, deforestation, sand and dust storms, natural disasters, persistent drought, extreme weather events, sea level rise, coastal erosion and ocean acidification and often have limited capacities to adapt to climate change,

*Recognizing* that women and girls in rural areas may be particularly vulnerable to violence because of multidimensional poverty and lack of access to social care and protection services and, as applicable, employment opportunities, as well as negative social norms,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>186</sup>

2. *Urges* Member States, in collaboration with the organizations of the United Nations system and civil society, as appropriate, to continue their efforts to implement the outcome of and to ensure an integrated and coordinated follow-up to the relevant United Nations conferences and summits, including their reviews, and to attach greater importance to the improvement of the situation of rural women and girls in their national, regional and global development strategies by, inter alia:

(a) Creating an enabling environment for improving their situation and ensuring systematic attention to their needs, priorities and contributions, as well as gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including through enhanced cooperation and a gender perspective, and the full and equal participation of all women in the development, implementation and follow-up of macroeconomic policies, including development policies and programmes and poverty eradication strategies, including poverty reduction strategy papers, where they exist, aimed at implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(b) Encouraging Member States to consider adopting and pursuing national financial inclusion strategies and gender-responsive strategies to end the structural barriers to women's equal access to economic resources and to expand peer learning, experience-sharing and capacity-building in rural areas;

(c) Supporting the important role of civil society in promoting the realization and fulfilment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all women, including rural women;

(d) Taking steps in the design, implementation and pursuit of fiscal policies and gender-responsive budgeting to promote gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls;

(e) Pursuing the political and socioeconomic empowerment of rural women and supporting their full and equal participation in decision-making at all levels, including through affirmative action, where appropriate, including by promoting and protecting the right to vote and to be elected and the right to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association, and through support for women's and farmers' organizations in which subsistence and

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<sup>184</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document CL 144/9 (C 2013/20), appendix D.

<sup>185</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document C 2015/20, appendix D.

<sup>186</sup> [A/78/220](#).

smallholder women farmers are members, labour unions, cooperatives or other associations and civil society groups promoting rural women's rights;

(f) Promoting consultation with and the participation of rural women and, as appropriate, girls, including those who are Indigenous, those with disabilities and older women, through their organizations and networks, in the design, development and implementation of and follow-up to programmes and strategies for gender equality, the empowerment of women and rural development;

(g) Ensuring that the perspectives of rural women and girls are taken into account and that rural women fully, meaningfully and equally participate in the design, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of policies and activities related to conflict prevention, the mitigation of post-conflict situations, peace mediation, the impacts of climate change and emergencies, including natural disasters, humanitarian assistance, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction, and taking appropriate measures to eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against rural women and girls in this regard;

(h) Integrating a gender perspective into the design, implementation and evaluation of and follow-up to development policies, plans and programmes, including budget policies, where lacking, ensuring coordination between line ministries, gender policymakers, gender machineries and other relevant government organizations and institutions with gender expertise, and paying increased attention to the needs of rural women and girls to ensure that they benefit from policies and programmes adopted in all spheres and that the disproportionate number of rural women living in poverty is reduced;

(i) Mainstreaming a gender perspective in decision-making processes and the governance of natural resources, leveraging the participation and influence of women in managing the sustainable use of natural resources, and enhancing the capacities of Governments, civil society and development partners to better understand and address gender issues in the management and governance of natural resources;

(j) Enacting and implementing policies to eradicate poverty and reduce inequalities by promoting sustainable livelihoods, decent work and income security for women in rural areas to enhance the well-being and resilience of all rural women and girls, including women migrant workers;

(k) Implementing effective, high-impact, quality-assured, people-centred, gender- and disability-responsive and evidence-based interventions to meet the health needs of rural women and girls, particularly those in vulnerable situations, throughout their life course;

(l) Strengthening measures, including resource generation, to improve women's health, including maternal health, by addressing the specific health, nutrition and basic needs of rural women and taking concrete measures to enhance and provide access to the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health for women of all ages in rural areas, as well as quality, affordable and universally accessible primary health care and support services, including prenatal and postnatal health care, emergency obstetric care, family planning, information and education, increasing knowledge, awareness and support for the elimination of harmful practices and the prevention, treatment and care of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, and ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,<sup>187</sup> the Beijing Platform for Action<sup>188</sup> and the outcome documents of their review conferences;

(m) Strengthening the prevention, treatment and care of infections, such as HIV, in rural areas, by providing accessible information, social care services and infrastructure;

(n) Taking appropriate measures to ensure that women's and girls' disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work, as well as contributions to on-farm and off-farm production, is recognized, including by fully recognizing and valuing unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family, and to promote nationally appropriate policies and initiatives supporting the reconciliation of work and family life and the equal sharing of responsibilities between men and women with a view to reducing and equitably distributing such

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<sup>187</sup> *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

<sup>188</sup> *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

unpaid work, including through, inter alia, the provision of infrastructure, technology and public services, such as water and sanitation, renewable energy, transport and information and communications technology, as well as addressing the need for accessible, affordable and quality childcare and care facilities in rural areas;

(o) Promoting sustainable, gender-responsive, quality, reliable and resilient infrastructure, including by scaling up investment in health facilities in rural areas and by improving access to safe drinking water and sanitation, including through provisions for menstrual hygiene management, and safe cooking and heating practices to improve the health and nutrition of rural women and girls;

(p) Investing in and strengthening efforts to meet the basic needs of rural women, including needs relating to their food security and nutrition and that of their families, and to promote adequate standards of living for them, as well as decent conditions for work and improved access to local, regional and global markets through improved availability, access to and use of critical rural infrastructure, such as energy and transport, science and technology, local services, capacity-building and human resources development measures and the provision of a safe and reliable water supply and sanitation, nutritional programmes, affordable housing programmes, education and literacy programmes, social support measures and health care, including HIV prevention, treatment, care, including psychosocial aspects, and support services;

(q) Fully engaging men and boys, including community leaders, as strategic partners and allies in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and eliminating all forms of discrimination and violence against them, including by working to counteract attitudes by which women and girls are regarded as subordinate to men and boys;

(r) Eliminating all forms of violence against rural women and girls in public and private spaces through multisectoral and coordinated approaches to prevent and respond to violence against rural women and girls, to investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence against rural women and girls and end impunity and to provide protection as well as equal access to comprehensive social, health and legal services for all victims and survivors to support their full recovery and reintegration into society, including by providing access to psychosocial support and rehabilitation, and bearing in mind the importance of all women and girls living free from violence, such as gender-related killings, including femicide, and harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, as well as of addressing the structural and underlying causes of violence against women and girls through enhanced prevention measures, research and strengthened coordination and monitoring and evaluation, by, inter alia, encouraging awareness-raising activities;

(s) Designing and implementing national policies and legal frameworks that promote and protect the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by rural women and girls, and creating an environment that does not tolerate violations or abuses of their rights, including domestic violence, sexual violence, gender-based violence and discrimination, including multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination;

(t) Promoting safe public spaces for women and girls in rural areas and improving their security and safety, including in public transportation systems and infrastructure, preventing and eliminating violence and harassment against women on their journey to and from work, and protecting women and girls from being physically threatened or assaulted, including from sexual violence, while collecting household water and fuel and when accessing sanitation facilities outside their homes or practising open defecation;

(u) Ensuring that the rights of older women in rural areas are taken into account with regard to their equal access to basic social services, appropriate social protection and/or social security measures, equal access to and control of economic resources and their empowerment through access to financial and infrastructure services, with special focus on the provision of support to older women, including Indigenous women, who often have access to few resources and are often more vulnerable;

(v) Valuing and supporting the critical role and contribution of rural women, including Indigenous women in rural areas, in the conservation and sustainable use of traditional crops and biodiversity for present and future generations as an essential contribution to food security and nutrition, recognizing that rural women are disproportionately affected by biodiversity loss and land degradation and should therefore be meaningfully engaged in efforts to address such matters;

(w) Promoting the rights of women and girls with disabilities in rural areas, including by ensuring access on an equal basis to productive employment and decent work, economic and financial resources and disability-sensitive infrastructure and services, in particular in relation to health and education, as well as by ensuring that their priorities

and needs are fully incorporated into policies and programmes, through, inter alia, their participation in decision-making processes;

(x) Promoting rural women's economic empowerment by realizing their right to work and rights at work, building their capacities and skills to manage enterprises and cooperatives, facilitating formalization and ensuring their financial and digital inclusion and equal access to natural resources and economic and productive resources, including access to, use of, ownership of and control over land, including diverse types of land tenure, property and appropriate new technology, as well as inheritance rights, developing specific assistance programmes and advisory services to promote economic skills of rural women in banking, modern trading and financial procedures, including financial literacy and consumer protection, and providing affordable microcredit and other financial and business services to a greater number of women in rural areas, in particular female heads of households, for their economic empowerment;

(y) Supporting women entrepreneurs and women smallholder farmers, including those in subsistence farming, by continuing to provide public investment and to encourage private investment in rural women to close the gender gap in agriculture, and facilitating their access to extension and financial services, agricultural inputs and land, water, sanitation and irrigation, markets and innovative technologies;

(z) Mobilizing resources, including at the national level and through official development assistance, for increasing women's access to existing savings and credit schemes, as well as targeted programmes that provide women with capital, knowledge and tools that enhance their economic capacities;

(aa) Seeking to ensure and improve equal access for rural women to decent work in agricultural and non-agricultural sectors, supporting and promoting opportunities in small and medium-sized enterprises, sustainable social enterprises and cooperatives and improving working conditions;

(bb) Investing in infrastructure and in time- and labour-saving technologies, including sustainable energy, safe drinking water and sanitation and information and communications technologies, especially in rural areas, benefiting women and girls by reducing their burden of domestic activities, affording the opportunity for girls to attend school and for women to engage in self-employment or to participate in the labour market;

(cc) Taking appropriate measures to raise public awareness among rural women and girls about the risks of trafficking in persons, including the factors that make rural women and girls vulnerable to trafficking, and eliminating the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation against them, including sexual exploitation and forced labour;

(dd) Supporting remunerative non-agricultural employment for rural women, including in the informal sector, including measures to improve working conditions, increase access to productive resources, invest in relevant infrastructure, public services and time- and labour-saving technologies, promote rural women's paid employment in the formal economy and address the structural and underlying causes of the difficult conditions faced by rural women;

(ee) Taking steps to build the capacities and skills of rural women and their enterprises and cooperatives and to design or develop and implement procurement policies and measures to enable rural women and their enterprises and cooperatives to benefit from public and private sector procurement processes, recognizing that the promotion of rural women's enterprises and cooperatives can sustainably contribute to the economic empowerment of rural women;

(ff) Promoting programmes and services to enable rural women and men to reconcile their work and family responsibilities and to encourage men throughout their life cycle to share, equally with women and girls, household, childcare and other care responsibilities;

(gg) Developing and adopting strategies to decrease women's and girls' vulnerability to environmental factors, including gender-responsive strategies on mitigation and adaptation to climate change, to support the resilience and adaptive capacities of women and girls to respond to the adverse effects of climate change, through, inter alia, the promotion of their health and well-being, as well as access to sustainable livelihoods, and the provision of adequate resources to ensure women's full participation in decision-making at all levels on environmental issues, in particular on strategies and policies related to the impacts of climate change, such as desertification, deforestation, sand and dust storms and natural disasters, persistent drought, extreme weather events, sea level rise, coastal erosion and ocean acidification and loss of biodiversity, on the lives of rural women and girls, and ensuring the integration of their specific needs into humanitarian responses to natural disasters, into the planning, delivery, implementation and monitoring of disaster risk reduction policies, in particular urban and rural infrastructure and land-use planning and



resettlement and relocation planning during the aftermath of natural disasters, and into sustainable natural resources management;

(hh) Building the resilience of rural women and girls, in particular women smallholder farmers, to climate change and environmental degradation (inter alia, deforestation, desertification and the loss of agricultural biodiversity), including by promoting appropriate use of relevant ancestral, Indigenous and modern technological practices and knowledge and strengthening access to extension services, information and training;

(ii) Considering the adoption, where appropriate, of national legislation to protect the knowledge, innovations and practices of Indigenous women and women in local communities relating to traditional medicines, biodiversity and Indigenous technologies;

(jj) Addressing the lack of quality, accessible, timely and reliable data disaggregated by sex and age and statistical information on disabilities, to help with the measurement of progress and to ensure that no one is left behind, including by intensifying efforts to include women's unpaid work in official statistics, and developing a systematic and comparative research base on rural women that will inform policy and programme decisions;

(kk) Strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices and other relevant government institutions to collect, analyse and disseminate data, disaggregated by sex and age, and gender statistics on time use, unpaid work, land tenure, energy, water and sanitation, among other things, to support policies and actions to improve the situation of rural women and girls and to monitor and track the implementation of such policies and actions;

(ll) Guaranteeing the universal registration of births, including in rural areas, and ensuring the timely registration of all marriages for individuals living in rural areas, including by removing physical, administrative, procedural and any other barriers that impede access to registration and by providing, where lacking, mechanisms for the registration of customary and religious marriages, bearing in mind the vital importance of birth registration for the realization of the rights of individuals;

(mm) Designing, revising and implementing laws to ensure that rural women are accorded full and equal rights to own and lease land and other property, including through the equal rights to economic and productive resources, access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including banking and microfinancing, and undertaking administrative reforms and all necessary measures to give women the same right as men to credit, capital, finance, appropriate technologies and vocational training, to improve access to markets and information and to ensure their equal access to justice and legal support;

(nn) Taking appropriate measures to adopt or develop legislation and policies that provide rural women with access to land and support women's cooperatives and agricultural programmes, including for subsistence agriculture, in order to contribute to school feeding programmes as a pull factor to keep children, in particular girl children, in school, noting that school meals and take-home rations attract and retain children in schools and recognizing that school feeding is an incentive to enhance enrolment and reduce absenteeism, especially for girls;

(oo) Supporting a gender-sensitive education system, including through approaches that attract and retain female students and teachers and that consider the specific needs of rural women and girls in order to eliminate gender stereotypes and discriminatory tendencies affecting them, including through community-based dialogue involving women and men and girls and boys;

(pp) Eliminating gender disparities in the realization of the right to education and ensuring full and equal participation in and completion of inclusive quality education (primary, secondary and tertiary education, including vocational and technical education), as well as early childhood education, promoting lifelong learning opportunities for rural women and girls and the elimination of female illiteracy, including through eliminating the discriminatory policies of excluding pregnant and married girls from schools, quality teacher training, recruitment and retention of teachers in rural areas, especially women teachers where they are underrepresented, and building gender-sensitive education facilities that provide a safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environment for all and facilitate an effective transition from education or unemployment to decent work;

(qq) Promoting education, training and relevant information programmes for rural and farming women through the use of affordable and appropriate technologies and the mass media, and taking concrete measures to improve rural women's skills, productivity and employment opportunities through technical, agricultural and vocational education and training;

3. *Encourages* Member States, United Nations entities and all other relevant stakeholders to promote access to social protection for female-headed rural households;
4. *Encourages* Member States, appropriate United Nations entities and all other relevant stakeholders to promote the full and equal participation of rural women, including Indigenous women as well as women farmers, fishers and agricultural workers, in sustainable agricultural and rural development;
5. *Requests* the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular those dealing with issues of development, to address and support the empowerment of rural women and their specific needs in their programmes and strategies;
6. *Stresses* the need to identify the best practices for ensuring that rural women have access to and full and equal participation in the area of information and communications technology, to address the priorities and needs of rural women and girls as active users of information and to ensure their participation in developing and implementing global, regional and national information and communications technology strategies, taking appropriate educational measures to eliminate gender stereotypes regarding women in the field of technology;
7. *Encourages* Member States to enhance safe, accessible and inclusive digital connectivity in rural areas to promote, inter alia, the access of rural women and girls to digital services, in areas such as health, education, social security, public administration and other relevant areas, ensuring there are available solutions and options to avoid the negative impacts that digital technology can have and to close digital divides, including the rural-urban, youth-older persons and gender digital divides;
8. *Also encourages* Member States to consider the concluding observations and recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights concerning their reports to those Committees when formulating policies and designing programmes focused on the improvement of the situation of rural women, including those to be developed and implemented in cooperation with relevant international organizations;
9. *Invites* Governments to promote the economic empowerment of rural women, including through entrepreneurship training, and to adopt gender-responsive and climate-sensitive rural development strategies and agricultural production, including budget frameworks and relevant assessment measures, as well as to ensure that the needs and priorities of rural women and girls are systematically addressed and that they can effectively contribute to poverty alleviation, hunger eradication and food security and nutrition;
10. *Invites* Governments, relevant international organizations, the specialized agencies and civil society organizations to continue to observe the International Day of Rural Women annually, on 15 October, as proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution [62/136](#);
11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its eightieth session a report on the improvement of the situation of women and girls in rural areas.

#### RESOLUTION 78/182

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee ([A/78/473](#), para. 24)<sup>189</sup>

#### **78/182. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its previous resolutions on the question, including resolution [76/142](#) of 16 December 2021, and recalling also the section of resolution [64/289](#) of 2 July 2010 entitled “Strengthening the institutional arrangements for support of gender equality and the empowerment of women”,

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<sup>189</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Chair of the Committee.

*Deeply convinced* that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action<sup>190</sup> and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”,<sup>191</sup> are important contributions to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and must be translated into effective action by all States, the United Nations system and other organizations concerned,

*Reaffirming* the commitments to gender equality and the advancement of women made in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>192</sup> and at major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions, and reaffirming also that their full, effective and accelerated implementation is integral to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals, especially considering that, halfway through the 2030 Agenda, the world is currently failing to achieve gender equality,

*Welcoming* the Political Declaration adopted at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), under the auspices of the General Assembly in September 2023,<sup>193</sup> which reaffirmed that the 2030 Agenda is universal in nature and that its Goals and targets seek to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls,

*Reaffirming* the commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women in the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus<sup>194</sup> and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,<sup>195</sup>

*Recalling* its resolution 75/233 of 21 December 2020 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in which it called upon all entities of the United Nations development system to continue to promote gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by enhancing and accelerating gender mainstreaming through the full implementation of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, developed under the leadership of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women),

*Reaffirming* the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS<sup>196</sup> and the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Ending Inequalities and Getting on Track to End AIDS by 2030, adopted at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS, held in New York from 8 to 10 June 2021,<sup>197</sup> which, inter alia, addressed the pursuit of transformative AIDS responses to contribute to gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and reaffirming also the political declaration on the implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, adopted at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly held in New York on 27 and 28 September 2017,<sup>198</sup>

*Noting with appreciation* the political declaration of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage entitled “Universal health coverage: expanding our ambition for health and well-being in a post-COVID world”, held on 21 September 2023,<sup>199</sup> in which it was recognized that universal health coverage is fundamental for, inter alia, achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls,

*Welcoming* progress made towards achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, but stressing that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session,

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<sup>190</sup> *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

<sup>191</sup> Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

<sup>192</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>193</sup> Resolution 78/1, annex.

<sup>194</sup> Resolution 63/239, annex.

<sup>195</sup> Resolution 69/313, annex.

<sup>196</sup> Resolution S-26/2, annex.

<sup>197</sup> Resolution 75/284, annex.

<sup>198</sup> Resolution 72/1.

<sup>199</sup> Resolution 78/4, annex.

*Noting with appreciation* that 2025 will mark the thirtieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, noting with appreciation also, in this regard, review activities by Governments, and noting the contributions of all other relevant stakeholders to these review activities,

*Recalling* Security Council resolutions [1325 \(2000\)](#) of 31 October 2000, [1820 \(2008\)](#) of 19 June 2008, [1888 \(2009\)](#) of 30 September 2009, [1889 \(2009\)](#) of 5 October 2009, [1960 \(2010\)](#) of 16 December 2010, [2106 \(2013\)](#) of 24 June 2013, [2122 \(2013\)](#) of 18 October 2013, [2242 \(2015\)](#) of 13 October 2015, [2467 \(2019\)](#) of 23 April 2019 and [2493 \(2019\)](#) of 29 October 2019 on women and peace and security and resolutions [1882 \(2009\)](#) of 4 August 2009, [2225 \(2015\)](#) of 18 June 2015 and [2427 \(2018\)](#) of 9 July 2018 on children and armed conflict,

*Reaffirming* the important role of all women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding efforts, stressing the need for their full, equal and meaningful participation therein, including at decision-making levels, and noting in this regard that 2025 will mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) on women and peace and security,

*Recalling* the Global Leaders' Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: A Commitment to Action, held in New York on 27 September 2015, and the pledges and commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls made by Governments at that meeting,

*Recalling also* Economic and Social Council resolution [2023/11](#) of 7 June 2023, entitled "Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system" in which it was reaffirmed that gender mainstreaming constitutes a critical strategy in the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,

*Taking note* of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment,

*Recognizing* that the responsibility for the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session rests primarily at the national level and that strengthened efforts are necessary in this respect, and reiterating that enhanced international cooperation is essential for full, effective and accelerated implementation,

*Recognizing also* the primary role of the Commission on the Status of Women in the follow-up to the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action, in which the work of the Commission is grounded, and stressing that it is critical to address and integrate gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls throughout national, regional and global reviews of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to ensure synergies between the follow-up to the Beijing Platform for Action and the gender-responsive follow-up to the 2030 Agenda,

*Welcoming* the work of the Commission on the Status of Women in reviewing the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, taking note with appreciation of all its agreed conclusions, and acknowledging the need for their implementation,

*Recalling* the sixty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, in 2020, when the Commission undertook a review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,

*Recalling also* the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in New York on 1 October 2020, which demonstrated commitment to the full and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of its reviews,

*Welcoming* the political declaration on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women,<sup>200</sup>

*Acknowledging* the Presidents of the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth and seventy-seventh sessions for convening the Advisory Board on Gender Equality and the General Assembly Platform of Women Leaders, and encouraging greater participation of Member States in this initiative,

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<sup>200</sup> *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2020, Supplement No. 7 (E/2020/27)*, chap. I, sect. C, resolution 59/1, annex.

*Welcoming* efforts on the empowerment of women and girls, and taking note of all international, regional and national initiatives, such as the Generation Equality Forum, which was convened by UN-Women and co-chaired by France and Mexico, in partnership with civil society,

*Welcoming also* the strengthening of the capacity of UN-Women and its experience in achieving its mandate,

*Commending* UN-Women for the continued support provided to intergovernmental processes, including on the linkages between sustainable development, financing for development, migration, climate change and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls,

*Recalling* its resolution 64/289, in which it decided that the resources required to service the normative intergovernmental processes should be funded from the regular budget,

*Taking note* of the ongoing work of the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women,

*Recognizing* that the participation and contribution of civil society, in particular women's groups and organizations and other non-governmental organizations, are important to the successful implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, as well as to the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda,

*Reaffirming* that gender mainstreaming is a globally accepted strategy for promoting the empowerment of women and achieving gender equality by transforming structures of inequality, which is relevant to all issues considered by its Main Committees and subsidiary bodies, including in resolutions dealing with issues beyond social, humanitarian, cultural, economic and financial matters,

*Reaffirming also* the commitment to actively promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres, as well as the commitment to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender equality,

*Bearing in mind* the challenges and obstacles to changing discriminatory attitudes and gender stereotypes, which perpetuate discrimination against women and girls and stereotypical roles of girls and boys and women and men, and stressing that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of international standards and norms to address inequality between women and men,

*Recognizing* the importance of fully engaging men and boys, as agents and beneficiaries of change, in the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and as allies in the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, as well as in the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda,

*Recognizing also* the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic as one of the greatest global challenges and noting with deep concern its negative impacts on, inter alia, gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and expressing concern with the continued emergence and re-emergence of health emergencies and epidemic-prone diseases that have a disproportionate impact on women and girls,

*Expressing serious concern* that the urgent goal of 50/50 gender balance in the United Nations system, especially at higher professional grade levels and in non-headquarters locations, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, remains unmet, that the representation of women decreases progressively at higher professional grade levels and that the gap in representation is greatest and the rate of change slowest at non-headquarters locations, including in peacekeeping missions, as reflected in the report of the Secretary-General on improvement in the status of women in the United Nations system,<sup>201</sup>

*Taking note with appreciation* of the work done to enhance the United Nations system-wide dashboard on gender parity by UN-Women and the United Nations Development Programme to strengthen system-wide monitoring and data collection by providing the latest available data, in support of the Secretary-General's system-wide strategy on gender parity,

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<sup>201</sup> A/78/206.

*Welcoming* the launch of the United Nations system-wide knowledge hub on addressing sexual harassment to provide a repository of resources, best practices and tools on the United Nations system efforts to prevent and address sexual harassment,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the measures taken and progress achieved in follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly<sup>202</sup> and of the report of the Secretary-General on improvement in the status of women in the United Nations system;

2. *Reaffirms* the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, also reaffirms the political declaration on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-fourth session, and affirms its commitment to their full, effective and accelerated implementation;

3. *Also reaffirms* the primary and essential role of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as the catalytic role of the Commission on the Status of Women, in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, based on the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, and in promoting and monitoring gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system, and encourages the Commission to contribute to the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in order to accelerate the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, as well as the enjoyment of all human rights by women and girls;

4. *Calls upon* Governments and all other stakeholders to systematically mainstream a gender perspective into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in order to, inter alia, contribute to the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and stresses in this regard the importance of ensuring synergies between the follow-up to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the gender-responsive follow-up to the 2030 Agenda;

5. *Reiterates* that the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session is essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;

6. *Notes* that the General Assembly, in its decision 77/568 of 1 September 2023, decided to take the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls into account in the relevant chapters of the Pact for the Future;

7. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the fulfilment of the obligations of States parties under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women<sup>203</sup> are mutually reinforcing in respect of achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, and welcomes in this regard the contributions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to promoting the implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

8. *Calls upon* States parties to comply fully with their obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol thereto<sup>204</sup> and to take into consideration the concluding observations as well as the general recommendations of the Committee, urges States parties to consider limiting the extent of any reservations that they lodge to the Convention, to formulate any reservations as precisely and narrowly as possible and to regularly review such reservations with a view to withdrawing them so as to ensure that no reservation is incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention, urges all Member States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to consider doing so, and calls upon those Member States that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Optional Protocol;

9. *Reaffirms* that States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women and girls, provide protection to the victims and investigate, prosecute and punish the

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<sup>202</sup> [A/78/216](#).

<sup>203</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

<sup>204</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2131, No. 20378.



perpetrators of violence against women and girls, and that failure to do so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, calls upon Governments to elaborate and implement laws and strategies to eliminate violence against women and girls, encourages and supports men and boys to take an active part in the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence, encourages increased understanding among men and boys of how violence harms girls, boys, women and men and undermines gender equality, encourages all actors to speak out against any form of violence against women, and in this regard encourages Member States to continue to support the Secretary-General's ongoing campaign, "UNiTE to End Violence against Women", its social mobilization and advocacy platform, "Orange the World: End Violence against Women", and the "HeforShe" campaign of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), as well as to support the Secretary-General's voluntary compact on preventing and addressing sexual exploitation and abuse;

10. *Reiterates* the importance and value of the mandate of UN-Women, and welcomes the Entity's leadership in providing a strong voice for women and girls at all levels and its efforts to support intergovernmental processes so that they fully contribute to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and the realization of their human rights;

11. *Notes with concern* that UN-Women continues to draw on voluntary contributions in order to enable it to carry out its mandate of servicing normative intergovernmental processes, and emphasizes the need for the full implementation of resolution 64/289 in this regard;

12. *Reaffirms* the important role of UN-Women in leading, coordinating and promoting accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women;

13. *Notes with appreciation* the important and extensive work of UN-Women for more effective and coherent gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system, and calls upon UN-Women to continue to support gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system as an integral part of its work and of its efforts to accelerate action across the United Nations system;

14. *Welcomes* the commitment of UN-Women to support Member States in their efforts to develop and strengthen norms, policies and standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women, as well as to integrate gender perspectives into sectoral policy and normative frameworks, in line with its mandate, and encourages the Entity to continue to promote the need to mainstream and strengthen a gender perspective in the work of intergovernmental bodies and processes, to raise awareness of the opportunities therein and to provide policy analysis, knowledge, evidence and information in support of intergovernmental deliberations in order to provide technical assistance, at the request of Member States, in strengthening a gender perspective in resolutions and other outcomes;

15. *Recognizes* the need to continue to strengthen the capacity of UN-Women to fully implement its normative support function;

16. *Also recognizes* the important role of UN-Women in promoting gender equality, and the empowerment of all women and girls and the central role that it plays in supporting Member States, in coordinating the United Nations system and in mobilizing civil society, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders, at all levels, in support of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and calls upon UN-Women and the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to continue to support the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action at the international, regional, national and local levels, including through systematic gender mainstreaming, the mobilization of resources to deliver positive results and the monitoring of progress with adequate data and robust accountability systems;

17. *Urges* Member States to increase funding for the budget of UN-Women by providing, when legislative and budgetary provisions allow, core, multi-year, predictable, stable and sustainable voluntary contributions, recognizing the importance of adequate funding in enabling UN-Women to implement its strategic plan promptly and effectively, and that the mobilization of financial resources for achieving its goals still remains a challenge;

18. *Also urges* Member States and encourages stakeholders, where applicable, to address gaps and challenges, take specific, measurable, time-bound actions and mobilize adequate financial resources for the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, in line with the commitments made in the political declaration on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, including by:



(a) Eliminating all discriminatory laws and ensuring that laws, policies and programmes benefit all women and girls and that they are fully and effectively implemented and systematically evaluated to ensure their effectiveness and that they do not create and reinforce inequalities and marginalization;

(b) Eliminating structural barriers, discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes, and promoting social norms and practices that empower all women and girls and that recognize their contributions and eliminate discrimination and violence against them, including through their balanced and non-stereotyped portrayal in the media;

(c) Strengthening the effectiveness and accountability of institutions at all levels to promote gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, as well as ensuring equal access to justice and public services;

(d) Mainstreaming a gender perspective across the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, for the realization of the human rights of all and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;

(e) Matching commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls with adequate financing through the mobilization of financial resources from all sources;

(f) Strengthening accountability for the implementation of commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

(g) Harnessing the potential of technology and innovation to improve women's and girls' lives and to close the development divide and the digital divide, including the gender digital divide, as well as addressing the risks and challenges emerging from the use of technologies;

(h) Closing data and evidence gaps through improved regular collection, analysis and use of gender statistics, including through strengthening national statistical capacities, to strengthen the implementation and evaluation of policies and programmes;

(i) Strengthening international cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, as well as public-private partnerships, to implement commitments to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;

19. *Calls upon* Governments and the organs, relevant funds and programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, other international and regional organizations, including financial institutions, and all relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to intensify and accelerate action to achieve the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and of the outcome of the twenty-third special session, including by contributing to the celebrations of the thirtieth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as appropriate;

20. *Decides*, in order to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, so as to accelerate the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, to convene a one-day high-level meeting of the General Assembly in the margins of the general debate of the Assembly at its eightieth session, and that the outcome of the high-level meeting shall take the form of a Chair's summary;

21. *Recommends* that the President of the General Assembly conduct consultations to finalize the organizational arrangements for the high-level meeting of the Assembly;

22. *Looks forward* to the sixty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, in 2025, when the Commission will undertake a review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;

23. *Encourages* all Member States to make ambitious commitments on gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;

24. *Encourages* all actors, including Governments, the United Nations system, other international organizations and civil society, to continue to support the work of the Commission on the Status of Women in fulfilling its central role in the follow-up to and review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session and, as applicable, to carry out the recommendations of the Commission, welcomes in this regard the Commission's continued sharing of experiences, lessons learned and good practices in overcoming challenges to the full implementation at the national and international levels and the

evaluation of progress in the implementation of priority themes, and encourages the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system, as appropriate, to incorporate the outcomes of the Commission into their work;

25. *Requests* the entities of the United Nations system to systematically and strategically incorporate the outcomes of the Commission on the Status of Women into their work, within their mandates, and, inter alia, to ensure effective support for the efforts of Member States towards the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and in this regard encourages UN-Women to continue to use concrete results-based reporting mechanisms and to ensure coherence, consistency and coordination between the normative and operational aspects of its work;

26. *Encourages* States and all stakeholders to strengthen the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into all sectors and in all areas of development;

27. *Reiterates its call upon* the United Nations system, including the main organs, their main committees and subsidiary bodies, through forums such as the high-level political forum on sustainable development and functions such as the annual ministerial review and the Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council and the funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, to increase efforts to fully mainstream a gender perspective into all issues under their consideration and within their mandates, as well as into all United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions and their follow-up processes;

28. *Calls upon* States to ensure that intergovernmental processes consistently address gender perspectives in their preparatory processes and outcomes;

29. *Commits* to intensifying efforts to further integrate a gender perspective into the work of the General Assembly, including in plenary and high-level meetings;

30. *Encourages* its Main Committees and subsidiary bodies, as well as the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions, particularly in the light of the analysis contained in the report of the Secretary-General<sup>205</sup> and of the cross-cutting nature of gender equality and the empowerment of women, to intensify their efforts to make further progress in the integration of a gender perspective into their work, including, as appropriate, into their resolutions within the respective mandates of the General Assembly and each of its Main Committees and subsidiary bodies and the Economic and Social Council and each of its functional commissions, and invites the Bureaux, as appropriate, to encourage such efforts;

31. *Strongly encourages* Governments to continue to support the role and contribution of civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations and women's organizations, in the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session and in the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

32. *Calls upon* Governments and the United Nations system to encourage women's groups and other non-governmental organizations specializing in gender equality and the empowerment of women to participate in intergovernmental processes, including through increased outreach, funding and capacity-building;

33. *Calls upon* the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system to systematically request the inclusion of a gender perspective in reports of the Secretary-General and other inputs to intergovernmental processes;

34. *Requests* that reports of the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and their subsidiary bodies continue to systematically address gender perspectives through gender-sensitive analysis, the provision of data disaggregated by sex, age and disability and the reflection of the contribution of women and girls as agents of change and of the impact of proposed policies and programmes on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and that conclusions and recommendations for further action address the different situations and needs of women and men and girls and boys in order to facilitate gender-responsive policy development, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to convey the importance of reflecting a gender perspective to all stakeholders who provide input to his reports;

35. *Encourages* Member States, with the support of, as appropriate, United Nations entities, including UN-Women, international and regional organizations and other relevant actors, to prioritize the strengthening of

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<sup>205</sup> [A/78/216](#).

national data collection and monitoring capacities with regard to statistics disaggregated by sex and age, as well as national tracking indicators for gender equality and the empowerment of women, through multisectoral efforts and partnerships;

36. *Calls upon* all parts of the United Nations system to continue to play an active role in ensuring the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session through, inter alia, the maintenance of gender specialists in all entities of the United Nations system, as well as by ensuring that all personnel, especially those in the field, receive training and appropriate follow-up, including tools, guidance and support, for accelerated gender mainstreaming, and reaffirms the need to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender;

37. *Commends* the Secretary-General for his continued leadership and efforts towards creating an enabling working environment and accelerating progress towards the goal of 50/50 gender balance at all levels throughout the United Nations system, including the goal of reaching parity at the highest levels by 2021 and at all levels throughout the United Nations system by 2028, as set out in his system-wide strategy on gender parity;

38. *Also commends* the Secretary-General for requesting the entities of the United Nations to update and regularly monitor entity-specific implementation plans to achieve and maintain the goal of gender parity, and in this regard encourages UN-Women to continue to regularly report on the implementation of and progress made on gender parity through such plans;

39. *Requests* the Secretary-General to further accelerate his efforts to achieve the goal of 50/50 gender balance at all levels throughout the United Nations system, including in the field and in peacekeeping missions, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, considering, in particular, women from the developing and the least developed countries, countries with economies in transition and unrepresented or largely underrepresented Member States, and to ensure the implementation of measures with clear targets and timelines, including temporary special measures, as well as the strengthening of the implementation of policies and measures related to creating enabling working environments, including for work-life balance, and to prevent and address all forms of discrimination, violence, racism, harassment, including sexual harassment, abuse of authority in the workplace and sexual exploitation and abuse, so as to accelerate progress, and managerial and departmental accountability, inter alia, through leadership compacts and performance appraisal systems, with respect to attaining gender parity within the shortest feasible period;

40. *Requests* the entities of the United Nations to strengthen efforts to prevent, address and eliminate sexual harassment, in full alignment with the work of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination Task Force on Addressing Sexual Harassment within the Organizations of the United Nations System, apply a victim-centred approach to all forms of misconduct, enhance training, leverage the knowledge hub on addressing sexual harassment and encourage the implementation of accountability mechanisms, as well as gender-sensitive exit surveys;

41. *Calls upon* the entities of the United Nations system, in collaboration with resident coordinators and heads of agencies and missions, to significantly increase their efforts towards achieving the goal of 50/50 gender balance in all locations, including at the United Nations country team level, with the advice from gender focal points, UN-Women and other relevant entities, through a comprehensive range of actions, inter alia, as outlined in the Secretary-General's system-wide strategy on gender parity and in entity-specific implementation plans, as well as the recommendations contained in the Enabling Environment Guidelines for the United Nations System and the Field-specific Enabling Environment Guidelines, and to provide sufficient financial and human resources for organizational change and for overcoming identified impediments to progress on gender balance including setbacks from the COVID-19 pandemic;

42. *Requests* the entities of the United Nations, at both headquarters and non-headquarters levels, inter alia, the United Nations country team level, to continue to appoint gender focal points to provide support for the advancement of gender parity, led and coordinated by UN-Women;

43. *Strongly encourages* Member States to identify and regularly submit more women candidates for appointment to positions in the United Nations system, especially at more senior, decision-making and policymaking levels, including in peacekeeping operations;

44. *Encourages* increased efforts by Governments and the United Nations system to enhance accountability for the implementation of commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of women at the international,

regional, national and local levels, including through improved monitoring and reporting on progress in relation to policies, strategies, resource allocations and programmes and by achieving gender balance;

45. *Reaffirms* that Governments bear the primary responsibility for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and that international cooperation has an essential role in assisting developing countries in progressing towards the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

46. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to bring to the attention of the United Nations system the findings of his reports in order to strengthen follow-up on these findings and to accelerate the implementation of the present resolution;

47. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide an oral report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-eighth and sixty-ninth sessions and to report to the General Assembly at its eightieth session on the improvement in the status of women in the United Nations system and on progress made and obstacles encountered in achieving gender balance, under the item entitled “Advancement of women”;

48. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its eightieth session, under the item entitled “Advancement of women”, on the follow-up to and progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session.

### RESOLUTION 78/183 A

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 128 to 1, with 46 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/474, para. 26)<sup>206</sup>

\* *In favour:* Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Niger, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Sudan, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Türkiye, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against:* Nigeria

*Abstaining:* Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Brunei Darussalam, Cameroon, Central African Republic, China, Congo, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mongolia, Namibia, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam, Yemen

### 78/183. Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

#### A

*The General Assembly,*

*Taking note* of Economic and Social Council decision 2023/313 of 5 April 2023 concerning the enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

<sup>206</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by Guatemala.

## V. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Third Committee

*Taking note also* of the request regarding the enlargement of the Executive Committee contained in the note verbale dated 28 December 2022 from the Permanent Mission of Guatemala to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General,<sup>207</sup>

1. *Decides* to increase the number of members of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from 108 States to 109 States;
2. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to elect the additional member at a meeting of its management segment in 2024.

### RESOLUTION 78/183 B

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 128 to 4, with 43 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/474, para. 26)<sup>208</sup>

\* *In favour:* Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Sudan, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Türkiye, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against:* Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic

*Abstaining:* Algeria, Bahrain, Belarus, Cameroon, Central African Republic, China, Comoros, Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Guinea-Bissau, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mongolia, Namibia, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam, Yemen

### 78/183. Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

#### B

*The General Assembly,*

*Taking note* of Economic and Social Council decision 2023/354 of 26 July 2023 concerning the enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

*Taking note also* of the request regarding the enlargement of the Executive Committee contained in the note verbale dated 26 April 2023 from the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General,<sup>209</sup>

1. *Decides* to increase the number of members of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from 109 States to 110 States;
2. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to elect the additional member at a meeting of its management segment in 2024.

<sup>207</sup> E/2023/52.

<sup>208</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Türkiye, Ukraine and United States of America.

<sup>209</sup> E/2023/96.

**RESOLUTION 78/184**

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/474, para. 26)<sup>210</sup>

**78/184. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees**

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the activities of his Office,<sup>211</sup> noting that it includes the second decennial strategic review pursuant to General Assembly resolution 58/153 of 22 December 2003, and the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its seventy-fourth session<sup>212</sup> and the decisions contained therein,

*Recalling* its previous annual resolutions on the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees since its establishment by the General Assembly,

*Expressing deep concern* that the number of people who are forcibly displaced owing to, inter alia, conflict, persecution and violence, including terrorism, is increasing,

*Expressing deep concern also* that the adverse effects of climate change, hazards and environmental degradation are increasing in intensity and frequency, contributing to drive forced displacement and disproportionately affecting persons in vulnerable situations, including forcibly displaced populations in developing countries and particularly in small island developing States and the least developed countries,

*Noting with grave concern* that, despite the unprecedented generosity of host countries and donors, the gap between needs and humanitarian funding continues to grow, and recalling in this context the need for equitable burden- and responsibility-sharing,

*Recognizing* that the greatest share of the refugees and other persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner, the majority of whom are women and children, are hosted by developing countries,

*Noting with grave concern* the continuing impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on refugees and other persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner, as well as their host communities and countries and countries of origin, and recalling that the pandemic requires a global response based on unity, solidarity and multilateral cooperation,

*Recognizing* that forced displacement has, inter alia, humanitarian and development implications,

*Expressing its appreciation* for the leadership shown by the High Commissioner, and commending the staff of his Office and its partners for the competent, courageous and dedicated manner in which they discharge their responsibilities,

*Underlining its strong condemnation* of all forms of violence to which humanitarian personnel are increasingly and perilously exposed,

*Reaffirming* the need for consistency with international law and relevant General Assembly resolutions, and taking into account national policies, priorities and realities,

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<sup>210</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Chad, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania and United States of America.

<sup>211</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/78/12 (Part I) and A/78/12 (Part II)).*

<sup>212</sup> *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 12A (A/78/12/Add.1).

*Recalling* its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations and all subsequent General Assembly resolutions on the subject, including resolution 77/28 of 6 December 2022,

1. *Welcomes* the important work undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and its Executive Committee in the course of the year, which is aimed at strengthening the international protection regime and assisting Governments in meeting protection responsibilities, and underlines the importance of seeking durable solutions, and the significance of the Office's efforts to promote addressing root causes, within its mandate;

2. *Endorses* the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its seventy-fourth session;

3. *Recognizes* the relevance of the Executive Committee's practice of adopting conclusions, welcomes the adoption of a multi-year workplan for the Executive Committee conclusions at its seventy-fourth session, and encourages the Executive Committee to continue the process of adopting conclusions;

4. *Reaffirms* the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees<sup>213</sup> and the 1967 Protocol thereto<sup>214</sup> as the foundation of the international refugee protection regime, recognizes the importance of their full and effective application by States parties and the values they embody, notes with satisfaction that 149 States are now parties to one or both instruments, encourages States not parties to consider acceding to those instruments and States parties with reservations to give consideration to withdrawing them, underlines, in particular, the importance of full respect for the principle of non-refoulement, and recognizes that a number of States not parties to the international refugee instruments have shown a generous approach to hosting refugees;

5. *Urges* States that are parties to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereto to respect their obligations in letter and spirit;

6. *Re-emphasizes* that the protection of refugees is primarily the responsibility of States, whose full and effective cooperation, action and political resolve are required to enable the Office of the High Commissioner to fulfil its mandated functions, and strongly emphasizes the importance of active international solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing;

7. *Welcomes* recent accessions to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons<sup>215</sup> and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness,<sup>216</sup> notes that 97 States are now parties to the 1954 Convention and 79 States are parties to the 1961 Convention, encourages States that have not done so to give consideration to acceding to those instruments, notes the work of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees with regard to identifying stateless persons, preventing and reducing statelessness and protecting stateless persons, and urges the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to work in this area in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions and Executive Committee conclusions;

8. *Re-emphasizes* that prevention and reduction of statelessness are primarily the responsibility of States, in appropriate cooperation with the international community, encourages the fulfilment of the goals of the I Belong campaign to end statelessness, including through the implementation by States of pledges made at the high-level segment that took place at the start of the seventieth plenary session of the Executive Committee, and encourages all States to consider actions they may take to further accelerate the prevention and reduction of statelessness;

9. *Re-emphasizes* that protection of, assistance to and achieving durable solutions for internally displaced persons are primarily the responsibility of States, in appropriate cooperation with the international community, in line with applicable international law, and taking into consideration international and regional norms and standards, as appropriate, and welcomes efforts by States to incorporate such norms and standards into domestic law and national development plans, aimed at, inter alia, facilitating voluntary, safe, sustainable and dignified return, local integration or relocation in their own country;

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<sup>213</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.

<sup>214</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 606, No. 8791.

<sup>215</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 360, No. 5158.

<sup>216</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 989, No. 14458.



10. *Recognizes* the importance of the Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, calls for sustained momentum on this important issue, and encourages the Office of the High Commissioner, in coordination with the Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement, to contribute to the United Nations system's collective efforts to advance durable solutions, with ownership and leadership of affected States;

11. *Notes* the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner related to the protection of, assistance to and durable solutions for internally displaced persons, including in the context of inter-agency arrangements in this field, emphasizes that such activities should be carried out with the full consent of the affected States, consistent with relevant General Assembly resolutions, and should not undermine the refugee mandate of the Office, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue his support for States in this regard;

12. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to respond adequately to emergencies, in accordance with its mandate and in cooperation with States, notes the ongoing measures to reinforce its capacity to respond to emergencies, and encourages the Office to redouble its efforts to ensure a more predictable, effective and timely response;

13. *Also encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to work in partnership and full cooperation with relevant national authorities, United Nations offices and agencies, international and intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations, the private sector and non-governmental organizations to continue to contribute to the development of humanitarian response capacities at all levels;

14. *Welcomes* the efforts by the Office of the High Commissioner to ensure an inclusive, transparent, predictable and well-coordinated response to refugees, as well as internally displaced persons and other persons of concern, consistent with its mandate, and in this regard takes note of the refugee coordination model;

15. *Notes* the significant global and regional initiatives, conferences and summits undertaken to strengthen international solidarity with and cooperation for refugees and other persons of concern, and encourages those who participated to implement their commitments made therein;

16. *Recalls* the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants<sup>217</sup> at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, on 19 September 2016, and encourages States to implement relevant commitments made therein;

17. *Also recalls* the Global Compact on Refugees,<sup>218</sup> affirmed on 17 December 2018,<sup>219</sup> and calls upon the international community as a whole, including States and other relevant stakeholders, to implement the Compact to achieve its four objectives on an equal footing based on the principle of burden- and responsibility-sharing, and in accordance with the guiding principles and paragraph 4 of the Global Compact on Refugees, through concrete actions, pledges and contributions;

18. *Welcomes* the pledges, contributions and commitments made at the first Global Refugee Forum, in December 2019, as well as the sustained engagement of States and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of pledges and in their review process at the first meeting of high-level officials in December 2021, also welcomes the High Commissioner's regular progress report, and encourages engagement in the second Global Refugee Forum, in December 2023;

19. *Underlines* the centrality of international cooperation to the refugee protection regime, recognizes the burden that large movements of refugees place on major and long-standing refugee-hosting countries and communities, as well as their national resources, especially in the case of developing countries, and calls for a more equitable sharing of the burden and responsibility for hosting and supporting the world's refugees, addressing the needs of refugees and hosting States, while taking account of existing contributions and the differing capacities and resources among States;

20. *Expresses concern* over the significant challenges associated with hosting, protecting and integrating refugees in national systems and strategies, given socioeconomic difficulties and stretched resources, affecting, inter alia, infrastructure, social security and the provision of protection services, education, health and employment, and

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<sup>217</sup> Resolution 71/1.

<sup>218</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/73/12 (Part I) and A/73/12 (Part II))*, part II.

<sup>219</sup> See resolution 73/151.

stresses the importance of easing pressure on host countries by facilitating more equitable, sustained and predictable burden- and responsibility-sharing among States and other relevant stakeholders;

21. *Invites* the High Commissioner to continue coordinating the effort to measure the impacts arising from hosting, protecting and assisting refugees, with a view to assessing gaps in international cooperation and promoting burden- and responsibility-sharing that is more equitable, predictable and sustainable, and to report on the results to Member States in 2024;

22. *Emphasizes* the need for robust, well-functioning, concrete arrangements and potential, complementary mechanisms for ensuring predictable, equitable, efficient and effective burden- and responsibility-sharing in the context of the Global Compact on Refugees;

23. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts made by the increased number of countries applying the comprehensive refugee response framework that is part of the Global Compact on Refugees, including through regional approaches, where applicable, such as the comprehensive regional protection and solutions framework (MIRPS), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development regional approach, the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees and the regional cooperation framework to strengthen protection and the search for solutions for people displaced by the Central African crisis, welcomes the launch and efforts of support platforms established for these mechanisms, as concrete arrangements to support responsibility-sharing, and encourages States, and other stakeholders, to continue their efforts to address the needs of the people who require international protection, including through support for host communities;

24. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner and partners to effectively provide and facilitate further support for States in different situations, enabling them to build and expand the capacity of national systems to protect persons of concern to the Office and to the communities hosting them, as well as support for durable solutions and emergency responses, consistent with the principles of burden- and responsibility-sharing, taking into account the importance of national ownership and leadership;

25. *Calls upon* States and other stakeholders that have not yet contributed to burden- and responsibility-sharing to do so, with a view to broadening the support base, in a spirit of international solidarity and cooperation;

26. *Recognizes* the importance of meaningful refugee participation and of integrating the perspectives of refugees and other persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner in humanitarian responses;

27. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue improving its humanitarian assistance response, and stresses the importance of tailored, innovative approaches, including effective cash-based interventions;

28. *Highlights* the importance for States and the Office of the High Commissioner to have, when possible, high-quality and disaggregated data, in accordance with data protection and data privacy principles, and stresses the importance of interoperable data collection and analysis within the United Nations system, consistent with relevant United Nations provisions relating to data, further calls for strengthened coordination in this regard, and welcomes the collaboration of the Office of the High Commissioner with key data actors, development partners and States, including through the Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement, in order to promote evidence-based programming and policymaking at all levels to better target and monitor assistance;

29. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to work with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat to enhance the coordination, effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian response and to contribute, in consultation with States, as appropriate, to making further progress towards common humanitarian needs assessments, as stated, among other important issues, in General Assembly resolution [77/28](#) on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, and recalls the role of the Office of the High Commissioner as the leading entity of the clusters for protection, camp coordination and camp management and emergency shelter in complex emergencies;

30. *Recognizes* the importance of a comprehensive and principled approach to humanitarian response, in particular in protracted situations, including through early recovery activities, to strengthen the resilience of the persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner and their access to basic services;

31. *Welcomes* the active engagement of the Office of the High Commissioner in the United Nations development system reform, including as part of broader efforts towards generating system-wide effectiveness, transparency, accountability and efficiencies;

32. *Expresses deep concern* about the increasing threats to the safety and security of humanitarian aid workers, facilities and convoys and, in particular, the loss of life of humanitarian personnel working in the most difficult and challenging conditions in order to assist those in need, and calls upon all States and parties to armed conflict to fulfil their obligations under international humanitarian law to protect civilian populations and humanitarian personnel and facilities;

33. *Emphasizes* the need for States to ensure that perpetrators of attacks committed on their territory against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel do not act with impunity and that the perpetrators of such acts are promptly brought to justice as provided for by national laws and obligations under international law;

34. *Strongly condemns* attacks on refugees, asylum-seekers, stateless persons and internally displaced persons and acts that pose a threat to their personal security and well-being, calls upon all States concerned and, where applicable, parties involved in an armed conflict to take all measures necessary to respect and ensure respect for human rights, and international humanitarian law, and urges all States to fight racism and all forms of discrimination and intolerance, including racial discrimination, xenophobia, hate speech, stigmatization and stereotyping;

35. *Urges* States to uphold the civilian and humanitarian character of camps and settlements for refugees and internally displaced persons, inter alia, through effective measures to prevent the infiltration of armed elements, to identify and separate any such armed elements from refugee populations, to settle refugees and internally displaced persons in secure locations and to afford to the Office of the High Commissioner and, where appropriate, to other humanitarian organizations prompt, unhindered and safe access to asylum-seekers, refugees and other persons of concern;

36. *Emphasizes* that the international protection of refugees is a dynamic and action-oriented function that is at the core of the mandate of the Office of the High Commissioner and that it includes, in cooperation with States and other partners, the promotion and facilitation of the admission, reception and treatment of refugees in accordance with internationally agreed standards and the ensuring of durable, protection-oriented solutions, bearing in mind the particular needs of the most vulnerable, and notes in this context that the delivery of international protection is a staff-intensive service that requires adequate staff with the appropriate expertise, especially at the field level;

37. *Calls upon* States to process asylum applications by duly identifying those in need of international protection, in accordance with their applicable international and regional obligations, so as to strengthen the refugee protection regime;

38. *Deplores* the growing number of incidents of refoulement and unlawful expulsion of refugees and asylum-seekers, as well as practices of denial of access to asylum, and calls upon all States concerned to respect the relevant principles of refugee protection and human rights;

39. *Stresses* the importance of preventing abuse of asylum systems, including for political purposes, in order to safeguard the efficiency and functionality of asylum systems for those in need of international protection;

40. *Notes with increasing concern* that asylum-seekers, refugees and stateless persons are subject to arbitrary detention in numerous situations and encourages working towards the ending of this practice, welcomes the increasing use of alternatives to detention, especially in the case of children, and emphasizes the need for States to limit detention of asylum-seekers, refugees and stateless persons to that which is necessary, giving full consideration to possible alternatives;

41. *Notes with grave concern* the significant risks to which many persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner are exposed as they attempt to reach safety, and encourages international cooperation to step up efforts to prevent and combat human trafficking and smuggling and to ensure adequate response mechanisms, including, as appropriate, life-saving measures, reception, registration and assistance, including trauma-informed assistance for victims of human trafficking and smuggling, as well as to ensure that safe and regular access to asylum for persons in need of international protection remains open and accessible;

42. *Expresses grave concern* at the large number of asylum-seekers who have lost their lives or gone missing at sea and on land trying to reach safety, encourages international cooperation to further strengthen prevention, search and rescue mechanisms that are in accordance with international law, and commends the great life-saving efforts and actions taken by a number of States in this regard;

43. *Notes* that the lack of civil registration and related documentation makes persons vulnerable to statelessness and associated protection risks, recognizes that birth registration provides an official record of a child's legal identity and is crucial to preventing and reducing statelessness, and welcomes efforts by States to ensure the birth registration of children and other essential documentation;

44. *Notes with concern* that arbitrary deprivation of nationality pushes people into statelessness and is a source of widespread suffering, and calls upon States to refrain from adopting discriminatory measures and from enacting or maintaining legislation that would arbitrarily revoke citizenship of their nationals, rendering a person stateless;

45. *Expresses grave concern* over the unprecedented scale of the global food security and nutrition crisis and the impacts this will have on persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner, who are already in a situation of vulnerability, and calls upon States, humanitarian and development organizations and other relevant partners to take coordinated and immediate action to save lives and reduce suffering in countries at risk of famine, food insecurity, hunger and acute malnutrition, and in this regard takes note of the work of the Secretary-General's Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance and the Committee on World Food Security, bearing in mind its resolution 76/264 of 23 May 2022 on the state of global food insecurity and measures contained to reinforce global food security;

46. *Also expresses grave concern* about the negative long-term impact of continued cuts in food rations on the nutrition, health and well-being of refugees and hosting communities globally and especially its impacts on women and children, owing to insufficient funding and increased costs, and calls upon donors to ensure sustained support for the Office of the High Commissioner and the World Food Programme, while looking to provide refugees with alternatives to food assistance, pending a durable solution;

47. *Recognizes* that the COVID-19 pandemic requires a global response to ensure that all States, in particular developing States, including refugee-hosting countries as well as the countries of origin, have universal, timely, effective and equitable access to safe and effective diagnostics, therapeutics, medicines, vaccines and medical supplies and equipment, calls upon States and other partners to urgently support funding and further explore innovative financing mechanisms aimed at ensuring equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines for all, including persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner and their host communities, bearing in mind that extensive immunization against COVID-19 is a global public good for health in preventing, containing and stopping transmission as countries transition to pandemic recovery, and to ensure that refugees can access correct information to avoid the negative impact of disinformation and misinformation, and stresses the need to adequately prepare for and respond to future public health emergencies of international concern;

48. *Encourages* States and the Office of the High Commissioner to address mental health and psychosocial well-being by promoting the availability and affordability of mental health and psychosocial support to persons of concern to the Office, as well as host communities, and encourages the further strengthening of such measures, including through additional international support;

49. *Recognizes* the generosity of host countries and their differentiated experiences and situations, and in particular welcomes the positive steps taken by individual States to open their labour markets to refugees;

50. *Notes with appreciation* the contributions of refugees in host countries and countries of resettlement, including facilitating the generation of decent work opportunities, with the purpose of developing sustainable livelihoods until durable solutions are achieved, and recalls that further international cooperation is needed in support of host communities, particularly in long-standing refugee-hosting countries;

51. *Notes* the importance of age, gender and diversity mainstreaming in analysing protection needs and ensuring the participation of refugees and other persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner, as appropriate, in the planning and implementation of programmes of the Office and of State policies, affirms the importance of according priority to addressing discrimination, gender inequality and the problem of sexual and gender-based violence, recognizing the importance of addressing the protection needs and rights of women, children and persons with disabilities in particular, through an inclusive approach, and underlines the importance of continuing to work on those issues;

52. *Encourages* States and the Office of the High Commissioner to ensure that the perspectives of women and girls in situations of displacement are taken into account by promoting their meaningful participation in matters affecting them, as well as women's full and equal participation in the design, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of policies, programmes and activities related to humanitarian response;

53. *Calls upon* Member States, in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner and with the support of other stakeholders, to ensure that the humanitarian needs of persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner, and their host communities, including clean water, food and nutrition, shelter, education, livelihoods, energy, health, including sexual and reproductive health, and other protection needs, are addressed as components of humanitarian response, including through providing timely and adequate resources, while ensuring that their collaborative efforts fully adhere to humanitarian principles;

54. *Welcomes* and calls upon States, the Office of the High Commissioner and other stakeholders to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, and in this regard urges Member States, in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner, and with the support of other stakeholders, to ensure reliable and safe access for persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner to sexual and reproductive health-care services, as well as basic health-care services and psychosocial support from the onset of emergencies, while recognizing that relevant services are important in order to effectively meet the needs of women and adolescent girls and infants and protect them from preventable mortality and morbidity that occur in humanitarian emergencies;

55. *Encourages* States to put in place appropriate systems and procedures to ensure that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration with regard to all actions concerning refugee children and to protect them from all forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence, while taking into account the situation of those with disabilities;

56. *Encourages* States and the Office of the High Commissioner to support and enable the full and meaningful participation of persons with disabilities, including those in particularly vulnerable situations, and their representative organizations, in the design, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of policies, programmes and activities related to humanitarian response, and to consult relevant experts on the rights of persons with disabilities, and further requests the Office to continue its work on the implementation of the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy and to regularly report to the Executive Committee on its progress;

57. *Notes with concern* that a large proportion of the world's out-of-school population lives in conflict-affected areas, and calls upon States, in their implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees, to lend support to host countries in providing quality primary, secondary and tertiary education in safe learning environments for all refugee children, youth and adults, and to develop more inclusive, responsive and resilient education systems to meet the needs of children, youth and adults in these contexts, including internally displaced persons and refugees,<sup>220</sup> and underlines the importance of quality education in countries of origin and the role of international cooperation in this regard;

58. *Welcomes* the increased attention and efforts of the Office of the High Commissioner to address and respond to matters related to the impact of climate change in its work, including the adoption of a strategic framework for climate action, within its mandate, in consultation with national authorities and in cooperation with competent agencies;

59. *Calls upon* States to take appropriate measures to address climate change, including with a view to building local and national resilience and capacity to prevent, prepare for and respond to displacement in this context in particular in developing countries, including in small island developing States and the least developed countries;

60. *Calls upon* donors, the Office of the High Commissioner and other stakeholders to mobilize and provide additional support for adaptation and mitigation of environmental impacts of hosting large numbers of refugees and other forcibly displaced people, including by supporting renewable energy, environmental protection and rehabilitation initiatives for refugees and other forcibly displaced people and their host communities;

61. *Recognizes* the importance of achieving durable solutions to refugee situations and, in particular, the need to address in this process their root causes;

62. *Strongly reaffirms* the fundamental importance and the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the function of the Office of the High Commissioner of providing international protection to refugees and seeking durable solutions for them and for refugee situations, and recalls that those solutions include voluntary repatriation and, where appropriate and feasible, local integration and resettlement in a third country, while reaffirming that

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<sup>220</sup> See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Final Report of the World Education Forum 2015, Incheon, Republic of Korea, 19–22 May 2015* (Paris, 2015).

voluntary repatriation, supported, as necessary, by rehabilitation and development assistance to facilitate sustainable reintegration, remains the preferred solution;

63. *Expresses concern* about the particular difficulties faced by the millions of refugees in protracted situations, recognizes with deep concern that the average length of stay has continued to grow, and emphasizes the need to redouble international efforts and cooperation to find practical and comprehensive approaches to resolving the plight of refugees and to realize durable solutions, consistent with international law and relevant General Assembly resolutions;

64. *Encourages* further efforts by the Office of the High Commissioner, in cooperation with countries hosting refugees and countries of origin, including their respective local communities, relevant United Nations agencies, international and intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations, as appropriate, non-governmental organizations and development actors, to actively promote durable solutions, particularly in protracted refugee situations, with a focus on sustainable, timely, voluntary, safe and dignified return, which encompasses repatriation, reintegration, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities, and encourages States and other relevant actors to continue to support these efforts through, inter alia, the allocation of funds;

65. *Recalls* the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the Office of the High Commissioner, calls upon the international community and the Office to coordinate and exert further efforts to promote and facilitate, whenever the prevailing circumstances are deemed appropriate, the safe, dignified and voluntary repatriation of refugees, through their free and informed choice, in a sustainable manner, to their countries of origin, and encourages the Office and, where appropriate, other United Nations agencies, to mobilize further resources in this regard;

66. *Expresses concern* about the current low level of voluntary repatriation, encourages the solution-oriented approach pursued by the Office of the High Commissioner to support the sustainability of voluntary repatriation and reintegration, including from the onset of displacement, and in this regard urges the Office to further strengthen partnerships with national Governments and development actors, as well as international financial institutions;

67. *Recognizes*, in the context of voluntary repatriation, the importance of resolute efforts in the country of origin, including rehabilitation and development assistance, to foster the voluntary, safe and dignified return and sustainable reintegration of refugees and to ensure the restoration of national protection;

68. *Acknowledges with appreciation* voluntary action taken by several host countries to enable permanent residence and naturalization for refugees and former refugees;

69. *Recognizes* the importance of resettlement as a strategic protection tool and a durable solution for refugees in reducing the pressure on refugee-hosting countries in protracted situations, as a measure for international protection, as well as in opening possibilities for other durable solutions;

70. *Calls upon* States and the Office of the High Commissioner to create expanded opportunities for inclusive and non-discriminatory resettlement as a durable solution, broaden the base of countries and actors engaged, expand the scope and size, and maximize the protection and quality of resettlement as an invaluable tool for burden- and responsibility-sharing, and acknowledges with appreciation countries that continue to offer enhanced resettlement opportunities;

71. *Reaffirms* that accelerating complementary pathways to solutions is crucial for addressing protracted refugee situations, and recognizes the importance of the work of the Office of the High Commissioner for seeking durable solutions for refugees, in accordance with its mandate;

72. *Calls upon* States to consider creating, expanding or facilitating access to complementary and sustainable pathways to protection and solutions for refugees, in cooperation with relevant partners, including the private sector, where appropriate, including through humanitarian admission or transfer, family reunification, skilled migration, labour mobility schemes, scholarships and education mobility schemes;

73. *Notes* the importance of States and the Office of the High Commissioner discussing and clarifying the role of the Office in mixed movements in order to better address protection needs of people in the context of mixed movements, bearing in mind the particular needs of persons in vulnerable situations, especially women, children and persons with disabilities, including by safeguarding access to asylum for those in need of international protection, and also notes the readiness of the High Commissioner, consistent with his mandate, to assist States in fulfilling their protection responsibilities in this regard;

74. *Emphasizes* the obligation of all States to accept the return of their nationals, calls upon States to facilitate the return of their nationals who have been determined not to be in need of international protection, in collaboration with the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, and affirms the need for the return of persons to be undertaken in a safe and humane manner and with full respect for their human rights and dignity, irrespective of the status of the persons concerned;

75. *Notes* the transformation process that the High Commissioner is implementing to establish clearer authorities and lines of accountability, including through regionalization and decentralization, to enable a more timely, relevant and efficient response to the needs of persons of concern and to ensure the effective and transparent use of the Office's resources;

76. *Affirms* the importance of a geographically diverse, inclusive and representative workforce, with a view to reflecting the international character of the Office of the High Commissioner, and calls upon the Office to take effective measures to ensure balanced geographical representation across the regions, in particular from underrepresented States and large refugee-hosting States, among its workforce both at headquarters and in the field, with due consideration for gender parity, racial equality, disability and age, particularly at the senior level, which will also promote a better understanding of the working environment;

77. *Welcomes* the commitment and efforts of the Office of the High Commissioner to prevent, mitigate and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment, fraud, corruption and other forms of misconduct, and encourages the Office to sustain action with a view to strengthening and enforcing the zero-tolerance approach;

78. *Expresses concern* that the needs required to protect and assist persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner continue to increase and that the gap between global needs and available resources continues to grow, appreciates the continued and increasing hospitality of host countries and generosity of donors, and therefore calls upon the Office to further enhance efforts to broaden its donor base so as to achieve greater burden- and responsibility-sharing by reinforcing cooperation with governmental donors, non-governmental donors and the private sector;

79. *Recognizes* that adequate and timely resources are essential for the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to fulfil the mandate conferred upon it through its statute<sup>221</sup> and by subsequent General Assembly resolutions on refugees and other persons of concern, recalls its resolution 58/153 and subsequent resolutions on the Office of the High Commissioner concerning, inter alia, the implementation of paragraph 20 of the statute of the Office, and urges Governments and other donors to respond promptly to annual and supplementary appeals issued by the Office for requirements under its programmes, keeping in mind the importance of unearmarked and other flexible funding;

80. *Acknowledges with appreciation* the cooperation of the Office of the High Commissioner with development partners, noting the advantages of complementarity of funding sources to support refugees and host communities as requested by host Governments, and the importance of doing so in a manner that does not negatively impact or reduce support for broader development objectives in host countries and, where appropriate, countries of origin;

81. *Renews its call upon* all States and other relevant stakeholders to provide the necessary support for the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees and its comprehensive refugee response framework with a view to sharing the burden and responsibilities for hosting and supporting refugees, while recognizing contributions already made to ensure timely, adequate, flexible and needs-driven humanitarian assistance, and underscores the critical importance of additional development support over and above regular development assistance for host countries and countries of origin in a spirit of partnership, respecting country ownership and leadership;

82. *Urges* all States and relevant non-governmental and other organizations, in conjunction with the Office of the High Commissioner, in a spirit of international solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing, to cooperate and to mobilize resources, including through financial and in-kind assistance, as well as direct aid to host countries, countries of origin, refugee populations and the communities hosting them, with a view to enhancing their capacity and reducing the heavy burden borne by countries and communities hosting refugees, in particular those that have received large numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers, and whose generosity is appreciated;

83. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to play its catalytic role in mobilizing assistance from the international community to address the root causes, as well as the environmental, development,

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<sup>221</sup> Resolution 428 (V), annex.



security and social impacts and economic and financial constraints faced by developing countries hosting refugee populations, in particular the least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition, and notes with appreciation those States, organizations and individuals that contribute to improving the conditions for refugees through building their resilience and that of their host communities, while working towards addressing root causes and the attainment of durable solutions;

84. *Requests* the High Commissioner to report on his annual activities to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session.

#### RESOLUTION 78/185

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/474, para. 26)<sup>222</sup>

##### **78/185. Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* the Organization of African Unity Convention governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa of 1969<sup>223</sup> and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights,<sup>224</sup>

*Reaffirming* that the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees,<sup>225</sup> together with the 1967 Protocol thereto,<sup>226</sup> as complemented by the Organization of African Unity Convention of 1969, remains the foundation of the international refugee protection regime in Africa,

*Welcoming* the entry into force on 6 December 2012 and the ongoing process of ratification of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa,<sup>227</sup> which marks a significant step towards strengthening the national and regional normative frameworks for the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons,

*Recalling* the decision of the African Union to declare 2019 as the African Year of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa,

*Recognizing* the particular vulnerability of women and children, as well as older persons and persons with disabilities, among refugees and displaced persons, including exposure to discrimination, sexual exploitation and abuse, physical abuse, violence and exploitation and the recruitment and use of children by parties to armed conflict in violation of applicable international law, and in this regard acknowledging the importance of preventing, responding to and addressing sexual and gender-based violence as well as violations and abuses committed against refugee, returnee and displaced children,

*Expressing gravest concerns* about the humanitarian impact of and risks posed by the short- and long-term impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, including on the already significant levels of humanitarian and development needs and suffering of affected people and communities, recognizing the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on women, children and people in vulnerable situations, and profoundly concerned by rising humanitarian assistance and protection needs including due to the increase in violence, including sexual and gender-based violence and violence against children, and the significant impact on education, especially for girls, as well as high levels of food insecurity and malnutrition and rising risks of famine, loss of livelihoods, and all the negative impacts on health, including mental health, which are also exacerbated by weakened health systems, and the impacts

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<sup>222</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Canada, Colombia, Congo (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States), Denmark, Georgia, Greece, Ireland, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Nicaragua, North Macedonia, Palau, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Türkiye, Ukraine, United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

<sup>223</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1001, No. 14691.

<sup>224</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1520, No. 26363.

<sup>225</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 189, No. 2545.

<sup>226</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 606, No. 8791.

<sup>227</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 3014, No. 52375.

## V. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Third Committee

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and risks for displacement; and recognizing the compounded risks and impacts due to armed conflict, poverty, natural disasters, violence, the adverse effects of climate change, and other environmental challenges; and further recognizing the efforts and measures proposed by the Secretary-General concerning the response to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic,

*Gravely concerned* about the continued rising number of refugees and displaced persons in various parts of the continent,

*Acknowledging* the efforts of Member States, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other stakeholders in improving the situation of refugees and their host communities,

*Expressing grave concern* about funding gaps in the budgets of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Food Programme, which are among the most underfunded, in responding to various refugee situations in different parts of Africa, which are a major factor leading to the deterioration in living conditions in many refugee camps in Africa,

*Emphasizing* the need to develop a holistic approach in addressing large movements of population that takes into account the underlying causes of displacement,

*Recognizing* that refugees, internally displaced persons and, in particular, women and children are at an increased risk of exposure to HIV and AIDS, malaria and other diseases,

*Recalling* the high-level segment on the theme “Enhancing international cooperation, solidarity, local capacities and humanitarian action for refugees in Africa” of the sixty-fifth session of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, held in Geneva from 29 September to 3 October 2014, and the statement adopted on 30 September 2014 by States members of the Executive Committee,<sup>228</sup> and expressing deep concern that this particular event has not mobilized the necessary support for refugees and their hosting countries and communities,

*Welcoming* progress made in the implementation of the Nairobi Declaration on Durable Solutions for Somali Refugees and the Reintegration of Returnees in Somalia, welcoming also the nomination of the Special Envoy of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for the Horn of Africa, the adoption of the Djibouti declaration on refugee education in December 2017 and the Kampala Declaration on Jobs, Livelihoods and Self-Reliance for Refugees, Returnees and Host Communities in the Intergovernmental Authority on Development Region, adopted on 28 March 2019, and welcoming further the reaffirmation by Member States of the commitment to promote inclusive policies towards refugees, as noted in the communiqué of the second interministerial stocktaking meeting on the Nairobi Declaration and Action Plan,

*Recalling* the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region, adopted by the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region in 2006, and its instruments, in particular two of the protocols to the Pact that are relevant to the protection of displaced persons, namely, the Protocol on the Protection of and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons and the Protocol on the Property Rights of Returning Persons,

*Acknowledging with appreciation* the generosity, hospitality and spirit of solidarity of African States, including host communities, that, despite their limited resources, continue to host a large number of refugees, owing to humanitarian crises and protracted refugee situations, and in this regard expressing particular appreciation for the commitment and efforts of neighbouring countries in the recent humanitarian crises on the continent,

*Welcoming* efforts by African States that endeavour to facilitate the voluntary repatriation, local integration, resettlement and rehabilitation of refugees and to promote conditions conducive to the voluntary return and sustainable reintegration of refugees in their country of origin, acknowledging with appreciation the coordination of humanitarian assistance by the United Nations as well as the continuing efforts of donors, the United Nations system, including the Office of the High Commissioner, regional organizations, international agencies, non-governmental organizations and other partners,

*Welcoming also* efforts made with regard to durable solutions for addressing the plight of refugees during emergencies, and recalling that those solutions include voluntary repatriation and, where appropriate and feasible,

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<sup>228</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 12A (A/69/12/Add.1), annex I.

local integration and resettlement in a third country, while reaffirming that voluntary repatriation, supported, as necessary, by rehabilitation and development assistance to facilitate sustainable reintegration, remains the preferred solution,

*Recognizing* that host States have the primary responsibility for the protection of and assistance to refugees on their territory, recognizing also the need to redouble efforts to develop and implement comprehensive durable solution strategies, in appropriate cooperation with the international community and with regard to burden- and responsibility-sharing, and recognizing further the efforts of all States in this regard,

*Emphasizing* that States have the primary responsibility to provide protection and assistance to internally displaced persons within their jurisdiction, as well as to address the root causes of the displacement problem, in appropriate cooperation with the international community,

*Expressing concern* regarding the decreasing trend in resettlement opportunities, and recognizing the need to expand resettlement opportunities,

*Recognizing* the need to encourage increased efforts to facilitate and assist voluntary return and local integration,

*Welcoming* the ongoing implementation of pledges made by States at the intergovernmental ministerial event held in 2011 to mark the sixtieth anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the fiftieth anniversary of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness,<sup>229</sup>

*Acknowledging* the efforts made by States and regional groups since the launch of the #IBelong campaign to eradicate statelessness and to afford protection to stateless people, as well as the commitments made during the high-level segment on statelessness convened by the Office of the High Commissioner, as well as the outcomes of the fifth Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration, both held in October 2019,

*Reaffirming* 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,<sup>230</sup> 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 challenges of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

*Taking note* of the World Humanitarian Summit, held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 23 and 24 May 2016, while recognizing that it did not have an intergovernmentally agreed outcome, and welcoming the commitment of the African Heads of State and Government, adopted by the African Union, on the theme “One Africa, One Voice, One Message at the World Humanitarian Summit”,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General<sup>231</sup> and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;<sup>232</sup>

2. *Calls upon* African States that have not yet signed or ratified the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa to consider doing so as early as possible in order to ensure its wider implementation;

3. *Notes* the need for African States, with the support and collaboration of the international community, to resolutely address the root causes of all forms of forced displacement in Africa and to foster peace, stability and prosperity throughout the African continent;

4. *Recalls* the Global Compact on Refugees as set out in the High Commissioner’s annual report (part II) of 2018,<sup>233</sup> affirmed on 17 December 2018,<sup>234</sup> and calls upon the international community as a whole, including States and other relevant stakeholders, to implement the Compact in order to achieve its four objectives on an equal footing

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<sup>229</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 989, No. 14458.

<sup>230</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>231</sup> A/78/183.

<sup>232</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/78/12 (Part I))*.

<sup>233</sup> See A/73/12 (Part II).

<sup>234</sup> See resolution 73/151.

based on the principle of burden- and responsibility-sharing, and in accordance with the guiding principles and paragraph 4 of the Global Compact on Refugees, through concrete actions, pledges and contributions, including at the first Global Refugee Forum in December 2019, and requests the High Commissioner to report regularly on the progress being made;

5. *Welcomes* the important outcomes of the six continental consultative meetings that were organized under the 2019 theme of the African Union, “Year of refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons: towards durable solutions to forced displacement in Africa”, with regard to global responsibility-sharing, the role of parliamentarians in preventing and resolving forced displacement, statelessness, the mixed movements of refugees and migrants, and the ratification and implementation of the Organization of African Unity Convention governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa of 1969 and the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention) of 2009;

6. *Reaffirms* the central role played by the Heads of State and Government of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development towards the successful negotiations in Khartoum and the eventual signing of the final Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan between the Government and the opposition movements during the thirty-third extraordinary summit, held in Addis Ababa on 12 September 2018, and encourages ongoing efforts to fully implement this agreement in order to achieve a sustainable and lasting peace;

7. *Commends* the continued efforts and commitment by the regional Governments towards resolving conflicts in the region, including the ongoing mediation by the Sudan between the parties to the conflict in the Central African Republic under the umbrella of the African Initiative for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic;

8. *Welcomes* the outcome of the second regional protection dialogue on the Lake Chad basin, held in Nigeria in January 2019, as well as the signing of the Abuja Action Statement by the Governments of Cameroon, Chad, the Niger and Nigeria, with a view to enhancing the response to the urgent needs of refugees, internally displaced persons, returnees and host communities;

9. *Also welcomes* the regional dialogue on protection and solutions related to the situation of forced displacement in the Sahel, held in Bamako on 11 and 12 September 2019, hosted by the Government of Mali, with the participation of government officials from Burkina Faso, Chad, Mauritania and the Niger, and further welcomes the outcome of the dialogue, namely, the Bamako conclusions and ministerial declaration adopted in Geneva on 9 October 2019;

10. *Notes with great concern* that, despite all the efforts made so far by the United Nations, the African Union and others, the situation of refugees and displaced persons in Africa remains precarious and the number of refugees and internally displaced persons has dramatically increased, and calls upon States and other parties to armed conflict to observe scrupulously the letter and spirit of, and respect and ensure respect for, international humanitarian law, bearing in mind that armed conflict is one of the principal causes of forced displacement in Africa;

11. *Welcomes* decision Assembly/AU/Decl. 8 (XXXII), adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at its thirty-second ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa on 10 and 11 February 2019, in which the 2019 theme of the African Union was declared to be the “Year of refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons: towards durable solutions to forced displacement in Africa”;

12. *Expresses its appreciation* for the leadership shown by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and commends the Office for its ongoing efforts, with the support of the international community, to assist African States hosting large numbers of refugees, including by providing support to vulnerable local host communities, and to respond to the protection and assistance needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa;

13. *Notes* the call of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for a generalized and collective mobilization of the international community to mitigate the short- and long-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and calls for a strengthening of international cooperation in order to ensure equitable and timely access to safe, effective and quality vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics;

14. *Recognizes* that the COVID-19 pandemic requires a global response to ensure that all States, in particular developing States, including refugee-hosting countries as well as the countries of origin, have universal, timely, effective, quality and equitable access to safe and effective diagnostics, therapeutics, medicines, vaccines and medical

supplies and equipment, and calls upon States and other partners to urgently support funding and further explore innovative financing mechanisms aimed at ensuring access to the COVID-19 vaccines for all, including persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner and their host communities, bearing in mind that extensive immunization against COVID-19 is a global public good for health in preventing, containing and stopping transmission and bringing the pandemic to an end, and to ensure that refugees can access correct information to avoid the negative impact of disinformation and misinformation;

15. *Notes with appreciation* the ongoing initiatives taken by the African Union, the Subcommittee on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons of its Permanent Representatives Committee and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, in particular the role of its Special Rapporteur on Refugees, Asylum Seekers, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, to ensure the protection of and assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa;

16. *Underlines* the need to provide an efficient humanitarian response to internally displaced persons, and recognizes in this regard the importance of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa;

17. *Acknowledges* the important contribution of age, gender and diversity mainstreaming in identifying, through the full participation of women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities, the protection risks faced by the different members of the refugee communities, in particular the non-discriminatory treatment and protection of women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities;

18. *Affirms* that children, because of their age, social status and physical and mental development, are often more vulnerable than adults in situations of forced displacement, recognizes that forced displacement, return to post-conflict situations, integration into new societies, protracted situations of displacement and statelessness can increase child protection risks, taking into account the particular vulnerability of displaced children to forcible exposure to the risks of physical and psychological injury, exploitation and death in connection with armed conflict, as well as the recruitment and use of children by parties to armed conflict in violation of applicable international law, and acknowledges that wider environmental factors and individual risk factors, particularly when combined, may generate different protection needs;

19. *Recognizes* that no solution to forced displacement can be durable unless it is sustainable, and therefore encourages the Office of the High Commissioner to support the sustainability of durable solutions, and recalls that those solutions include voluntary repatriation and, where appropriate and feasible, local integration and resettlement in a third country, while reaffirming that voluntary repatriation, supported, as necessary, by rehabilitation and development assistance to facilitate sustainable reintegration, remains the preferred solution;

20. *Reaffirms* the conclusion on civil registration adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at its sixty-fourth session, held in Geneva from 30 September to 4 October 2013,<sup>235</sup> and recognizes the importance of early registration and effective registration systems and censuses as a tool of protection and as a means to the quantification and assessment of needs for the provision and distribution of humanitarian assistance and to implement appropriate durable solutions;

21. *Also reaffirms* the conclusion on registration of refugees and asylum-seekers adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner at its fifty-second session,<sup>236</sup> notes the many forms of harassment faced by refugees and asylum-seekers who remain without any form of documentation attesting to their status, recalls the responsibility of States to register refugees on their territories and, as appropriate, the responsibility of the Office of the High Commissioner or mandated international bodies to do so, reiterates in this context the central role that early and effective registration and documentation can play, guided by protection considerations, in enhancing protection and supporting efforts to find durable solutions, and calls upon the Office, as appropriate, to help States to conduct this procedure should they be unable to register refugees on their territory;

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<sup>235</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 12A (A/68/12/Add.1)*, chap. III, sect. A.

<sup>236</sup> *Ibid.*, *Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 12A (A/56/12/Add.1)*, chap. III, sect. B.

22. *Appreciates* the ongoing efforts undertaken by Member States to implement the conclusion on machine-readable travel documents for refugees and stateless persons adopted by the Executive Committee at its sixty-eighth session;<sup>237</sup>

23. *Calls upon* the international community, including States and the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant United Nations organizations, within their respective mandates, to take concrete action to meet the protection and assistance needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons and to contribute generously to projects and programmes aimed at alleviating their plight, facilitating durable solutions and supporting vulnerable local host communities;

24. *Acknowledges* the efforts made by the African countries applying the comprehensive refugee response framework, and underscores the importance for the international community of ensuring adequate, timely and predictable support;

25. *Reaffirms* the importance of timely and adequate assistance and protection for refugees, returnees and displaced persons, also reaffirms that assistance and protection are mutually reinforcing and that inadequate material assistance and food shortages undermine protection, notes the importance of a rights- and community-based approach in engaging constructively with individual refugees, returnees and displaced persons and their communities so as to achieve fair and equitable access to food and other forms of material assistance, and expresses concern with regard to situations in which minimum standards of assistance are not met, including those in which adequate needs assessments have yet to be undertaken;

26. *Also reaffirms* that respect by States for their protection responsibilities towards refugees is strengthened by international solidarity involving all members of the international community and that the refugee protection regime is enhanced through committed international cooperation in a spirit of solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing among all States;

27. *Further reaffirms* that host States have the primary responsibility to ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum, calls upon States, in cooperation with international organizations, within their mandates, to take all measures necessary to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection and, in particular, to ensure that the civilian and humanitarian nature of refugee camps is not compromised by the presence or the activities of armed elements or used for purposes that are incompatible with their civilian character, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue efforts, in consultation with States and other relevant actors, to ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of camps;

28. *Condemns* all acts that pose a threat to the personal security and well-being of refugees and asylum-seekers, such as refoulement, unlawful expulsion and physical attacks, calls upon States of refuge, in cooperation with international organizations, where appropriate, to take all measures necessary to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection, including the humane treatment of asylum-seekers, notes with interest that the High Commissioner has continued to take steps to encourage the development of measures to better ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue those efforts, in consultation with States and other relevant actors;

29. *Deplores* the continuing violence and insecurity, which constitute an ongoing threat to the safety and security of staff members of the Office of the High Commissioner and other humanitarian organizations and an obstacle to the effective fulfilment of the mandate of the Office and the ability of its implementing partners and other humanitarian personnel to discharge their respective humanitarian functions, urges States, parties to conflict and all other relevant actors to take all measures necessary to protect activities related to humanitarian assistance, prevent attacks on and kidnapping of national and international humanitarian workers and ensure the safety and security of the personnel and property of the Office and that of all humanitarian organizations discharging functions mandated by the Office, and calls upon States to investigate fully any crime committed against humanitarian personnel and bring to justice the persons responsible for such crimes;

30. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner, the African Union, subregional organizations and all African States, in conjunction with agencies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the international community, to strengthen and revitalize existing partnerships and forge new ones

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<sup>237</sup> Ibid., *Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 12A (A/72/12/Add.1)*, chap. III, sect. A.

in support of the protection system for refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced persons, and encourages African States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying and enforcing the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel;<sup>238</sup>

31. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner, the international community, donors and other entities concerned to continue and, where appropriate, to intensify their support to African Governments through appropriate capacity-building activities, including training of relevant officers, disseminating information about refugee instruments and principles, providing financial, technical, legal and advisory services to accelerate the enactment or amendment and implementation of legislation relating to refugees, strengthening emergency response and enhancing capacities for the coordination of humanitarian activities, in particular to those Governments that have received large numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers;

32. *Reaffirms* the right of return, in accordance with international law, and the principle of voluntary repatriation, appeals to countries of origin and countries of asylum to create conditions that are conducive to voluntary repatriation, and recognizes that, while voluntary repatriation remains the pre-eminent solution, local integration and third-country resettlement, where appropriate and feasible, are also viable options for dealing with the situation of African refugees who, owing to prevailing circumstances in their respective countries of origin, are unable to return home;

33. *Also reaffirms* that voluntary repatriation should not necessarily be conditioned on the accomplishment of political solutions in the country of origin in order not to impede the exercise of the refugees' right to return, recognizes that the voluntary repatriation and reintegration process is normally guided by the conditions in the country of origin, in particular that voluntary repatriation can be accomplished in conditions of safety and dignity, urges the High Commissioner to promote sustainable return through the development of durable and lasting solutions, particularly in protracted refugee situations, and encourages States and other relevant actors to continue to support these efforts through, inter alia, the allocation of funds;

34. *Calls upon* the international donor community to provide financial and material assistance which allows for the implementation of community-based development programmes that benefit both refugees and host communities, as appropriate, in agreement with host countries and consistent with humanitarian objectives;

35. *Recognizes* the increase in the number and scale of disasters, including those related to the adverse effects of climate change, which in certain circumstances may contribute to displacement and additional pressure on host communities, encourages the United Nations and all relevant actors to strengthen the efforts aimed at addressing the needs of persons displaced within the context of such disasters, and notes in this regard the importance of sharing best practices to prevent and prepare for such displacements;

36. *Appeals* to the international community to respond positively, in the spirit of solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing, to the third-country resettlement needs of African refugees, notes in this regard the importance of using resettlement strategically, as part of situation-specific comprehensive responses to refugee situations, and to this end encourages States, the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant partners to make full use of the Multilateral Framework of Understandings on Resettlement, where appropriate and feasible;

37. *Expresses serious concern* about the chronic underfunding for humanitarian assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons in Africa;

38. *Calls upon* the international donor community to provide assistance for material, financial and technical support intended for the rehabilitation of the environment and infrastructure affected by refugees in countries of asylum as well as internally displaced persons, where appropriate, and notes with concern the environmental degradation in these areas;

39. *Urges* the international community, in line with the principles of international solidarity and burden-sharing, to continue to fund generously the refugee programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant humanitarian organizations and, taking into account the substantially increased needs of programmes in Africa, inter alia, as a result of repatriation possibilities, to ensure that Africa receives a fair and equitable share of the

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<sup>238</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2051, No. 35457.



resources designated for refugees, and recognizes the importance of increased, flexible, predictable and multi-year funding;

40. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner and interested States to identify protracted refugee situations which might lend themselves to resolution through the development of specific, multilateral, comprehensive and practical approaches to resolving such refugee situations, including the improvement of international burden- and responsibility-sharing and the realization of durable solutions, within a multilateral context, and recalls that those solutions include voluntary repatriation and, where appropriate and feasible, local integration and resettlement in a third country, while reaffirming that voluntary repatriation, supported, as necessary, by rehabilitation and development assistance to facilitate sustainable reintegration, remains the preferred solution;

41. *Recalls* the need to reflect on effective strategies to ensure adequate protection and assistance for internally displaced persons and to prevent and reduce such displacement, and in this regard encourages the Secretary-General to work with Member States and the United Nations system to explore ways to better address the long-term needs of internally displaced persons, support communities that host them and improve the lives of the many millions of internally displaced persons;

42. *Expresses grave concern* about the plight of internally displaced persons in Africa, welcomes the efforts of African States in strengthening the regional mechanisms for the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, calls upon States to take concrete action to pre-empt internal displacement and to meet the protection and assistance needs of internally displaced persons, recalls in that regard the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement,<sup>239</sup> notes the current activities of the Office of the High Commissioner related to the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, including in the context of inter-agency arrangements in this field, emphasizes that such activities should be consistent with relevant General Assembly resolutions and should not undermine the refugee mandate of the Office and the institution of asylum, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue his dialogue with States on the role of his Office in this regard;

43. *Welcomes* the efforts by the High Commissioner to improve coordination with Member States and other United Nations agencies;

44. *Also welcomes* the efforts by the High Commissioner towards regionalization and decentralization, including to ensure that decision-making is closer to the point of delivery, and towards efficiency gains as efforts continue to advance refugee protection and solutions;

45. *Encourages* African States, together with development and humanitarian actors, to work closely on multi-year strategies for refugees and internally displaced persons, factoring in the subregional dimension of many forced displacement crises;

46. *Invites* the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the human rights of internally displaced persons to continue the ongoing dialogue with Member States and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, in accordance with the Council's mandate, and to include information thereon in all reports to the Council and the General Assembly;

47. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session, taking fully into account, inter alia, the situation of their host communities, refugee camps and the efforts expended by countries of asylum and those aimed at bridging funding gaps, under the item entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions".

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<sup>239</sup> E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex.

RESOLUTION 78/186

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 112 to 4, with 64 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/475, para. 12)<sup>240</sup>

\* *In favour:* Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, 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, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against:* Belarus, Israel, Nicaragua, Russian Federation

*Abstaining:* Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Dominica, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Sudan, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Tonga, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

**78/186. Report of the Human Rights Council**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 60/251 of 15 March 2006, by which it established the Human Rights Council, and 65/281 of 17 June 2011 on the review of the Council,

*Recalling also* its resolutions 62/219 of 22 December 2007, 63/160 of 18 December 2008, 64/143 of 18 December 2009, 65/195 of 21 December 2010, 66/136 of 19 December 2011, 67/151 of 20 December 2012, 68/144 of 18 December 2013, 69/155 of 18 December 2014, 70/136 of 17 December 2015, 71/174 of 19 December 2016, 72/153 of 19 December 2017, 73/152 of 17 December 2018, 74/132 of 18 December 2019, 75/165 of 16 December 2020, 76/145 of 16 December 2021 and 77/200 of 15 December 2022,

*Having considered* the recommendations contained in the report of the Human Rights Council,<sup>241</sup>

*Takes note* of the report of the Human Rights Council, including the addendum thereto, and its recommendations.

<sup>240</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

<sup>241</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/78/53); and ibid., Supplement No. 53A (A/78/53/Add.1).*

## RESOLUTION 78/187

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/476, para. 19)<sup>242</sup>

### 78/187. Rights of the child

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* the importance of its resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989, by which it adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>243</sup> which constitutes the standard in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child,

*Reaffirming also* that the rights of the child are human rights, and that these rights need to be protected and upheld both offline and online,

*Reaffirming further* that States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child shall undertake all appropriate measures for the implementation of the rights recognized therein, while bearing in mind the importance of the Optional Protocols to the Convention<sup>244</sup> and calling for their universal ratification and effective implementation, as well as that of other human rights instruments,

*Reaffirming* that the general principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including the best interests of the child, and non-discrimination, participation and survival and development of the child, provide the framework for actions concerning children, including in the digital environment,

*Reaffirming also* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>245</sup> which proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set out therein, without distinction of any kind, and recalling that 2023 marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of its adoption,

*Reaffirming further* resolution 70/1, adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, while taking note of the interconnectedness of the Sustainable Development Goals set in the 2030 Agenda and the rights proclaimed in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and reaffirming the commitment at the very heart of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind, including children, and in this regard emphasizing the impact of the digital environment on the rights of the child,

*Underscoring* the importance of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in ensuring the enjoyment of the rights of the child and their well-being,

*Noting* that States parties should implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child in relation to the digital environment, including the importance of privacy to children’s agency, dignity and safety, and for the exercise of their rights,

*Recognizing* the importance of the digital environment in children’s lives for the realization of the rights enshrined in, inter alia, the Convention of the rights of the Child,

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<sup>242</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nicaragua, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

<sup>243</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>244</sup> Ibid., vols. 2171, 2173 and 2983, No. 27531.

<sup>245</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).

*Recalling* the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>246</sup> the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>247</sup> the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,<sup>248</sup> the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,<sup>249</sup> the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance,<sup>250</sup> the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees<sup>251</sup> and the 1967 Protocol thereto,<sup>252</sup> the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime<sup>253</sup> and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,<sup>254</sup> the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women<sup>255</sup> and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,<sup>256</sup> as well as relevant International Labour Organization conventions on children, including the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138)<sup>257</sup> and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182),<sup>258</sup>

*Recognizing* that safe, equitable and effective access to digital technologies can enable children to enjoy their rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant international human rights instruments,

*Reaffirming* all of its previous resolutions on the rights of the child, the most recent of which was resolution 76/147 of 16 December 2021, and recalling also all other relevant resolutions on this matter, including its resolutions 77/201 of 15 December 2022 on protecting children from bullying, 73/327 of 25 July 2019 on the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour, 2021, 77/202 of 15 December 2022 on child, early and forced marriage, 76/146 on 16 December 2021 on the girl child and 77/211 of 15 December 2022 on the right to privacy in the digital age,

*Noting* Human Rights Council resolutions 45/30 of 13 October 2020, entitled “Rights of the child: realizing the rights of the child through a healthy environment”,<sup>259</sup> 51/10 of 6 October 2022 on countering cyberbullying<sup>260</sup> and 54/5 of 10 October 2023 on ensuring quality education for peace and tolerance for every child,<sup>261</sup> as well as the agreed conclusions of the sixty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women in 2023,<sup>262</sup>

*Reaffirming* the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,<sup>263</sup> the United Nations Millennium Declaration<sup>264</sup> and the outcome document of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled “A world fit for children”,<sup>265</sup> recalling the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,<sup>266</sup> the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development<sup>267</sup> and the outcome documents of their review

<sup>246</sup> See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

<sup>247</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>248</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 660, No. 9464.

<sup>249</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

<sup>250</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2716, No. 48088.

<sup>251</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 189, No. 2545.

<sup>252</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 606, No. 8791.

<sup>253</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

<sup>254</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2237, No. 39574.

<sup>255</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

<sup>256</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1465, No. 24841.

<sup>257</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1015, No. 14862.

<sup>258</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2133, No. 37245.

<sup>259</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-fifth Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/75/53/Add.1)*, chap. III.

<sup>260</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/77/53/Add.1)*, chap. III, sect. A.

<sup>261</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/78/53/Add.1)*, chap. III, sect. A.

<sup>262</sup> *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2023, Supplement No. 7 (E/2023/27)*, chap. I, sect. A.

<sup>263</sup> *A/CONF.157/24 (Part I)*, chap. III.

<sup>264</sup> Resolution 55/2.

<sup>265</sup> Resolution S-27/2, annex.

<sup>266</sup> *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

<sup>267</sup> *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

conferences, the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,<sup>268</sup> the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples<sup>269</sup> and the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples,<sup>270</sup> the Declaration on the Right to Development,<sup>271</sup> the Declaration of the commemorative high-level plenary meeting devoted to the follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children, held in New York from 11 to 13 December 2007,<sup>272</sup> the outcome document of the fourth Global Conference on the Sustained Eradication of Child Labour, held in Buenos Aires from 14 to 16 November 2017 and the outcome documents of previous Global Conferences, and the political declaration of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage,<sup>273</sup>

*Taking note* of general comment No. 25 (2021) of the Committee on the Rights of the Child regarding the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in relation to the digital environment,<sup>274</sup> and taking note also of general comment No. 26 (2023) on children's rights and the environment, with a special focus on climate change,<sup>275</sup>

*Taking note also* of all relevant international instruments on the rights of migrants and refugees, and recalling the importance of protecting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all refugee and migrant children, including girls, including those unaccompanied or separated from their caregivers, with the best interests of the child as a primary consideration,

*Expressing concern* that many developing countries still face serious challenges in building their national science, technology and innovation base, lack affordable access to information and communications technologies, and that, for the poor, the promise of science, technology and innovation remains unfulfilled,

*Reaffirming* that the creation, development and diffusion of new innovations and technologies and associated know-how, including the transfer of technology, on mutually agreed terms, are powerful drivers of economic growth and sustainable development and have a direct impact on addressing the prevailing challenges to expanding access to digital technologies, particularly in developing countries,

*Noting with grave concern* that globally, around 2.2 billion, or two thirds of, children and young people worldwide, especially girls and adolescent girls, who are disproportionately impacted, do not have Internet access at home, while recognizing that although digital technologies can offer increasing opportunities and benefits, with the increased reliance on virtual learning in many schools, the challenges faced by children, especially those in developing countries, in accessing the Internet and digital devices, including lack of equipment, digital literacy skills and adequate technology to provide online teaching, lead to limited access or lack of access to quality education for many children, including girls and those in rural or remote areas,

*Taking note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on progress made towards achieving the commitments set out in the outcome document of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly<sup>276</sup> and on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the issues addressed in resolution 76/147,<sup>277</sup> as well as the most recent reports of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children,<sup>278</sup> the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict,<sup>279</sup> the Special Rapporteur on the sale, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children<sup>280</sup> and the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially

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<sup>268</sup> *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution I, annexes I and II.

<sup>269</sup> Resolution 61/295, annex.

<sup>270</sup> Resolution 69/2.

<sup>271</sup> Resolution 41/128, annex.

<sup>272</sup> Resolution 62/88.

<sup>273</sup> Resolution 74/2.

<sup>274</sup> [CRC/C/GC/25](#).

<sup>275</sup> [CRC/C/GC/26](#).

<sup>276</sup> [A/77/309-E/2023/5](#).

<sup>277</sup> [A/78/366](#).

<sup>278</sup> [A/78/214](#).

<sup>279</sup> [A/78/247](#).

<sup>280</sup> [A/78/137](#).

women and children,<sup>281</sup> whose recommendations should be carefully studied, taking fully into account the views of Member States,

*Reaffirming* that States have the primary responsibility to promote, respect, protect and fulfil all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the rights of the child, and acknowledging the important role played by national governmental and local structures for children, including, where they exist, ministries and institutions in charge of child, family and youth issues and independent ombudspersons for children or other national institutions, including national human rights institutions, where they exist, for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, including in the digital environment,

*Recognizing* that the family has the primary responsibility for the nurturing and protection of children, in the best interests of the child, and that children, for the full and harmonious development of their personality, should grow up in a family environment and in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding,

*Recognizing also* the State responsibility to ensure children's protection and care as is necessary for their well-being, taking into account the rights, responsibilities and duties of their parents, legal guardians or other individuals legally responsible for them, and, to this end, to take all appropriate and legislative and administrative measures,

*Encouraging* all States to strengthen efforts to prevent the military use of schools in contravention of international law and to promote and protect the right to education, to make it accessible, inclusive, quality and non-discriminatory and to facilitate the continuation of education in situations of armed conflict, and encouraging all States to strengthen efforts to protect children affected by armed conflict, including from recruitment or use by armed forces or armed groups and by supporting long-term and sustainable reintegration and rehabilitation for these children,

*Urging* all States to promote, respect, protect and fulfil the right of children, including children with disabilities and children in vulnerable situations, to express themselves freely and their right to be heard, to ensure that they have access to quality education and information in child-friendly formats, that their views are given due weight and that they are included in decision-making processes, in accordance with their evolving capacities or age and maturity, in all matters affecting them, including those relating to relevant aspects of the 2030 Agenda, while recognizing also the importance of involving children's organizations and child-led initiatives,

*Recognizing* that violence against children undermines efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda and hinders progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and that the negative and long-term impact of violence on the development of children stifles their potential to become active participants in society,

*Recognizing also* that the responsibility to respect the rights of the child extends to private actors and businesses, which should pay particular attention to accessible design and operation of the digital environment and the safeguarding of the safety, privacy and protection of the child, including but not limited to products and services specifically designed for children or directed toward them, as well as those that are not targeted at children but which may still be used by them,

*Expressing concern* that children often do not and/or cannot provide their free, explicit and informed consent to the collection, processing and storage of their data or to the reuse, sale or multiple resale of their personal information, as the collection, processing, use, storage and sharing of personal information, including sensitive data, have increased significantly in the digital age,

*Reaffirming* that the realization of the rights of the child may be supported through the development of digital literacy and skills among children, as well as their parents or legal guardians, teachers and educators, and recognizing the importance of strengthening their evolving capacities, digital skills and competencies, and empowering children to report and seek help in responding to online threats and bullying, including cyberbullying, in adequate ways and raising their awareness of online safety, disinformation and misinformation,

*Recognizing* the critical role of parents and legal guardians, teachers and educators in ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education, including digital learning, by providing support, including through the necessary training, access to devices, materials and technological infrastructure,

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<sup>281</sup> [A/78/172](#).



*Deeply concerned* that increased unsupervised use of digital technologies has exacerbated children's, including adolescents', exposure to risks, harms and all forms of violence, such as harassment and abuse, sexual and gender-based violence, including that which occurs through or is amplified by the use of technology, sexual harassment, peer-to-peer sexual harassment and cyberbullying, child sexual exploitation and abuse, child grooming, gambling, economic exploitation, including child labour, the promotion of and incitement to self-harm and life-threatening activities, trafficking in persons and abduction, and the recruitment of children to participate in criminal or terrorist activities, exposure to violent and sexual content and hate speech, as well as all forms of discrimination, including but not limited to stigmatization, racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and discrimination based on religion or belief,

*Acknowledging* that ensuring a respectful, supportive child-rearing environment free from violence supports the realization of children's individual personalities and fosters the development of social, responsible and actively contributing citizens in the local community and larger society, and recognizing that the protection of the child from violence is a key strategy for reducing and preventing all forms of violence in societies and for promoting freedom, justice and peace in the world,

*Concerned* about the occurrence of bullying, including cyberbullying, in all parts of the world and the fact that children who are victimized by such practices may be at heightened risk of compromising their health, emotional well-being, academic work and education and for a wide range of physical and/or mental health conditions, as well as potential long-term effects on individuals' ability to realize their own potential,

*Recognizing* the importance of taking effective measures to prevent violations and abuses of the rights of the child, responding appropriately to all forms of violence against children, online and offline, and providing for safe and child-sensitive counselling, complaint and reporting mechanisms and safeguards for the rights of all affected children, and recognizing the need to foster a policy of zero tolerance for all forms of violence against children,

*Deeply concerned* that children disproportionately suffer the consequences of discrimination, exclusion and inequality and that the situation of children in many parts of the world remains negatively affected by the prolonged effects of poverty and inequality, reaffirming that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions is one of the greatest global challenges and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, recognizing the impact of poverty beyond the socioeconomic context and the intrinsic interlinkage between poverty eradication and the promotion of sustainable development, and in this regard underlining the importance of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and recognizing that a strong focus is needed on poverty, deprivation and inequality to prevent and protect children from all forms of violence and to promote the resilience of children, their families and their communities,

*Recognizing* that girls are often at greater risk of being exposed to and encountering various forms of discrimination and violence, particularly in digital contexts, including sexual and gender-based violence, and harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and child labour, which, among other things, would hinder the realization of their rights and efforts towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly those Goals that are relevant to gender equality and the empowerment of girls, reaffirming the need to achieve gender equality to ensure a just and equitable world for all girls, including by partnering with men and boys, as an important strategy for advancing full enjoyment of human rights,

*Expressing concern* about the unequal pace of digital transformation and access to digital technology and structural and systemic barriers, inter alia, gender stereotypes and negative social norms, which undermine the ability of women and girls to securely access digital technologies and the Internet and of being equipped with the knowledge, awareness and skills for their empowerment, and connected at a level that allows for a safe online experience at affordable cost, especially in developing countries, including the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and African countries,

*Acknowledging* the impact that the digital environment has on the physical and mental health of children, reaffirming the obligations of States, in accordance with international human rights law, to take all necessary measures to ensure that the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health is respected, protected and fulfilled, and underscoring the responsibility of private sector actors to ensure that their actions do not negatively affect the enjoyment of this right and detrimental consequences on children's health and development are avoided and that all forms of violence are prevented and addressed, in view of their negative impact on the physical and mental health of the child, without discrimination of any kind,



*Acknowledging also* the importance of preventing, avoiding and minimizing the possible risks to the enjoyment of the rights of the child that may emerge as the result of the conception, design, use, deployment and further development of new and emerging technologies, such as those that involve artificial intelligence,

*Expressing concern* about the spread of disinformation and misinformation, including among children, particularly on social media platforms, which can be designed and implemented so as to mislead, to spread racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, misogyny, stereotyping and stigmatization, to violate and abuse human rights, including the right to be free from arbitrary or unlawful interference with their right to privacy, to impede freedom of expression, including the freedom to seek, receive and impart information, and to incite all forms of violence, hatred, intolerance, discrimination and hostility, and emphasizing the important contribution of journalists and media workers, civil society and academia in countering this trend,

*Recognizing* that the empowerment of and investment in children, and in particular girls, which is critical for economic growth, and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, including the eradication of poverty and extreme poverty, are key in breaking the cycle of all forms of discrimination and violence, including multiple and intersecting forms, and in promoting, respecting and protecting the full and effective enjoyment of their human rights, and recognizing further that empowering children requires their active and meaningful participation in decision-making processes in accordance with their evolving capacities or age and maturity and as agents of change in their own lives and communities, while acknowledging that all parents have common responsibilities for the upbringing and development of the child, with the best interests of the child as their basic concern,

*Expressing serious concern* that children with disabilities, particularly girls, face stigmatization, discrimination or exclusion and are disproportionately subjected to mental and physical violence and sexual abuse in all settings,

*Reaffirming* the need to end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, and recognizing that infectious diseases, including pneumonia, diarrhoea and malaria, remain a leading cause of deaths of children under 5, along with pre-term birth and intrapartum-related complications,

*Recognizing* that the risk of maternal mortality is highest for girls under 15 years of age and that complications in pregnancy and childbirth are a leading cause of death among girls under 15 years of age in many countries,

*Recognizing also* that there are large disparities in maternal mortality and morbidity rates between developed and developing countries as well as within and among countries, particularly in rural and remote areas and the poorest urban areas,

*Recognizing further* that, although digital technologies can offer increasing opportunities and benefits, the increased reliance on virtual learning and the challenges faced by children in accessing the Internet and digital devices, including barriers caused by digital divides, including the gender digital divide, a lack of equipment and digital literacy skills, can limit access to equitable and quality education and increase inequalities between and within countries, with internally displaced children, refugees, migrants, those living in humanitarian situations, as well as those with disabilities and those living in rural and remote areas, children in alternative, especially institutional, care, and from the poorest households being the most affected,

*Recognizing* that the digital environment enables children, including children in vulnerable situations, to communicate with each other, advocate for their rights and form associations, recognizing also their positive, important and legitimate role in promoting the respect, protection and fulfilment of human rights, including in the digital environment, and recognizing further the need to protect them from threats, acts of intimidation, reprisals and violence and harassment, both online and offline,

*Recognizing also* the role of the Internet, including for the right to enjoyment of rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child, while ensuring that children are safe and protected when they engage in the digital environment, in full accordance with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

*Reaffirming* that, with regard to economic, social and cultural rights, States should take steps to ensure the allocation of available resources to the maximum extent possible and, where needed, within the framework of international cooperation, to provide guidance and support to parents and caregivers on how to create safe and inclusive environments that facilitate children's play and recreational activities, including on their responsible use of digital technology,

*Recalling* the importance of promoting and protecting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrant children, regardless of their migration status, with the best interests of the child as a primary consideration; reaffirming all latest international policy developments and relevant United Nations agreements in this regard; and strengthening international and regional cooperation, within the framework of the United Nations and relevant regional forums,

*Recognizing* the importance of prevention in ensuring safe online and information and communications technology environments for children, while protecting them against arbitrary or unlawful interference with their rights to privacy, to seek, receive or impart information, to education, to participation and to the freedoms of expression and of association, and recognizing also that prevention measures and approaches should involve key actors, including Governments, parents, civil society, organizations of persons with disabilities, industry, especially technology enterprises and those related to social media, schools, children, academia, competent authorities and relevant actors, community-based organizations and the general public,

*Recognizing also* the importance of international, regional and bilateral multi-stakeholder partnerships and initiatives to advance the effective protection and promotion of the rights of the child and the elimination of all forms of violence against children, including all violent punishment of children,

*Noting with appreciation* the work that aims to strengthen the respect, protection and fulfilment of the rights of the child carried out by all relevant organs, bodies, entities and organizations of the United Nations system, including by relevant mandate holders and special procedures, within their respective mandates, and by relevant regional organizations, and intergovernmental organizations, and recognizing the valuable role of national human rights institutions and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, and noting the annual full-day meeting on the rights of the child, on the theme “Rights of the child and the digital environment”, held during the fifty-second session of the Human Rights Council,

*Stressing* that information and communications technologies and applications can create new ways to enhance education and foster learning and teaching on the rights of the child and can be useful tools to promote the enjoyment of children’s rights and their protection, and in that regard stressing the need for enhanced efforts to expand connectivity, affordability, digital learning and associated skills bridging the digital divides, including the gender digital divide, while protecting children from harm in the digital environment,

1. *Recognizes* that the Convention on the Rights of the Child is the human rights treaty with the largest number of ratifications, and acknowledges that the Convention and the Optional Protocols thereto contain a comprehensive set of international legal standards for the protection and well-being of children;

2. *Recalls* that, in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, States parties should undertake all appropriate measures for the effective implementation of the rights recognized therein, and underlines that this includes the rights of the child in relation to the digital environment;

3. *Calls upon* States parties to increase their efforts for the full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

4. *Urges* States to review, adopt and update national legislation in line with their international human rights obligations and commitments to ensure that the digital environment is compatible with the rights set out in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto and other relevant human rights instruments;

5. *Also urges* States to ensure that the best interests of the child is a primary consideration in decision-making related to the rights of the child in the digital environment, by considering the critical importance of child rights impact assessments of relevant laws, standards and policies to evaluate their actual impact on the rights of the child, and encourages the implementation of the child rights impact assessment and safeguarding principles by businesses in the digital environment;

6. *Urges* States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto as a matter of priority and to implement them effectively, and encourages further efforts by the Secretary-General in this regard;

7. *Urges* States parties to withdraw reservations that are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention on the Rights of the Child or the Optional Protocols thereto and to consider reviewing regularly other reservations with a view to withdrawing them in accordance with the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;

8. *Calls upon* States to ensure the enjoyment by all children of all their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights without discrimination of any kind;

9. *Highlights* the importance of promoting and protecting the right of the child to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications, and to this end notes the importance of bridging digital divides, promoting digital literacy as well as public awareness and understanding of new and emerging digital technologies, promoting risk awareness and self-protection training and guidance, and supporting capacity-building initiatives to enhance understanding, knowledge and skills relating to the human rights implications of new and emerging digital technologies;

10. *Calls upon* States to address prevailing challenges to bridge the digital divide within and among countries, the gender, disability and age digital divides and the divide between rural and urban areas, including between developing and developed countries, and to urgently address the major impediments that developing countries face in accessing new technologies and to harness digital technologies for development, recalls the need to emphasize quality and equity of access to developing countries, to bridge digital and knowledge divides, using a multidimensional approach that includes speed, stability, affordability, language, training, capacity-building, local content and accessibility for persons with disabilities, and to promote the full enjoyment of human rights, including the right to be free from arbitrary or unlawful interference with their right to privacy, for every child, without discrimination of any kind, and urges the full respect, protection and fulfilment of human rights in providing and expanding access and bridging the digital divide;

11. *Underlines* the need for digital, media and information literacy as well as the need to address prevailing challenges to bridge digital divides, within and among countries and regions, including through international cooperation, to ensure that children, especially children in vulnerable situations, are able to connect to and access the Internet in a safe and secure way;

12. *Encourages* States to promote the rights of the child in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>282</sup> in accordance with their obligations under international law and in the best interests of the child;

13. *Urges* States to improve the situation of children living in poverty, in particular extreme poverty, deprived of adequate nutritious food, clean drinking water and sanitation facilities, including for menstrual hygiene health and management, with limited or no access to basic physical and mental health-care services, adequate shelter, education, participation and protection, taking into account that, while a severe lack of goods and services hurts every human being, it is particularly threatening and harmful to children, leaving them unable to enjoy their rights, to reach their full potential and to participate as full members of society, and exposed to conditions that lead to increased violence;

14. *Also urges* States to ensure that no restrictions are placed on the exercise by children of their human rights, including to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, in the digital environment other than those that are lawful, necessary and proportionate;

15. *Recalls* every child's right to be registered immediately after birth, to a name, to acquire a nationality and to recognition everywhere as a person before the law, as set out in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, respectively, reminds States of their obligation to ensure the registration of the birth of all children without discrimination of any kind, including in the case of late birth registration, calls upon States to ensure that birth registration procedures are universal, accessible, simple, expeditious and effective and provided at minimal or no cost, and recognizes the importance of birth registration as a critical means of preventing statelessness;

16. *Calls upon* States to promote the use of digital identification systems that enable every child to be registered immediately after birth and to have a name and to have the right to be recognized by national authorities to facilitate access to essential services, especially for children in rural and remote areas, refugee and migrant children and those in the most vulnerable situations;

17. *Also calls upon* States to scale up scientifically accurate and age-appropriate comprehensive education, relevant to cultural contexts, that provides adolescent girls and boys and young women and men, in and out of school, consistent with their evolving capacities, and with appropriate direction and guidance from parents and legal

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<sup>282</sup> Resolution 70/1.

guardians, with the best interests of the child as their basic concern, with information on sexual and reproductive health and HIV prevention, gender equality and women's empowerment, human rights, physical, psychological and pubertal development and power in relationships between women and men, to enable them to build self-esteem and foster informed decision-making, communication and risk reduction skills and to develop respectful relationships, in full partnership with young people, parents, legal guardians, caregivers, educators and health-care providers, in order to, inter alia, enable them protect themselves from HIV infection and other risks;

18. *Further calls upon* States to create opportunities for children's inclusive and meaningful participation in decision-making processes in line with their evolving capacities, including girls and adolescent girls, children with disabilities, children belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, Indigenous children, and children in vulnerable situations and those who are hardest to reach, in all matters affecting them, including in relation to the digital environment, and for children to become agents of change within their communities, taking into account the importance of involving children's organizations and child-led initiatives, by creating inclusive consultative mechanisms and ensuring that policy measures are developed on the basis of participatory, evidence-based decision-making processes that take into account the views of children and the best interests of the child;

19. *Urges* all States to respect, protect and fulfil the right of children, including children with disabilities and children in vulnerable situations, to express themselves freely and their right to be provided the opportunity to be heard in any proceeding affecting them, and to ensure that they have access to quality inclusive education and information in child-friendly and accessible formats, that their views are given due weight and that they are included in decision-making processes, in accordance with their age and maturity, in all matters affecting them, including those relating to the digital environment;

20. *Reaffirms* the right to education on the basis of equal opportunity and non-discrimination, and calls upon States to make primary education compulsory, inclusive and available free to all children, ensuring that all children have equal access to education of good quality, making secondary education generally available and accessible to all, in particular through the progressive introduction of free education, bearing in mind that special measures to ensure equal access, including affirmative action, contribute to achieving equal opportunity and combating exclusion by eliminating social, economic and gender disparities in education and ensuring school attendance, in particular for girls, children with disabilities, pregnant adolescent girls, children living in poverty, Indigenous children, children of African descent, persons belonging to ethnic or religious minorities and children in vulnerable or marginalized situations;

21. *Acknowledges with concern* the lack of readiness and vision for digital and remote learning across the globe, evidenced through the absence or shortage of appropriate infrastructure, connectivity, policies and programmes, digital learning solutions, educational content and resources and guidance and support mechanisms for schools, teachers and families, as well as the lack of digital literacy and skills among students, teachers and caregivers, and in this regard commits to address these challenges and spread the benefits of digitalization including by expanding the participation of all countries in the digitalization, in particular developing countries, among others through enhancing their digital infrastructure connectivity as well as building their capacities and access to technological innovations through stronger partnerships and improving digital literacy;

22. *Urges* States to ensure that all schools are safe and free from violence, such as bullying, including cyberbullying, sexual harassment, including peer-to-peer sexual harassment, online and offline, and that they address all forms of violence against children, with particular attention to girls and children with disabilities and in vulnerable situations;

23. *Recognizes* that children with disabilities, particularly girls, may face stigmatization, discrimination and exclusion and are disproportionately subjected to mental and physical violence and sexual abuse and therefore may be particularly exposed to online risks, including cyberbullying, and that there is a need to take steps to ensure that the digital environment, including safety information, protective strategies, services and forums relating to it, is accessible and safe, bearing in mind the importance of countering prejudice that might lead to overprotection or exclusion;

24. *Urges* States to take comprehensive, multisectoral, coordinated, effective and gender-responsive measures to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against all children and to address structural and underlying causes and risk factors, including through enhanced prevention measures, research and strengthened coordination and monitoring and evaluation, implementing, in partnership with all relevant stakeholders, effective violence prevention and response activities in schools and communities, educating children from a young age regarding the importance of treating all people with dignity and respect, and designing educational programmes and teaching materials that support consent, non-violent behaviour, respect for boundaries and what constitutes unacceptable behaviour and how to report

it, that eliminate gender stereotypes and negative social norms, build self-esteem and informed decision-making and communication skills and promote the development of respectful relationships based on gender equality, inclusion and respect for human rights;

25. *Calls upon* States to promote the provision of accessible, gender-responsive and age-appropriate information to children, including children with disabilities, on their rights, including through human rights education programmes as well as equal access to technologies that provide them with information and material from a diversity of national and international sources, especially those aimed at the promotion of their social, spiritual and moral well-being, and physical and mental health, and the protection of their rights;

26. *Also calls upon* States to accelerate efforts to eliminate all barriers to the equal enjoyment by girls of their right to education, to address gender-based discrimination, negative social norms and gender stereotypes in education systems, including in curricula, textbooks and teaching methodologies, and to fight all forms of violence, including sexual harassment and school-related sexual and gender-based violence, in and out of schools and other educational settings;

27. *Urges* States to take immediate and effective measures to secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour and to end child labour in all its forms, by 2025 at the latest;

28. *Calls upon* States to scale up programming for girls, including education and skills development training for adolescent girls; to address gender-specific barriers to the equal enjoyment by girls of their right to education and access to quality education; to ensure access to gender-specific support services, including psychological, social and sexual and reproductive health-care services, and education, including in emergencies; and to ensure that girls' opinions are heard, and that measures are taken to enable young women and girls to successfully grow into leadership positions in public and private spheres by ensuring their full and equal access to education, technology and skills development, leadership and mentorship programmes, increased technical and financial support, and protection from violence and discrimination;

29. *Also calls upon* States to ensure that child protection, including social protection and gender-sensitive mental health services, is recognized as essential and that it continues to be provided and be accessible, affordable and available to all children at all times, including through the use of digital technologies;

30. *Encourages* States to adopt and implement sustained and inclusive child-empowering, age-appropriate, disability-inclusive and gender-responsive non-formal and formal education programmes, providing children, parents, legal guardians, caregivers, teachers and other professionals working with and for children with skills relating to digital and data literacy, to promote awareness among children of the possible adverse consequences of exposure to risks relating to content, contact, conduct and contract, including cyberaggression, trafficking, sexual exploitation and abuse and other forms of violence that occur through or are amplified by the use of technology, recognizing a child who is a victim of online harm and responding appropriately, as well as coping strategies to reduce harm and strategies to protect their personal data and those of others and to build children's social and emotional skills and resilience in order to ensure all children's safety and their human rights in the digital context;

31. *Calls upon* States to invest equitably in technological infrastructure in schools and other learning settings, ensuring the availability and affordability of a sufficient number of devices, high-quality and high-speed broadband and a stable source of electricity, accessibility and the timely maintenance of school technologies;

32. *Also calls upon* States to support and invest in education, including human rights education, as a long-term and lifelong process, through which everyone learns equality, non-discrimination, non-violence, tolerance, inclusion and respect for the dignity of others and the means and methods of ensuring such respect in all societies, including in digital contexts, and to engage, educate, encourage and support the promotion of positive behaviour that addresses all forms of discrimination and violence that occur through or are amplified by the use of technology;

33. *Recognizes* that information and communications technologies present new opportunities and challenges and that there is a pressing need to address the major impediments that developing countries face in engaging with and accessing new technologies, such as an appropriate enabling environment, sufficient resources, infrastructure, education, capacity, investment and connectivity, as well as issues related to technology ownership, setting standards and technology flows, and in this regard urges all stakeholders to consider ensuring appropriate financing of digital development and adequate means of implementation, including strengthened capacity-building of developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, towards a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy;

34. *Urges* States to stress the role and responsibility of online service providers in protecting children from online harm, especially child sexual exploitation and abuse;

35. *Encourages* States to urge businesses that have an impact on the enjoyment of children's rights in relation to the digital environment to ensure that human rights are respected in the conception, design, development, deployment, evaluation and regulation of digital technologies, including artificial intelligence, and to ensure that they are subject to adequate safeguards and oversight that seek to prevent or mitigate adverse human rights impacts that are directly linked to businesses' operations, products or services in order to promote an open, secure, stable, accessible and affordable digital technology environment for all children, and calls upon States to consider adopting legislation, regulations or policies to ensure that businesses address their responsibilities to respect children's rights, safety and well-being;

36. *Also encourages* States to urge businesses that have an impact on the enjoyment of children's rights in relation to the digital environment to prevent or mitigate adverse impacts on children's rights that are directly linked to their design and operations, products or services and to establish and implement regulatory frameworks and promote industry codes and terms of services that adhere to the highest standards of ethics, privacy and safety in relation to the design, engineering, development, operation, distribution and marketing of their technological products and services and that respect, protect and fulfil the rights of the child;

37. *Reiterates its call upon* States to ensure a clear and predictable environment, including through legal and regulatory measures, which requires digital technology and other relevant industries to respect the rights of the child and which strengthens regulatory agencies' responsibility for the development of standards for the protection of the rights of the child, with powers and resources to monitor data privacy practices, investigate violations and abuses and receive communications from individuals and organizations, and to provide appropriate remedies;

38. *Urges* States to provide children whose rights have been violated or abused with access to effective and appropriate remedial victim support, as well as reparation and guarantees of non-repetition; and calls upon States and businesses to ensure the availability and accessibility of free-of-charge, safe, confidential, responsive and child-friendly reporting mechanisms;

39. *Calls upon* States to encourage business enterprises operating in the digital environment to undertake child rights due diligence and child rights impact assessments to guide mitigating measures, including for the protection of children's physical and mental health and the impacts of the digital environment on children, and in this regard to effectively consider issues of gender and vulnerability and to identify, prevent and mitigate any risks posed by their products and services to children, and in this regard takes note of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework;<sup>283</sup>

40. *Encourages* increased transparency by States and businesses to understand the impact of the use of digital technologies, including artificial intelligence, on children's well-being and development, and to encourage support to independent monitoring of the fulfilment of the rights of the child in the digital environment;

41. *Encourages* States to build and strengthen multi-stakeholder platforms with the participation of Governments, civil society and representatives of industry, in particular the digital technology sector, in consultation with children themselves and, where appropriate, their parents or legal guardians, with a view to promoting multi-stakeholder cooperation in the elaboration and implementation of policies to protect, empower and inform children and prevent violence that occurs through or is amplified by the use of technology;

42. *Notes* the importance of promoting safe and enabling conditions for children facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, such as children belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, as well as migrant children, refugee or asylum-seeking children, internally displaced children, children with disabilities, children of African descent and Indigenous children;

43. *Urges* States to prohibit the unlawful digital surveillance of children, with due regard to commercial settings and educational and care settings, to work towards enabling secure communications and the protection of individual users against arbitrary or unlawful interference with their privacy, including by developing technical

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<sup>283</sup> [A/HRC/17/31](#), annex.

solutions with any restrictions thereon complying with the obligations of States under relevant international human rights instruments;

44. *Calls upon* States to ensure that national legislation on data protection and privacy is in accordance with their international human rights obligations and allows law enforcement, social welfare and judicial authorities to conduct effective and appropriate investigations and prosecutions to combat violations and abuses of the rights of the child, and to raise awareness of the importance of activities and compliance with the law by private actors, notably those in the digital industry, to strengthen those efforts;

45. *Urges* States to take appropriate measures regarding the collection, processing and sharing of children's personal data, addressing exploitative marketing practices aimed at children and adopting standards that identify, define and prohibit practices that manipulate or interfere with children's rights in the digital environment, including by requiring data protection, privacy-by-design, safety-by-design and other regulatory measures to ensure that businesses do not target children using techniques designed to prioritize commercial interests over those of the child, putting in place adequate safeguards that seek to prevent or mitigate adverse human rights impacts that are directly linked to their operations, products or services, and taking measures to ensure that access to and use of essential digital services and infrastructure by children is based on the least privacy-intrusive means available for their intended purpose;

46. *Calls upon* States and private entities to ensure that children are protected against economic exploitation, including by reducing children's exposure to marketing and commercial communication, and to ensure that the uses of automated processes of information filtering, profiling, marketing and decision-making do not supplant, manipulate or interfere with children's ability to form and express their opinions in the digital environment;

47. *Urges* States to take measures to ensure that children are informed, in a child-friendly, easily accessible and age-appropriate way, about the collection and use of their data online, and encourages private actors in the technology sector to adhere to the highest international standards and best practices for safety, privacy and security by design, taking into account the particular needs of children;

48. *Encourages* States to make efforts towards mainstreaming children's needs in all digital policies, and public and private investment, providing all children with equal and effective access to age-appropriate information, and information on their rights, and to high-quality online resources, including on digital skills and literacy, and protecting children from online risks and harm, as well as arbitrary or unlawful interference with their privacy on social media, as well as preventing children's exposure to violent and sexual content, gambling, exploitation and abuse, and the promotion of or incitement to life-threatening activities;

49. *Strongly condemns* all forms of violence, harassment and abuse against children in all settings, online and offline, including physical, psychological and sexual violence, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, child abuse and exploitation, including sexual exploitation of children in the context of travel and tourism, child sexual abuse material, sexual exploitation of children such as child prostitution, cybergrooming, bullying, including cyberbullying, hostage-taking, domestic violence, trafficking in or sale of children and their organs, gang and armed violence, and harmful practices, including female genital mutilation and child, early and forced marriage, and urges States to strengthen efforts to prevent and protect children from all such violence through a comprehensive, gender-responsive, age-appropriate and disability-inclusive approach and to develop an inclusive multifaceted and systematic framework, which is integrated into national planning processes, to respond effectively to violence against children and to provide for safe and child-sensitive counselling, complaint and reporting mechanisms and safeguards for the rights of affected children;

50. *Calls upon* all States to protect the rights of the child and to ensure, for children belonging to national or ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities and migrant children, children affected by armed conflict, Indigenous children, children of African descent, internally displaced children and children with disabilities, the enjoyment of all their rights as well as access to health-care services, social services, social protection and accessible and inclusive education on an equal basis with others, and to ensure that all such children, in particular unaccompanied migrant children, internally displaced children and those who are victims of violence and exploitation, receive special protection and assistance and that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration in their policies of integration, return and family reunification;

51. *Condemns in the strongest terms* all violations and abuses committed against children in armed conflict, and in this regard urges all States and other parties to armed conflict that are engaged, in contravention of applicable



international law, in the recruitment and use of children, in patterns of killing and maiming of children and/or rape and other sexual violence against children, acknowledging that sexual violence in these situations disproportionately affects girls, but that boys are also targets, in recurrent attacks on schools and/or hospitals and related personnel and in patterns of abduction of children, as well as in all other violations and abuses against children, to take time-bound and effective measures to end and prevent them and to encourage age- and gender-specific support services, including psychological, social and sexual and reproductive health-care services, and education, social protection and reintegration programmes;

52. *Encourages* States to adopt and strengthen clear and comprehensive measures, including legislative and policy measures, taking into account the best interests of the child, to prevent and protect children from bullying, including cyberbullying and the dissemination of personal sexually explicit content, and provide for safe and child-sensitive counselling and reporting procedures and safeguards for the rights of affected children;

53. *Calls upon* States to ensure the legal protection of children from violence, both online and offline, in a manner consistent with their obligations under international law, including international human rights law, and to criminalize relevant conduct related to violence against children online and offline, including but not limited to forms of sexual exploitation and abuse of children, such as child grooming, sexual extortion, the streaming of child abuse, the possession or distribution of, access to, or exchange or production of or payment for child sexual abuse material and the viewing, conducting or facilitation of children's participation in live sexual abuses or exploitation transmitted through digital technologies, in addition to the use of digital technology in the recruitment or use of children by armed groups and in the context of child trafficking;

54. *Also calls upon* States to develop coherent and coordinated protection systems and to provide universal access to quality comprehensive social, physical and mental health, including sexual and reproductive health, and legal and counselling services for all victims and survivors, to ensure their full recovery and reintegration into society, and to strengthen social welfare systems and effective service delivery for children affected by violence, in particular in the justice, education and health sectors;

55. *Recognizes* that the right of the child to education can be severely hampered as a result of physical, psychological and sexual violence, as well as bullying, in school, outside school and on the way to school, as well as in digital environments, which compromises learning outcomes and may lead to school dropout, and therefore calls upon States to prevent and protect children, including migrant children and children in vulnerable situations, from bullying, including cyberbullying, and other online risks, such as sexual violence and online exploitation, by generating statistical information, promptly and adequately responding to such acts and providing appropriate support and counselling to children affected by and involved in bullying and cyberbullying;

56. *Calls upon* States to ensure that all those responsible for or who attempt to commit crimes against children that occur through or are amplified by the use of technology are held accountable and brought to justice in order to fight impunity, taking into account that such crimes are often multi-jurisdictional and transnational in nature;

57. *Urges* States to promote and protect the rights of the child against sexual exploitation and sexual and gender-based violence, including in digital contexts, through the adoption of relevant legislation to prevent these acts as well as combat them through the detection of child sexual abuse material and its immediate removal from the Internet;

58. *Appreciates* the role of civil society, including child- and youth-led movements, including those aimed at promoting the respect, protection and fulfilment of human rights, in supporting victims and survivors of violence that occurs through or is amplified by the use of technology, including by amplifying their voices, and in receiving reports of online harms against children;

59. *Emphasizes* that child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse is a global phenomenon that requires a coordinated and multi-stakeholder global-level response, and in this regard notes the efforts of, inter alia, the WeProtect Global Alliance;

60. *Takes note* of ongoing efforts to mainstream the rights of the child into the work of the United Nations system, and requests all relevant organs, bodies, entities, organizations and mechanisms of the United Nations system to mainstream the promotion, respect, protection and fulfilment of the rights of the child throughout their activities, in accordance with their respective mandates, as well as to ensure that their staff are trained in child rights matters, and take further steps to increase system-wide coordination and inter-agency cooperation for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child;

61. *Expresses support* for the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, and recognizes the progress achieved since the establishment of the mandate in promoting the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against children, both online and offline, in all regions and in advancing the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations study on violence against children,<sup>284</sup> including through partnerships with regional organizations, as well as advocacy through thematic consultations, field missions and thematic reports addressing emerging concerns, including on the need to protect children from exposure to violence online and ensure a safe digital environment for them;

62. *Urges* all States, requests United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and invites regional organizations and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to cooperate with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children in promoting the further implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations study on violence against children and in supporting Member States in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, encourages States to provide support to the Special Representative, including adequate voluntary financial support for the continued, effective and independent performance of her mandate, and invites organizations, including the private sector, to provide voluntary contributions for that purpose;

63. *Expresses support* for the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, recalls the adoption of resolution 51/77 of 12 December 1996, by which the mandate of the Special Representative was created, and the increased level of work and the progress achieved since the establishment of the mandate, welcomes the efforts by the Special Representative to increase public awareness and collect, assess and disseminate best practices and lessons learned, including the study on the evolution of the children and armed conflict mandate from 1996 to 2021, published in January 2022, the study on the gender dimensions of the six grave violations against children in armed conflict, identified by the Special Representative, published in May 2022, the guidance note on the monitoring and reporting of abduction of conflict-affected children, published in July 2022, and the follow-up study on the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on violations against children in situations of armed conflict, published in July 2022, and looks forward to the planned guidance note on the denial of humanitarian access, and particularly welcomes an increased engagement with States, the United Nations Children's Fund and other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, regional and subregional organizations and civil society;

64. *Recognizes* that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing and that the protection and reintegration of, and the prevention of violations and abuses against, conflict-affected children should be considered across all stages of this spectrum;

65. *Notes with appreciation* the steps taken regarding Security Council resolutions 1539 (2004) of 22 April 2004, 1612 (2005) of 26 July 2005, 1882 (2009) of 4 August 2009, 1998 (2011) of 12 July 2011, 2068 (2012) of 19 September 2012, 2225 (2015) of 18 June 2015, 2286 (2016) of 3 May 2016 and 2427 (2018) of 9 July 2018 and the efforts of the Secretary-General to implement the monitoring and reporting mechanism on children and armed conflict in accordance with those resolutions, with the participation of and in cooperation with national Governments and relevant United Nations and civil society actors, including at the country level, requests the Secretary-General to ensure that information collected and communicated by the monitoring and reporting mechanism is accurate, objective and verifiable, and in this regard encourages the work and the deployment of United Nations child protection advisers in peacekeeping operations and political and peacebuilding missions;

66. *Decides*:

(a) To continue its consideration of the question at its eightieth session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of the rights of children";

(b) To request the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its eightieth session a comprehensive report on the rights of the child containing information on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and on the issues addressed in the present resolution, with a focus on early childhood development;

(c) To request the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to continue to submit reports to the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council on the activities undertaken in fulfilment of her mandate, including information on her field visits and on the progress achieved and the challenges remaining on the children and armed conflict agenda;

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<sup>284</sup> A/61/299.

(d) To request the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, in carrying out her mandate for the protection of children in situations of armed conflict, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council, to continue to engage proactively with relevant United Nations bodies and agencies, Member States, regional and subregional organizations and non-State armed groups, including by negotiating action plans, securing commitments, advocating for appropriate response mechanisms and ensuring attention and follow-up to the conclusions and recommendations of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, and reaffirms the important role that the Special Representative can play in contributing to conflict prevention;

(e) To request the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children to continue to submit annual reports to the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council on the activities undertaken in fulfilment of her mandate, consistent with paragraphs 58 and 59 of its resolution 62/141 of 18 December 2007, including information on her field visits and on the progress achieved and the challenges remaining on the violence against children agenda;

(f) To request the Special Rapporteur on the sale, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children to continue to submit reports to the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council on the activities undertaken in fulfilment of her mandate, including information on her field visits and on the progress achieved and the challenges remaining in the prevention and elimination of all forms of sale and sexual exploitation and abuse of children, and in the protection, rehabilitation, recovery, reintegration and access to justice of children who are victims and survivors, in a gender-responsive, disability-inclusive, victim-centred, trauma-informed and child-friendly manner and with full respect for the rights of the child, including in how to advance the protection capacities of communities and families, with the best interests of the child as a primary consideration;

(g) To invite the Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child to present an oral report on the work of the Committee and to engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth and eightieth sessions as a way to enhance communication between the Assembly and the Committee.

## RESOLUTION 78/188

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/476, para. 19)<sup>285</sup>

### 78/188. The girl child

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* its resolution 76/146 of 16 December 2021 and all relevant resolutions on the girl child, and recalling its resolution 66/170 of 19 December 2011 on the International Day of the Girl Child and the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women, in particular those relevant to the girl child,

*Recalling* all human rights and other instruments relevant to the rights of the child, in particular the girl child, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>286</sup> the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,<sup>287</sup> the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,<sup>288</sup> the Optional Protocols thereto<sup>289</sup> and the Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages,<sup>290</sup>

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<sup>285</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Algeria, Armenia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Central African Republic, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, South Africa (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Southern African Development Community), Thailand, Tunisia, Türkiye and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

<sup>286</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>287</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

<sup>288</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

<sup>289</sup> *Ibid.*, vols. 2171, 2173 and 2983, No. 27531; *ibid.*, vol. 2131, No. 20378; and *ibid.*, vol. 2518, No. 44910.

<sup>290</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 521, No. 7525.

*Reaffirming* its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,<sup>291</sup> and reaffirming also other internationally agreed development goals and commitments relevant to the girl child,

*Noting* the adoption of the Southern African Development Community Model Law on Eradicating Child Marriage and Protecting Children Already in Marriage,

*Reaffirming* all relevant outcomes of major United Nations summits and conferences relevant to the girl child, including the outcome document of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled “A world fit for children”,<sup>292</sup> the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,<sup>293</sup> the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”,<sup>294</sup> the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,<sup>295</sup> the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,<sup>296</sup> the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS adopted at the twenty-sixth special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS, entitled “Global Crisis – Global Action”,<sup>297</sup> and the political declarations on HIV and AIDS adopted by the high-level meetings of the General Assembly held in 2006,<sup>298</sup> 2011,<sup>299</sup> 2016<sup>300</sup> and 2021,<sup>301</sup> and reiterating that their full and effective implementation is essential to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Recalling* the high-level meeting on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in New York on 1 October 2020, which demonstrated the commitment of the international community to the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the realization of a gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, for all women and girls, including girls living in rural and remote areas,

*Recognizing* that chronic poverty remains one of the biggest obstacles to meeting the needs and promoting and protecting the rights of the child, including the girl child, and that girls living in poverty, including those living in rural and remote areas, are more likely to experience harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, as well as unequal sharing of domestic work and unpaid care work to ease family hardships, often ending education and suffering other harmful consequences, further limiting their opportunities and leaving them entrenched in poverty, and recognizing also that the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions is critical to realizing the rights of girls and must remain a high priority for the international community,

*Noting* that States parties should implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child and ensure that the rights of girls are promoted and protected, including in relation to the digital environment,

*Reaffirming* that the promotion and protection of the rights of the child may be supported through the development of digital literacy and skills among girls, and acknowledging the importance of strengthening their capacities, digital skills and competencies, closing the digital divides, in particular the gender digital divide, and empowering girls to report and seek help in responding to online threats and bullying, including cyberbullying, and raising their awareness of online safety, while emphasizing the need to foster a policy of zero tolerance of all forms of

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<sup>291</sup> Resolution 69/313, annex.

<sup>292</sup> Resolution S-27/2, annex.

<sup>293</sup> *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

<sup>294</sup> Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

<sup>295</sup> *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

<sup>296</sup> *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

<sup>297</sup> Resolution S-26/2, annex.

<sup>298</sup> Resolution 60/262, annex.

<sup>299</sup> Resolution 65/277, annex.

<sup>300</sup> Resolution 70/266, annex.

<sup>301</sup> Resolution 75/284, annex.

violence against girls in the digital environment, in a manner consistent with States' obligations under international human rights law,

*Recognizing* the critical role of teachers and educators, caregivers, parents and legal guardians in ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education, including digital learning, by providing support, including through the necessary training, access to devices, materials and technological infrastructure,

*Acknowledging* the contributions of girls to their societies, the empowerment of all girls and the enjoyment of all human rights, and recognizing the opportunities to amplify these contributions through innovation and technological change, education in the digital age and access to digital technology and education, while also emphasizing the need to ensure that all digital policies and programmes are responsive to the changing needs of girls and the changing digital landscape, and recognizing in this regard the contributions of their families, communities and societies and the importance of implementing family-friendly and family-oriented policies towards achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all girls and their enjoyment of all their human rights in the context of innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age,

*Deeply concerned* that the global goal of eradicating poverty by 2030 is slipping from our reach, and recognizing that the multidimensional impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic have exacerbated it, increasing the number of poor by up to 124 million, causing the extreme poverty rate to rise for the first time in a generation, especially in low- and middle-income countries, and, inter alia, among girls, the number of people who are still living in multidimensional poverty is still unacceptably high, the levels of inequality in income, wealth and opportunities remain high or are increasing within and between many countries, and the non-income dimensions of poverty and deprivation, such as access to quality education, social protection and essential health-care services, and relative poverty remain major concerns along with extreme and rural poverty,

*Recognizing* that urgent national and international action is required to eliminate poverty, including extreme poverty, and noting that the impacts of global financial and economic crises, volatile energy and food prices and continuing food insecurity as a result of various factors are felt directly by households,

*Recognizing also* that social protection, education, adequate health care, nutrition, full access to clean water, including safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, skills development and combating discrimination and violence against girls, among other things, are all necessary for the empowerment of the girl child, and recalling the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective across the United Nations system in relation to the girl child,

*Underscoring* that women and girls may be disproportionately affected by and are more vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change and are already experiencing an increase in such impacts, including persistent drought and extreme weather events, land degradation, sea level rise, coastal erosion and ocean acidification, which further threaten health, food security and efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development, and noting in this regard the implementation of the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,<sup>302</sup>

*Noting with concern* the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences, including with regard to the right to education, health and adequate food for the poor, including those who are vulnerable or in vulnerable situations, especially women and girls, who are often left behind in the implementation of social protection programmes aimed at alleviating rural poverty, recognizing also that rural and agricultural development aid includes only a small fraction of projects aimed at eliminating gender stereotypes and negative social norms and empowering women and girls in rural and remote areas,

*Deeply concerned* that the extreme situation of girls in child-headed households, including those living in rural and remote areas, persists and that poverty, armed conflict, climate-related and other hazards, natural disasters, disease outbreaks, including the impact of the HIV and AIDS epidemic, and other humanitarian emergencies increase the incidence of child-headed households, forcing children, including girls, to undertake adult responsibilities, including being the main household earner and caring for younger siblings, and making them particularly vulnerable to poverty, violence, including physical, psychological and sexual violence, as well as all forms of discrimination, which seriously inhibits their development and violates and/or impairs the full enjoyment of their human rights,

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<sup>302</sup> See [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21, annex.

*Deeply concerned also* about the continuing lack of recent information and statistics, disaggregated by sex, age, disability, migratory status, geographical location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, on the status of children, including girls, and their socioeconomic conditions, including those in rural and remote areas, which are necessary to inform appropriate policy responses by Member States and the United Nations system, and recognizing the need to ensure access to high-quality, reliable and timely disaggregated data,

*Concerned* that, in sub-Saharan Africa, six out of seven new HIV infections among adolescents aged 15 to 19 years are among girls, that adolescent girls and young women aged 15 to 24 years account for 25 per cent of HIV infections despite representing 10 per cent of the population, and that AIDS is the leading cause of death for adolescent girls and women aged between 15 and 49 years in the region, further noting with concern that globally rural/urban disaggregated data relating to HIV incidence are scarce, with little information on girls below the age of 15 years, and in this regard noting the importance of subnational data and welcoming its emerging availability in sub-Saharan Africa,

*Recognizing* that women and girls are more vulnerable to HIV infection in some regions and that they bear a disproportionate burden of the impact of the HIV and AIDS epidemic, including the unequal sharing of unpaid care and domestic work related to the care of and support for those living with and affected by HIV and AIDS, and that this also negatively affects girls living in rural areas by depriving them of their childhood and diminishing their opportunities to receive an education, often resulting in child, early and forced marriage and/or heading households and increasing their vulnerability to the worst forms of child labour and to sexual exploitation,

*Noting with concern* that millions of girls are engaged in child labour and its worst forms, including those who have been victims of trafficking in persons and affected by armed conflict and humanitarian emergencies, that children without nationality or birth registration are vulnerable to trafficking in persons and child labour and that many children face the double burden of having to combine economic activities with unpaid care and domestic work, which deprive them of their childhood and hamper the full enjoyment of their right to education and opportunities for decent employment in the future, and noting in this regard the need to recognize, reduce and redistribute girls' disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work,

*Recognizing* that girl children are often at greater risk of being exposed to and encountering various forms of discrimination and violence and forced labour, which, among other things, would hinder efforts towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly those Goals that are relevant to gender equality and the empowerment of girls, and reaffirming the need to achieve gender equality to ensure a just and equitable world for girls, including by partnering with men and boys, as an important strategy for advancing the rights of the girl child,

*Recognizing also* that the empowerment of and investment in girls, which is critical for economic growth, and the achievement of all Sustainable Development Goals, including the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions everywhere, including extreme poverty, as well as the full, equal and meaningful participation of girls in decisions that affect them, in accordance with the age and maturity of the child, are key in breaking the cycle of discrimination and violence and in promoting and protecting the full and effective enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, and recognizing further that empowering girls requires their active participation in decision-making processes and as agents of change in their own lives and communities, including through girls' organizations with the active support and engagement of their parents, legal guardians, families and care providers, as well as boys and men, and the wider community as allies and agents of change for the achievement of gender equality,

*Deeply concerned* about all forms of violence against children, including those that disproportionately affect girls, such as child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material, rape, sexual abuse, domestic violence, trafficking in persons and the use of information and communications technology and social media to perpetrate violence against women and girls, and, in addition, about the corresponding impunity and lack of accountability, and that violence against women and girls is underrecognized and underreported, particularly at the community level, which reflects discriminatory norms that reinforce the lower status of girls in society,

*Deeply concerned also* by the increased violence against women and girls during the COVID-19 pandemic, including in the context of movement restrictions and other public health measures as well as restricted access to safety and other services, and emphasizing the need for strengthened prevention and response mechanisms for addressing the situation of girls in the COVID-19 pandemic recovery efforts,

*Deeply concerned further* about all forms of discrimination against the girl child and the violation of the rights of the girl child, including girls living in rural and remote areas and those with disabilities, bearing in mind their

specific needs, which often result in less access for girls to inclusive and equitable quality education, nutrition, including food allocation, and physical and mental health-care services, in girls enjoying fewer of the rights, opportunities and benefits of childhood and adolescence than boys, and in leaving them more vulnerable than boys to the consequences of unprotected and premature sexual relations, early pregnancies and often being subjected to harmful practices, such as female infanticide, child, early and forced marriage, prenatal sex selection and female genital mutilation, and to various forms of cultural, social, sexual and economic exploitation and violence, abuse, rape, incest and honour-related crimes,

*Deeply concerned* that, despite its widespread practice, child, early and forced marriage is still underreported, including in rural and remote areas, recognizing that this requires further attention and that child, early and forced marriage exposes the girl child to greater risk of HIV and sexually transmitted infections, often leads to premature sexual relations, early pregnancy and early childbearing and increases the risk of obstetric fistula and high levels of maternal mortality and morbidity, and furthermore entails complications during pregnancy and childbirth, which often lead to disability, stillbirth and maternal death, particularly for young women and girls, which require appropriate prenatal and postnatal health-care services for mothers, including in the area of skilled birth attendance and emergency obstetric care, and noting with concern that this reduces girls' opportunities to complete their education, gain comprehensive knowledge, participate in the community or develop employable skills and is likely to have a long-term adverse impact on their physical and mental health and well-being, their employment opportunities and their quality of life and that of their children, and violates and/or impairs the full enjoyment of their human rights,

*Deeply concerned also* that child, early and forced marriage constitutes a violation, abuse or impairment of human rights and a harmful practice that prevents individuals from living their lives free from all forms of discrimination and violence, that it has wide-ranging and adverse consequences for the enjoyment of human rights, that it is linked to and perpetuates other forms of violence against women and girls and other harmful practices and human rights violations and that such violations have a disproportionately negative impact on women and girls, and underscoring the human rights obligations and commitments of States to respect, protect and fulfil the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and girls, and to prevent and eliminate the practice of child, early and forced marriage,

*Deeply concerned further* that young women and girls are particularly affected by water scarcity, unsafe water, inadequate sanitation and poor hygiene, and concerned furthermore that girls, especially those in rural areas, are often excluded from full and continued participation in school owing to their burden of water procurement at home, a lack of water and sanitation facilities in schools and inadequate access to effective feminine hygiene products,

*Emphasizing* that increased and equal access to quality education for young people, especially adolescent girls, including in the areas of sexual and reproductive health, as well as health care, hygiene and sanitation, dramatically lowers their vulnerability to preventable diseases and infections, in particular HIV and other sexually transmitted infections,

*Recognizing* that, despite gains in providing access to quality education, girls are still more likely than boys to remain excluded from quality education, and learning levels for children in rural and remote areas remain low such that achieving gender equality in access and learning alone is unlikely to significantly improve girls' literacy, and recognizing also that among gendered barriers to girls' equal enjoyment of their right to education are child, early and forced marriage, early pregnancy, sexual and gender-based violence, including in the digital context, the disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work, the lack of safe and adequate sanitation facilities, including for menstrual hygiene, and gender stereotypes and negative social norms that lead families and communities to place less value on girls' education when compared with that of boys,

*Deeply concerned* that school-related violence against girls, including sexual violence and harassment on the way to and from and at school, such as violence perpetrated by teachers, continues to deter girls' education and, in many cases, the transition to and completion of secondary education, and that these risks may influence parents' decision to allow girls to attend school,

*Noting* that school meals and take-home rations attract and retain children in schools, and recognizing that school feeding is an incentive to enhance enrolment and reduce absenteeism for all girls,

*Stressing* the need for the international community, the relevant United Nations entities, the specialized agencies, civil society and international financial institutions to continue to actively support, through the allocation of enhanced



financial resources and technical assistance, targeted comprehensive programmes that address the needs and priorities of the girl child,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>303</sup>
2. *Stresses* the need for the full and urgent implementation of the rights of the child, including the girl child, as provided under international human rights instruments, and urges States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocols thereto as a matter of priority;
3. *Urges* all States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138),<sup>304</sup> and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182),<sup>305</sup> of the International Labour Organization to consider doing so;
4. *Urges* States to develop or review relevant programmes that promote gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and equal access to basic social services, such as education, nutrition, water and sanitation, birth registration, health care, vaccinations and protection from diseases representing the major causes of mortality, including non-communicable diseases, and to mainstream a gender perspective into all development policies and programmes, including those specific to the girl child;
5. *Calls upon* all countries to extend coverage of social protection, inter alia, through nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all girls, including floors, and, by 2030, achieve substantial coverage of persons living in poverty and in vulnerable situations, while stressing the importance of taking targeted measures to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions everywhere, including extreme poverty, with enhanced international support and strengthened global partnerships, and notes the need for countries, the United Nations development system and all relevant stakeholders to ensure and promote a multidimensional coordinated approach in their work and efforts to eradicate poverty;
6. *Urges* States to improve the situation of girl children living in poverty, including extreme poverty, deprived of adequate food and nutrition, water and sanitation facilities, with limited or no access to basic physical and mental health-care services, shelter, education, participation and protection;
7. *Encourages* States and other relevant actors to implement cross-cutting and integrated gender-responsive policies and programmes that tackle all forms of discrimination, which are often compounded, against girls in rural areas and that respond to the multidimensional aspects of adolescent girls' lives, while taking into account the specific needs and views of girls, including those living in rural and remote areas;
8. *Urges* States and other relevant actors to consider strengthening multisectoral child protection systems, to prevent trafficking in girls and violence in all its forms, and ensure holistic support for girls who are at greater risk of experiencing, or who have experienced, violence, harassment, exploitation and abuse, including online and offline, and harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, while paying special attention to girls with disabilities and girls in vulnerable situations, including Indigenous girls and girls facing social and economic exclusion, including those living in rural and remote areas;
9. *Recognizes* that ensuring equal access to inclusive, equitable and quality education requires transformations in education systems, mainstreaming a gender perspective into educational programmes, infrastructure development and teacher training, and in this regard calls upon States to invest in quality education, including through adequate financing, to ensure that all girls, including those who are marginalized or in vulnerable situations, enjoy their right to education;
10. *Calls upon* Member States to work with relevant stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society, to take steps to bridge the digital divide, including the gender digital divide where it exists, within and among countries as part of the efforts to ensure the empowerment and safety of all young women and girls, including those

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<sup>303</sup> [A/76/204](#).

<sup>304</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1015, No. 14862.

<sup>305</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2133, No. 37245.

living in rural and remote areas, including by providing distance learning opportunities, especially in developing countries;

11. *Emphasizes* the importance of the right of girls to education and the continuation of learning, acknowledging that during the COVID-19 pandemic adolescent girls, as well as girls with disabilities, are at particular risk of dropping out and not returning to school even as education facilities reopen, thereby increasing their vulnerability to poverty, child, early and forced marriage, violence and early pregnancy;

12. *Calls upon* Member States to ensure that school closures are a last resort and are proportionate to wider public health restrictions and that girls are protected and supported in returning to school once it is deemed safe to do so, and in this regard calls upon Member States and other relevant stakeholders to take the appropriate measures in order to ensure proper training of teachers and other educational professionals and the availability of and access to learning materials and remote learning platforms during the pandemic, and to bridge the digital divide, including barriers such as poor access to connectivity, lack of affordability of connection and devices, limited digital skills, absence of locally relevant digital content, and gender stereotypes and negative social norms, in order to provide distance learning opportunities, inter alia, Internet, television and radio teaching alternatives, especially in developing countries;

13. *Notes* the role of the United Nations in supporting national Governments in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>306</sup> and in realizing girls' right to education;

14. *Calls upon* States to recognize the right to education on the basis of equal opportunity and non-discrimination by making primary education compulsory and available free to all children, including those living in rural areas, and ensuring that all children have equal access to quality education, as well as making secondary and tertiary education available and accessible to all, in particular through the progressive introduction of free secondary education, bearing in mind that special measures to ensure equal access, including affirmative action, ensuring physical access to education, including by increasing financial incentives to families, improving the safety of girls on the way to and from school, ensuring that all schools are accessible, safe, secure and free from violence and providing hygienic, separate and adequate sanitation facilities, contribute to achieving equal opportunity and combating exclusion and ensuring school attendance, in particular for girls and children from low-income families and children who become heads of households;

15. *Calls upon* all States to place enhanced emphasis on quality education for the girl child, including catch-up and literacy education for those who did not receive formal education, special initiatives for keeping girls in school through post-primary education, including those who are already married or pregnant, to promote access to skills and entrepreneurship training for young women and to tackle gender stereotypes, in order to ensure that young women entering the labour market have opportunities to obtain full and productive employment and decent work, and equal pay for equal work or work of equal value;

16. *Encourages* States to promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, eliminating female illiteracy and promoting financial and digital literacy, ensuring that girls have equal access to leadership training, career development, scholarships and fellowships, strive to ensure the completion of quality early childhood, primary and secondary education, expand vocational and technical education for all girls and foster, as appropriate, intercultural and multilingual education for all, and address negative social norms and gender stereotypes in education systems;

17. *Also encourages* States to adopt, as appropriate, and implement inclusive policies and programmes to promote girls' education in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, including information and communications technology, throughout their education, by, inter alia, expanding the scope of education and training opportunities ranging from basic digital fluency to advanced technical skills, recognizing that girls who develop such skills may enjoy more academic success and higher-paying jobs in the future, and recognizing also that girls and women have an equally important role to play in these arenas as men and boys;

18. *Calls upon* States, with the support, where appropriate, of international organizations, civil society and non-governmental organizations, to develop policies and programmes, giving priority to formal, informal and non-formal education programmes, including scientifically accurate and age-appropriate comprehensive education, relevant to cultural contexts, that provides adolescent girls and boys and young women and men in and out of school,

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<sup>306</sup> Resolution 70/1.

consistent with their evolving capacities, and with appropriate direction and guidance from parents and legal guardians, with information on sexual and reproductive health and HIV prevention, gender equality and women's empowerment, human rights, physical, psychological and pubertal development and power in relationships between women and men, to enable them to build self-esteem and informed decision-making, communication and risk reduction skills and to develop respectful relationships, in full partnership with young persons, parents, legal guardians, caregivers, educators and health-care providers, in order to, inter alia, enable them to protect themselves from HIV infection and other risks;

19. *Urges* States to acknowledge the different needs of girls and boys during their childhood and adolescence and, as appropriate, to make adapted investments that are consistent with and responsive to their changing needs, in particular ensuring that girls have access to clean water, including safe drinking water, sanitation, hygiene and feminine hygiene products as well as private toilet facilities, including feminine hygiene product disposal facilities, in educational institutions and other public spaces, which will improve their health and access to education and increase their safety;

20. *Calls upon* States, in collaboration with civil society and other relevant actors, to promote educational and health practices in order to foster a culture in which menstruation is recognized as healthy and natural, and girls are not stigmatized on this basis, recognizing that girls' attendance at school can be affected by negative perceptions of menstruation and lack of means to maintain safe personal hygiene, such as water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in schools that meet the needs of girls;

21. *Urges* States to strengthen efforts to urgently eradicate all forms of discrimination against women and girls, and calls upon all States, the United Nations system and civil society to take measures to address the obstacles that continue to affect the achievement of the goals set forth in the Beijing Platform for Action,<sup>307</sup> as contained in paragraph 33 of the further actions and initiatives,<sup>308</sup> including reviewing remaining laws that discriminate against women and girls in order to modify or abolish them and, where appropriate, strengthening national mechanisms to implement inclusive policies and programmes for the girl child and, in some cases, to enhance coordination among responsible institutions for the realization of the human rights of girls, including access to justice, fighting impunity for perpetrators of and ensuring the availability of appropriate penalties for crimes of sexual violence committed against the girl child, and to mobilize all necessary resources and support in order to achieve those goals;

22. *Also urges* States to ensure that the applicable conventions of the International Labour Organization relating to the employment of girls and boys are respected and effectively enforced and that girls who are employed have equal access to decent work and equal pay for equal work or work of equal value, are protected from economic and sexual exploitation, discrimination, sexual harassment, violence and abuse in the workplace, are aware of their rights and have access to formal and non-formal education, skills development and technical and vocational training, and urges States to develop gender-sensitive measures, including national action plans, where appropriate, to eliminate child labour and its worst forms, commercial sexual exploitation, hazardous forms of child labour, trafficking and slavery-like practices, including forced and bonded labour, and the recruitment or use of children in armed conflict in violation of applicable international law, and to recognize that girls, including those living in rural and remote areas, face greater risks in this regard;

23. *Calls upon* States, with the support of relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations, as appropriate, to take measures to ensure the right of girls to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including through the development and enforcement of policies, programmes and legal frameworks and the strengthening of health systems that make universally accessible and available quality, gender-responsive, adolescent-friendly health services, menstrual hygiene, information and commodities, including for sexual and reproductive health-care services, HIV/AIDS, and mental health services and nutrition interventions;

24. *Also calls upon* States to strengthen the capacity of national health systems, and in this regard invites the international community to assist national efforts, upon request, including by allocating adequate resources in order to provide the essential services needed to prevent obstetric fistula and to treat those cases that occur by providing the

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<sup>307</sup> *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution I, annex II.

<sup>308</sup> Resolution S-23/3, annex.

continuum of services, including family planning, prenatal and postnatal care, skilled birth attendance, emergency obstetric care and post-partum care, to adolescent girls, including those living in poverty and in underserved rural areas where obstetric fistula is most common;

25. *Urges* all States to enact, uphold and strictly enforce laws and policies aimed at preventing and ending child, early and forced marriage and protecting those at risk and to ensure that marriage is entered into only with the informed, free and full consent of the intending spouses, to enact and strictly enforce laws concerning the minimum legal age of consent and the minimum age for marriage, to raise the minimum age for marriage, engage all relevant stakeholders, including girls, where necessary, and ensure that these laws are well known, and national judicial systems are fit, and to further develop and implement holistic, comprehensive and coordinated policies, plans of action and programmes and to support already married girls and adolescents, ensure the provision of viable alternatives and institutional support, ensure access to quality educational opportunities, and increase access to quality and safe schooling for girls, including those living in rural areas, to ensure the survival, protection, development and advancement of the girl child in order to promote and protect the full enjoyment of her human rights and to ensure equal opportunities for girls, including by making such plans an integral part of her total development process;

26. *Urges* States to enact, as appropriate, and implement legislation to protect, support and empower children living in child-headed households, in particular those headed by girls, that includes provisions to ensure their physical, psychosocial and economic well-being, including protecting their property and inheritance rights, access to health-care services, nutrition, clean water, including safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, shelter, education, scholarships and training opportunities, and that their family is protected and assisted in staying together, including through, where appropriate, social protection programmes and economic support;

27. *Also urges* States to forge partnerships with relevant stakeholders, particularly by working with and involving communities in developing programmes and mechanisms designed to ensure the safety and protection as well as the empowerment of children, especially girls, and to ensure that they receive the support that they need from their communities;

28. *Calls upon* States to strengthen research, data collection and analysis on the girl child, disaggregated by household structure, sex, age, disability, economic situation, marital and migratory status, geographical location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, and improve gender statistics on time use, unpaid care work and water and sanitation in order to provide a better understanding of the situations of girls, especially of the multiple forms of discrimination that they face, and to inform the development of necessary policies and programme responses, which should take a holistic, gender-sensitive, age-appropriate approach to addressing the full range of the forms of discrimination that girls may face, in order to promote, respect, protect and fulfil their rights effectively;

29. *Urges* States to take all measures necessary to ensure the full enjoyment by girls with disabilities of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, on an equal basis with other children, and to adopt, implement and strengthen appropriate policies and programmes designed to address their needs;

30. *Urges* all States to enact and enforce legislation to protect girls from all forms of violence, discrimination, exploitation and harmful practices in all settings, including female infanticide and prenatal sex selection, female genital mutilation, rape, domestic violence, incest, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material, trafficking and forced migration, forced labour and child, early and forced marriage, and to develop age-appropriate, safe, confidential and disability-accessible programmes and medical, social and psychological support services to assist girls who are subjected to violence and discrimination;

31. *Urges* States to strengthen and intensify their efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of school-related violence against girls and to hold perpetrators accountable;

32. *Calls upon* all States to enact and enforce the necessary legislative or other measures, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, including the private sector and the media, to prevent the distribution over the Internet of child pornography and other child sexual abuse material, ensuring that adequate mechanisms are in place to enable the reporting and removal of such material and that its creators, distributors and collectors are prosecuted, as appropriate;

33. *Urges* States to formulate or review, as needed, comprehensive, multidisciplinary and coordinated national plans, programmes or strategies to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, which should have dedicated resources, be widely disseminated and provide targets and timetables for implementation, as well as effective domestic enforcement procedures through the establishment of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms involving all parties concerned, including consultations with women's organizations, giving attention to

the recommendations relating to the girl child of the Special Rapporteurs on violence against women, its causes and consequences, and on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children;

34. *Also urges* States to ensure that children who are capable of forming their own views have the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting them, with the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child, to ensure that this right is fully and equally enjoyed by the girl child, to meaningfully involve girl children, including those with special needs, as well as girls with disabilities, and their representative organizations in decision-making processes, as appropriate, and to include them as full partners in identifying their own needs and in developing, planning, implementing and assessing policies and programmes to meet those needs, with a view to ensuring their full and effective participation;

35. *Recognizes* that a considerable number of girl children are particularly vulnerable, including orphans, children living on the street, internally displaced and refugee children, children affected by trafficking and sexual and economic exploitation, children living with or affected by HIV and AIDS, and children who are incarcerated or who live without parental support, and therefore urges States, with the support of the international community, where relevant, to take appropriate measures to address the needs of such children by implementing national, subregional and regional policies and strategies to build and strengthen governmental, community and family capacities to provide a supportive environment for such children, including by providing appropriate counselling and psychosocial support, and ensuring their safety, enrolment in school and access to shelter, good nutrition and health and social services on an equal basis with other children;

36. *Urges* all States and the international community to respect, promote and protect the rights of the girl child, taking into account the particular vulnerabilities of the girl child in pre-conflict, conflict and post-conflict situations and in climate-related and other hazards and natural disasters, as well as in other humanitarian emergencies, and urges States to take special measures for the protection of girls in all phases of humanitarian emergencies, from relief to recovery, and in particular to ensure that children have access to basic services, which include clean water, including safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, to protect them from sexually transmitted infections, including HIV infection, gender-based violence, including rape, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation, torture, abduction and trafficking, including forced labour, paying special attention to refugee, migrant and displaced girls, and to take into account their special needs in disarmament, demobilization, rehabilitation assistance and reintegration processes;

37. *Calls upon* States to ensure that the perspectives and priorities of girls, including those living in rural and remote areas, as well as in poverty are taken into account in armed conflict and post-conflict situations and in humanitarian emergencies and that they fully, equally and meaningfully participate, in accordance with the age and maturity of the child, in the design, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of policies and programmes related to conflict prevention, peace mediation, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction, recognizing the contributions of all members of society to raise awareness and advocate combating the stigmatization of children, including girls affected by armed conflict;

38. *Deplores* all acts of sexual exploitation and abuse of and trafficking in women and children, including in humanitarian crises and by humanitarian workers and peacekeepers, including military, police and civilian personnel involved in United Nations operations, takes note of the voluntary compact on preventing and addressing sexual exploitation and abuse introduced by the Secretary-General, welcomes the efforts undertaken by United Nations agencies and peacekeeping operations to implement a zero-tolerance policy in this regard, and requests the Secretary-General or the Member States from which those humanitarian workers originate and personnel-contributing countries to continue to take all appropriate action necessary to combat such abuses and exploitation by such personnel, including through the full implementation without delay of those measures adopted in the relevant General Assembly resolutions based on recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations;<sup>309</sup>

39. *Calls upon* Member States to devise, enforce and strengthen effective child- and youth-sensitive measures to combat, eliminate and prosecute all forms of trafficking in women and girls, including for sexual and economic exploitation, as part of a comprehensive anti-trafficking strategy within wider efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, including by taking effective measures against the criminalization of girls who are victims of exploitation and ensuring that girls who have been exploited receive access to the necessary psychosocial support,

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<sup>309</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 19 (A/59/19/Rev.1)*.

and in this regard urges Member States, the United Nations and other international, regional and subregional organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations, the private sector and the media, to fully and effectively implement the relevant provisions of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons<sup>310</sup> and the activities outlined therein, with full respect for the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;<sup>311</sup>

40. *Reaffirms* that everyone has a right to a nationality as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>312</sup> and in this regard calls upon States that have not yet done so to consider adopting and implementing nationality legislation consistent with their applicable obligations under international law and to facilitate the acquisition of nationality by and ensure free or low-cost birth registration for children born on their territories or their nationals abroad who would otherwise be stateless;

41. *Calls upon* Governments, civil society, including the media, and non-governmental organizations to promote human rights education and full respect for and the enjoyment of the human rights of the girl child, inter alia, through the translation, production and dissemination of age-appropriate and gender-sensitive information material on those rights to all sectors of society, in particular to children;

42. *Requests* the Secretary-General, as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to ensure that all organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, individually and collectively, in particular the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the World Health Organization, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Labour Organization, take into account the rights and the particular needs of the girl child in country programmes of cooperation in accordance with national priorities, including through the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework;

43. *Requests* all human rights treaty bodies and the human rights mechanisms of the Human Rights Council, including the special procedures, to adopt regularly and systematically a gender perspective in the implementation of their mandates and to include in their reports information on the qualitative analysis of violations of the human rights of women and girls, and encourages the strengthening of cooperation and coordination in that regard;

44. *Requests* States to ensure that, in all policies and programmes designed to provide comprehensive HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support, particular attention and support are given to the girl child at risk of, living with or affected by HIV, including pregnant girls and young and adolescent mothers and girls with disabilities, and child heads of households, with a view to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 3, in particular the target of ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030;

45. *Invites* States to promote initiatives aimed at developing new and affordable antiretroviral drugs and HIV diagnostics, especially second-line drugs, and point-of-care diagnostics that are child-friendly, as well as investments in female-controlled methods of HIV prevention and their rapid roll-out, including through bilateral and private sector initiatives as well as initiatives on a voluntary basis taken by groups of States, including those based on innovative financing mechanisms that contribute to the mobilization of resources for social development, including those that aim to provide further access to drugs at affordable prices to developing countries on a sustainable and predictable basis, and in this regard takes note of the international drug purchase facility, Unitaid;

46. *Calls upon* all States to integrate food and nutritional support with the goal that children, especially girl children, have access at all times to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food requirements for an active and healthy life;

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<sup>310</sup> Resolution 64/293.

<sup>311</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2237, No. 39574.

<sup>312</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).



47. *Calls upon* States to ensure that social protection programmes, including HIV-sensitive programmes, are provided to orphans and other vulnerable children, with particular attention to addressing the needs and vulnerabilities of girl children, ensuring school attendance and protecting their rights;

48. *Urges* States and other relevant actors to scale up social protection programmes, including other social safety nets and poverty alleviation programmes that are gender-sensitive in design and implementation, to address the specific needs of girls, including of those living in rural and remote areas, and prevent deepening poverty and social exclusion and educational barriers;

49. *Urges* States and the international community to increase resources at all levels, particularly in the education and health sectors, so as to enable young people, especially girls, to gain the knowledge, attitudes and life skills that they need to fulfil their social, economic and other potential and overcome their challenges, including the prevention of HIV infection and early pregnancy, and to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including sexual and reproductive health;

50. *Urges* States, the international community, relevant United Nations entities, civil society and international financial institutions to continue to actively support, through the allocation of financial resources and technical assistance, efforts to address girls' right and access to education;

51. *Calls upon* States and other relevant stakeholders to mobilize resources and increase long-term gender- and age-responsive as well as disability-inclusive investments, also through budget allocations, with the focus on achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all girls, including those living in rural and remote areas, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to galvanize relevant private sector investment;

52. *Strongly calls upon* States and the international community to create an environment in which the well-being of the girl child is ensured, inter alia, by cooperating, supporting and participating in global efforts towards the full and timely realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and of all other relevant internationally agreed development goals, in particular for the eradication of poverty at the global, regional and country levels, recognizing that strengthened availability and effective allocation of resources are required at all levels in this regard, and reaffirming that investment in children, particularly girls, and the realization of their rights are among the most effective ways to eradicate poverty;

53. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its eightieth session on the implementation of the present resolution, including a status analysis on the current and potential impact of digital and emerging technologies on the girl child, using information provided by Member States, the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, with a view to assessing the impact of the present resolution on the well-being of the girl child.

## RESOLUTION 78/189

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/477, para. 11)<sup>313</sup>

### 78/189. Rights of Indigenous Peoples

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Human Rights Council and the Economic and Social Council relating to the rights of Indigenous Peoples, reaffirming its resolutions 65/198 of 21 December 2010, 66/142 of 19 December 2011, 67/153 of 20 December 2012, 68/149 of 18 December 2013, 69/2 of 22 September 2014, 69/159 of 18 December 2014, 70/232 of 23 December 2015, 71/178 of 19 December 2016, 71/321 of 8 September 2017, 72/155 of 19 December 2017, 72/247 of 24 December 2017, 73/156 of 17 December 2018,

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<sup>313</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, New Zealand, Nicaragua, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine, United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).



74/135 of 18 December 2019, 75/168 of 16 December 2020, 76/148 of 16 December 2021, and 77/203 of 15 of December of 2022, and recalling Human Rights Council resolutions 27/13 of 25 September 2014,<sup>314</sup> 30/4 of 1 October 2015,<sup>315</sup> 33/12 and 33/13 of 29 September 2016,<sup>316</sup> 36/14 of 28 September 2017,<sup>317</sup> 39/13 of 28 September 2018,<sup>318</sup> 42/19 of 26 September 2019,<sup>319</sup> 45/12 of 6 October 2020,<sup>320</sup> 48/11 of 8 October 2021,<sup>321</sup> 51/18 of 6 October 2022,<sup>322</sup> and 54/12 of 11 October 2023,

*Reaffirming* the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,<sup>323</sup> which addresses the individual and collective rights of Indigenous Peoples and has positively influenced the drafting of several constitutions and statutes at the national and local levels and contributed to the progressive development of international and national legal frameworks and policies,

*Recalling* the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, held in New York on 22 and 23 September 2014,<sup>324</sup> in which Heads of State and Government, ministers and representatives of Member States reiterated the important and continuing role of the United Nations in promoting and protecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples, recalling also the inclusive preparatory process for the high-level plenary meeting, including the comprehensive engagement of the representatives of Indigenous Peoples, and welcoming and reaffirming the commitments, measures and efforts undertaken by States, the United Nations system, Indigenous Peoples and other actors in its implementation,

*Encouraging* the active engagement of Indigenous Peoples in the implementation of the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, including at the regional and global levels, and inviting the General Assembly to consider holding a follow-up World Conference on Indigenous Peoples to enable follow-up on the implementation of the outcome document,

*Recalling* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>325</sup> and stressing the need to ensure that no one is left behind and to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first, in particular Indigenous Peoples, who should participate in, contribute to and benefit without discrimination from the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and encouraging Member States to give due consideration to all the rights of Indigenous Peoples while implementing the 2030 Agenda,

*Stressing* the importance of promoting and pursuing the objectives of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples also through international cooperation to support national and regional efforts and instruments to achieve the ends of the Declaration, including the right to maintain and strengthen the distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions of Indigenous Peoples and the right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the State,

*Reiterating* that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic is one of the greatest global challenges, and noting with deep concern its impact on individuals and groups of society, in particular Indigenous Peoples, on loss of life, health, mental health and well-being, and the enjoyment of human rights, and across all spheres of society, including on livelihoods, food security and nutrition, and education, the exacerbation of poverty and hunger, and disruption to economies, trade, societies and environments, and that these effects disproportionately impact poor, vulnerable and marginalized segments of the population, as well as women and girls,

<sup>314</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 53A* and corrigenda (A/69/53/Add.1, A/69/53/Add.1/Corr.1 and A/69/53/Add.1/Corr.2), chap. IV, sect. A.

<sup>315</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 53A* (A/70/53/Add.1), chap. III.

<sup>316</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 53A* and corrigendum (A/71/53/Add.1 and A/71/53/Add.1/Corr.1), chap. II.

<sup>317</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 53A* (A/72/53/Add.1), chap. III.

<sup>318</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 53A* (A/73/53/Add.1), chap. II.

<sup>319</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 53A* (A/74/53/Add.1), chap. III.

<sup>320</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-fifth Session, Supplement No. 53A* (A/75/53/Add.1), chap. III.

<sup>321</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53A* (A/76/53/Add.1), chap. IV, sect. A.

<sup>322</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53A* (A/77/53/Add.1), chap. III, sect. A.

<sup>323</sup> Resolution 61/295, annex.

<sup>324</sup> Resolution 69/2.

<sup>325</sup> Resolution 70/1.

## V. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Third Committee

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*Expressing deep concern* about the rise in discrimination, hate speech, stigmatization, racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including against Indigenous Peoples exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, and stressing the need to counter them, in a manner consistent with international human rights law, as part of the responses to COVID-19 and other health emergencies,

*Condemning* the cases of threats, harassment, reprisals and murder of Indigenous Peoples, in particular women and girls, and persons with disabilities, often with impunity, as well as land invasions, arbitrary forced evictions and other abusive practices,

*Condemning* the increase of cases of intimidation, harassment and reprisals against Indigenous human rights defenders and Indigenous leaders, including Indigenous women, as well as Indigenous Peoples' representatives attending United Nations meetings and United Nations mandate holders working on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and expressing its concern at the practice of some countries, including those hosting meetings on Indigenous issues, of intentionally or in a discriminatory manner delaying or denying entry visas to United Nations mandate holders or Indigenous Peoples' representatives, or applying additional travel restrictions to them that interfere, inter alia, with their ability to participate in or return from such meetings,

*Bearing in mind* the policy instruments in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration<sup>326</sup> for Member States to draw on, including to respond to the needs of migrants who face situations of vulnerability, including Indigenous Peoples,

*Noting* the importance to Indigenous women and girls of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169), of the International Labour Organization,<sup>327</sup>

*Taking note with appreciation* of the agreed conclusions of the sixty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women,<sup>328</sup> in which Governments at all levels and as appropriate, with the relevant entities of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates and bearing in mind national priorities, were urged to promote and protect the rights of Indigenous women and girls, including those living in rural and remote areas, by addressing the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and barriers they face, including violence, ensuring access to quality and inclusive education, health care, public services, economic resources, including land and natural resources, and women's access to decent work, and promoting their meaningful participation in the economy and in decision-making processes at all levels and in all areas, while respecting and protecting their traditional and ancestral knowledge, recognizing that Indigenous women and girls, including those living in rural and remote areas, regardless of age, often face violence and higher rates of poverty, limited access to health-care services, information and communications technologies, infrastructure, financial services, education and employment, while recognizing also their cultural, social, economic, political and environmental contributions, including to climate change mitigation and adaptation,

*Recognizing* that violence against Indigenous women and girls, online and offline, has a negative impact on their enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms and constitutes a major impediment to Indigenous women's full, equal, meaningful and effective participation in society, the economy and political decision-making, and in this regard recalling Human Rights Council resolution 32/19 of 1 July 2016, entitled "Accelerating efforts to eliminate violence against women: preventing and responding to violence against women and girls, including Indigenous women and girls",<sup>329</sup> which brings closer attention to this issue, and recognizing also the negative effects of multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination,

*Taking note* of general recommendation No. 39 (2022) on the rights of Indigenous women and girls<sup>330</sup> of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and noting further that it provides recommendations

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<sup>326</sup> Resolution 73/195, annex.

<sup>327</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1650, No. 28383.

<sup>328</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2019, Supplement No. 7 (E/2019/27)*, chap. I, sect. A.

<sup>329</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/71/53)*, chap. V, sect. A.

<sup>330</sup> CEDAW/C/GC/39.

to States parties on legislative, policy and other relevant measures to ensure the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discriminations Against Women,<sup>331</sup>

*Stressing* the importance of the empowerment and capacity-building of Indigenous women and youth, including their full, meaningful, equal and effective participation in decision-making processes in matters that affect them directly, including policies, programmes and resources, where relevant, that target the well-being of Indigenous women, children and youth, in particular in the areas of quality health services, inclusive quality education, productive employment and decent work, the transmission of traditional, scientific and technical knowledge, languages, spiritual and religious traditions and practices, and the importance of taking measures to promote awareness and understanding of their rights,

*Recognizing* the importance of the International Year of Indigenous Languages and the International Decade of Indigenous Languages to draw attention to the critical loss of Indigenous languages and the urgent need to preserve, revitalize and promote Indigenous languages, including sign languages, and to take further urgent steps to that end at the national and international levels, taking into consideration challenges related to high linguistic diversity, including the promotion, translation and interpretation of international instruments to Indigenous languages,

*Stressing* the importance of the preservation, revitalization and promotion of Indigenous languages for the empowerment of Indigenous language users, speakers and signers, and the preservation of Indigenous Peoples' cultures, traditions and knowledge, and recognizing the potential of the positive contribution of digital technologies in this regard,

*Recognizing* the important contribution of Indigenous Peoples in addressing a range of issues on the international agenda,

*Recognizing also* the importance to Indigenous Peoples of revitalizing, using, developing and transmitting to future generations their histories, languages, oral traditions, cultures, knowledge, philosophies, writing systems and literature,

*Taking note* of World Health Assembly resolution 76.16 of 30 May 2023 entitled "The health of Indigenous Peoples", in which the World Health Assembly recalls relevant principles in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, reaffirms that Indigenous Peoples have the right to their traditional medicines and to maintain their health practices, including the conservation of their vital medicinal plants, and also reaffirms that Indigenous individuals have the right to access, without any discrimination, all social and health services,

*Deeply concerned* that, in many cases, suicide rates in Indigenous Peoples' communities, in particular among Indigenous youth and children, are significantly higher than in the general population, and recognizing the need to support a holistic approach to social and emotional well-being through connection to land, culture, spirituality and ancestry, in addition to access to mental health services and psychosocial support,

*Bearing in mind* the importance of promoting respect for the rights of Indigenous children, in particular eliminating the worst forms of child labour, in accordance with international law, including relevant human rights law and international labour law obligations,

*Recognizing* the importance of access to justice in the promotion and protection of the rights of Indigenous Peoples and individuals and the need to examine and take steps to remove obstacles to justice for Indigenous Peoples, especially for Indigenous women, children, youth, older persons and persons with disabilities,

*Reiterating* the responsibility of transnational corporations and other business enterprises to respect all human rights, while recognizing the specific challenges that may be faced by Indigenous Peoples, and all applicable laws and international principles and to operate transparently and in a socially and environmentally responsible manner, and emphasizing the need to refrain from negatively affecting the well-being of Indigenous Peoples and to take further action towards corporate responsibility and accountability, including the prevention, mitigation and remediation of human rights abuses, in line with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework,<sup>332</sup>

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<sup>331</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

<sup>332</sup> [A/HRC/17/31](#), annex.

*Taking note* of the work carried out by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, including on the protection of Indigenous human rights defenders, welcoming his report entitled “Tourism and the rights of Indigenous Peoples”,<sup>333</sup> and calling upon all States to consider the recommendations contained in the report,

*Taking note with appreciation* of the decision of the Human Rights Council, in its resolution 54/12,<sup>334</sup> that the theme of the annual half-day panel discussion on the rights of Indigenous Peoples to be held during the fifty-seventh session of the Human Rights Council will be on laws, policies, judicial decisions and other measures that States have taken, consistent with article 38 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to achieve the ends of the Declaration, and looking forward to the summary report thereon to be prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,

*Noting* the discussions to enhance the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the work of the Human Rights Council, including the discussions and recommendations of the four-day expert workshop, held from 21 to 24 November 2022, convened to discuss recommendations on possible ways to ensure the enhanced participation of Indigenous Peoples in the work of the Council, and taking note of the summary report thereon prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner,<sup>335</sup>

*Taking note* of the summary report prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the half-day panel discussion, held on 28 September 2022 on the impact of social and economic recovery plans in the context of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on Indigenous Peoples, with special focus on food security,<sup>336</sup>

*Recognizing* the importance of free, prior and informed consent, as outlined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,

*Recognizing and reaffirming* that Indigenous individuals are entitled without discrimination to all human rights recognized in international law, and that Indigenous Peoples possess collective rights as set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which are indispensable for their existence, well-being and integral development as peoples,

*Recognizing* the value and the diversity of the cultures and the form of social organization of Indigenous Peoples and their holistic traditional knowledge of their lands, natural resources and environment, and stressing that Indigenous Peoples, including those who are in voluntary isolation or initial contact, have the right to self-determination, and can choose to live in accordance with their traditions,

*Noting* that the General Assembly, in the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, affirmed and recognized the importance of Indigenous Peoples’ religious and cultural sites and of providing access to and repatriation of their ceremonial objects and human remains, as contemplated in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,

*Commending* Member States, cultural, religious and educational institutions, museums, Indigenous Peoples and civil society for their efforts to combat the illicit trade in Indigenous Peoples’ cultural property, and welcoming all initiatives, whether by States, institutions or private persons, for the voluntary return of Indigenous Peoples’ cultural property that has been illicitly appropriated,

*Recognizing* that agricultural practices and forestry that include Indigenous traditional knowledge and innovations can contribute to overcoming the combined challenges of climate change, food insecurity, biodiversity conservation and combating desertification and land degradation,

*Recognizing also* the importance of facilitating Indigenous Peoples’ livelihoods, which may be achieved by, inter alia, the recognition of their traditions, land tenure systems, adequate public policies and economic empowerment,

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<sup>333</sup> [A/78/162](#).

<sup>334</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/78/53/Add.1)*, chap. III, sect. A.

<sup>335</sup> [A/HRC/53/44](#).

<sup>336</sup> [A/HRC/53/43](#).

*Recognizing further* that the economic empowerment, inclusion and development of all Indigenous Peoples, especially Indigenous women, including through the establishment of Indigenous-owned businesses, can enable them to improve their social, cultural, civil and political engagement, achieve greater economic independence and build more sustainable and resilient communities, and noting the contribution of Indigenous Peoples to the broader economy,

*Concerned* about the extreme disadvantages that Indigenous Peoples have typically faced across a range of social and economic indicators and about the impediments to their full enjoyment of their rights, in particular for all women, young women and girls,

*Stressing* the need to pay particular attention to the rights and special needs of Indigenous women, children, youth, older persons and persons with disabilities, as set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including in the process of protecting and promoting their equal access to justice,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, takes note of the reports of the Special Rapporteur,<sup>337</sup> and encourages all Governments to respond favourably to the requests of the Special Rapporteur for visits;

2. *Takes note* of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the rights of Indigenous Peoples,<sup>338</sup> the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples entitled “Green financing – a just transition to protect the rights of Indigenous Peoples”<sup>339</sup> and the reports of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples entitled “Impact of militarization on the rights of Indigenous Peoples”<sup>340</sup> and “Efforts to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: establishing effective monitoring mechanisms at the national and regional levels for implementation of the Declaration”,<sup>341</sup>

3. *Urges* Governments and the United Nations system, in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples through their representatives and institutions, to continue to implement appropriate measures at the national level, including legislative measures, to achieve the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and to promote awareness of it among all sectors of society, including members of legislatures, the judiciary and the civil service, as well as among Indigenous Peoples, and invites international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, national human rights institutions, where they exist, civil society, including non-governmental organizations, and other relevant actors to contribute to those efforts;

4. *Underscores* the importance of implementing the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, and reiterates the commitment of Member States to cooperating with Indigenous Peoples, through their own representative institutions, to develop and implement national action plans, strategies or other measures, where relevant, to achieve the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and acknowledges the positive development that several States have developed, or are in the process of developing, national action plans and domestic legislation for their implementation with the coordination of Indigenous Peoples;

5. *Encourages* the leadership of the Secretary-General and of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, as the responsible senior official of the United Nations system, in overseeing the implementation of and in following up on the system-wide action plan to ensure a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, raising awareness of the rights of Indigenous Peoples and increasing the coherence of the activities of the system in this regard, and encourages the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, resident coordinators and United Nations country teams to implement this plan in full alignment with national development needs and priorities;

6. *Encourages* Member States, resident coordinators and United Nations country teams, within their mandates and in coordination with the Governments concerned, to involve Indigenous Peoples regarding issues

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<sup>337</sup> [A/HRC/54/31/Add.1](#) and [A/HRC/54/31/Add.2](#).

<sup>338</sup> [A/HRC/54/39](#).

<sup>339</sup> [A/HRC/54/31](#).

<sup>340</sup> [A/HRC/54/52](#).

<sup>341</sup> [A/HRC/EMRIP/2023/3](#).



affecting them in the preparation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks and country programme action plans;

7. *Reminds* Member States to work towards achieving the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

8. *Encourages* those States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169), of the International Labour Organization to consider doing so;

9. *Urges* Member States to implement World Health Assembly resolution 76.16 of 30 May 2023 entitled “The health of Indigenous Peoples”, and invites the Director-General of the World Health Organization to take into account the present resolution while developing a global plan of action for the health of Indigenous Peoples within the framework of resolution 76.16 and his mandate for the consideration of the seventy-ninth World Health Assembly;

10. *Reiterates* the need for Member States to ensure protection for Indigenous Peoples affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and protection from future health emergencies, and prevent all forms of discrimination, especially in the context of timely, universal, inclusive, equitable and non-discriminatory access to safe, quality, effective and affordable health care and services and medical supplies and equipment, including diagnostics, therapeutics, medicine and vaccines, and through the dissemination of accurate, clear and evidence- and science-based information, including in Indigenous languages as appropriate, and to leave no one behind, with an endeavour to reach the furthest behind first, founded on the dignity of the human person and reflecting the principles of equality and non-discrimination, and calls upon Member States to put in place an inclusive response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and engage with Indigenous Peoples and other relevant stakeholders to fully empower all in improving and protecting their own health;

11. *Reaffirms* that Indigenous Peoples have the right to their traditional medicines and to maintain their health practices,<sup>342</sup> including, inter alia, the conservation of their vital medicinal plants, as part of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences, and also reaffirms that Indigenous individuals have the right to access, without any discrimination, to all social and health services;

12. *Recalls* the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples,<sup>343</sup> encourages Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to contribute to the trust fund on Indigenous issues and the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples and invites Indigenous organizations and private institutions and individuals to do likewise, and notes the importance of accessibility, accountability, transparency and balanced geographical distribution in the management of those funds;

13. *Also recalls* the expansion of the mandate of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples so that it can assist representatives of Indigenous Peoples’ organizations and communities in participating, whether in person or alternatively by electronic means, in other mechanisms and negotiations such as the Forum on Business and Human Rights and in the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including in its preparatory sessions and in the meetings of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform Facilitative Working Group organized by the secretariat of the Convention, in accordance with their respective rules and regulations;

14. *Notes* the ongoing work and potential of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, emphasizes the important role of Indigenous Peoples in achieving the targets and goals set out in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,<sup>344</sup> the Paris Agreement<sup>345</sup> and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and recognizes that Indigenous Peoples are among the first to face the direct consequences of climate change owing to their dependence upon and close relationship with the environment and its resources;

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<sup>342</sup> Resolution 61/295, annex, art. 24, para. 1.

<sup>343</sup> A/77/179.

<sup>344</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

<sup>345</sup> See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

15. *Stresses* the disproportionate impact of climate change on Indigenous Peoples due to their direct reliance on ecosystems, including for meeting their basic needs and engaging in traditional and other economic activities, and further emphasizes that climate change poses a threat to the survival, dignity and well-being of Indigenous Peoples, and exacerbates the existing inequities and challenges they face;

16. *Also stresses* the urgent need to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability of Indigenous Peoples to climate change and extreme weather events, and to support the leadership, knowledge, technologies, practices and efforts of Indigenous Peoples to address and respond to climate change, and encourages Member States to take measures that will ensure the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in decision-making processes relating to climate change on issues affecting them, including Indigenous women, youth, older persons and persons with disabilities;

17. *Further stresses* the importance of enhancing the participation of Indigenous Peoples in processes and negotiations on issues that affect them, including, but not limited to, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement,<sup>346</sup> and the Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework<sup>347</sup> under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity;<sup>348</sup>

18. *Encourages* Member States and the private sector to ensure more sustainable, environmentally friendly and responsible corporate behaviour that addresses the adverse environmental impact of certain business activities, such as illegal logging and mining, uncontrolled agribusiness expansions, unsustainable large-scale infrastructure development projects and extractive industries on the lands and territories traditionally inhabited by Indigenous Peoples and on the well-being of Indigenous Peoples;

19. *Decides* to continue to observe the International Day of Indigenous Peoples every year on 9 August, and requests the Secretary-General to support the observance of the Day from within existing resources;

20. *Encourages* Member States and all organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, the private sector and academia, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to observe the International Day of Indigenous Peoples in an appropriate manner, including through educational and public awareness-raising activities;

21. *Encourages* Member States to give due consideration to all the rights of Indigenous Peoples in fulfilling the commitments undertaken in the 2030 Agenda and in the elaboration of national action plans and programmes as well as international and regional programmes, applying the pledge to leave no one behind and to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first;

22. *Encourages* States to continue to consider including in their voluntary national reviews for the high-level political forum on sustainable development and their national and global reports information related to Indigenous Peoples on the progress made and challenges in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, bearing in mind paragraphs 78 and 79 of the 2030 Agenda, and also encourages States to compile disaggregated data to measure progress and to ensure that no one is left behind;

23. *Also encourages* States, according to their relevant national context and characteristics, to collect and disseminate data disaggregated by ethnicity, income, gender, age, race, migratory status, disability, geographic location or other factors, as appropriate, in order to monitor and improve the impact of development policies, strategies and programmes aimed at improving the well-being of Indigenous Peoples and individuals, to combat and eliminate violence and multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination against them and to support work towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda;

24. *Calls upon* States to foster an enabling online environment that is safe and conducive to engagement by all Indigenous Peoples, and to take all necessary and appropriate measures to address disinformation and advocacy of hatred constituting incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence towards Indigenous Peoples;

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<sup>346</sup> Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.

<sup>347</sup> Adopted at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Part II), Montreal, Canada, 7–19 December 2022.

<sup>348</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.



## V. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Third Committee

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25. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to include information pertinent to Indigenous Peoples in the forthcoming annual reports on progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals;

26. *Stresses* the need to strengthen the commitment of States and the entities of the United Nations system to mainstream the promotion and protection of the rights of Indigenous Peoples into development policies and programmes at the national, regional and international levels, and encourages them to give due consideration to the rights of Indigenous Peoples in achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda;

27. *Also stresses* the need for Indigenous Peoples of all regions to contribute to the high-level political forum on sustainable development, and encourages States to engage with Indigenous Peoples at the local, national and regional levels in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals and to promote Indigenous Peoples' leadership in their achievement;

28. *Invites* the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples to give due consideration, within their mandates, to the rights of Indigenous Peoples as related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

29. *Encourages* the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to continue to provide inputs on Indigenous issues to the high-level political forum on sustainable development for consideration in its thematic reviews;

30. *Underlines* the need to intensify efforts, in cooperation with Indigenous Peoples, to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence, harassment and discrimination, both online and offline, against Indigenous women, children, youth, older persons and persons with disabilities and to support measures that will ensure their empowerment and full, meaningful and effective participation in decision-making processes at all levels and in all areas and eliminate structural and legal barriers to their full, equal and effective participation in political, economic, social and cultural life;

31. *Urges* States to take necessary measures where appropriate to ensure the rights, protection and safety of Indigenous Peoples, including Indigenous leaders and Indigenous human rights defenders, and to promote a safe and enabling environment in which human rights violations, killings, reprisals and abuses against or related to them are prevented and investigated, the perpetrators are held accountable and access to justice and remedy are ensured;

32. *Reaffirms* the importance of effective accountability with regard to violence against Indigenous women and girls, including all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, domestic violence, abuse, exploitation and sexual harassment, as well as with regard to taking adequate measures to prevent and eliminate such violence;

33. *Encourages* States to consider including in their reports related to Indigenous Peoples and women information on the progress made and challenges in the implementation of Commission on the Status of Women resolutions 49/7 of 11 March 2005, entitled "Indigenous women: beyond the ten-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action",<sup>349</sup> and 56/4 of 9 March 2012, entitled "Indigenous women: key actors in poverty and hunger eradication",<sup>350</sup> as well as to consider general recommendation No. 39 (2022) on the rights of Indigenous women and girls of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;

34. *Takes note* of the work of the Commission on the Status of Women on gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including Indigenous women and girls, and suggests that the Commission consider in a future session the issue of gender equality and the empowerment of Indigenous women and girls as a priority theme;

35. *Recalls* the proclamation of the period 2022–2032 as the International Decade of Indigenous Languages, to draw attention to the critical loss of Indigenous languages and the urgent need to preserve, revitalize and promote Indigenous languages and to take urgent steps at the national, regional and international levels, and renew its support to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to serve as the lead agency for the International Decade through the global action plan, in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, and other relevant agencies, within existing resources;

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<sup>349</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum ([E/2005/27](#) and [E/2005/27/Corr.1](#)), chap. I, sect. D.

<sup>350</sup> *Ibid.*, 2012, *Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum ([E/2012/27](#) and [E/2012/27/Corr.1](#)), chap. I, sect. D.

36. *Encourages* the adoption by Member States of national action plans with an intergenerational approach to preserve, revitalize and promote Indigenous languages, including sign languages, and engage with public and private actors to enhance the use of digital technologies involving and empowering Indigenous Peoples, while respecting their cultures, traditions and autonomy;

37. *Recognizes* the importance of Indigenous languages as a driver for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and calls upon Member States to integrate the preservation, promotion and revitalization of Indigenous languages in the wider efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda;

38. *Also recognizes* the importance of creating international, regional and national initiatives to promote the use of Indigenous languages, such as the Ibero-American Institute of Indigenous Languages, and in this regard encourages Member States to explore the creation of such initiatives;

39. *Invites* Member States to consider establishing national mechanisms with adequate funding for the successful implementation of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages, in partnership with Indigenous Peoples, and to support Indigenous Peoples, as custodians of their own languages, to initiate and develop appropriate measures for the implementation of the International Decade, with the aim to preserve, revitalize and promote Indigenous languages;

40. *Recognizes* that the United Nations pursues multilingualism as a means of promoting, protecting and preserving diversity of languages and cultures globally, reaffirms that linguistic diversity is an important element of cultural diversity, and encourages Member States to adopt public policies with an intercultural approach in their design and implementation, aiming to preserve, revitalize and promote Indigenous languages, the possibility of including educational programmes that reinforce the use of Indigenous languages among children and youth by using an intergenerational approach with the participation of Indigenous elders, as well as the promotion and use of Indigenous languages at the international level;

41. *Recalls* the right of Indigenous Peoples to establish their own media in their own languages and to have access to all forms of non-Indigenous media without discrimination, and calls upon States to promote and examine national policies, practices and funding programmes on Indigenous media, including on capacity-building and content production in Indigenous languages by Indigenous content producers and media professionals, especially Indigenous women, and to foster international cooperation, knowledge-sharing and cooperation among Indigenous media and other partners, including mainstream media and Governments;

42. *Encourages* Governments to redouble efforts to eliminate child labour, both in legislation and in practice, in the context of respect for the human rights of Indigenous children, including through international cooperation, as appropriate;

43. *Also encourages* Governments to promote actions to end hunger and malnutrition in all its forms and achieve food security and improved nutrition for Indigenous children, especially for those living in rural and remote areas, by providing them with adequate access to food, water and sanitation, education, including intercultural and multilingual education, and universal and equitable access to quality health services, and to implement actions for poverty eradication and build sustainable food systems;

44. *Urges* Governments to ensure that Indigenous Peoples shall not be forcibly removed from their lands or territories and that no relocation shall take place without the free, prior and informed consent of the Indigenous Peoples concerned, after agreement on just and fair compensation and, where possible, with the option of return, and to take effective measures to ensure that all Indigenous Peoples, regardless of their tenure status, have access to essential services, including access to safe and affordable water, sanitation, energy and health services;

45. *Encourages* transnational corporations and other business enterprises to respect human rights, including the rights of Indigenous children, and to eliminate forced labour and child labour from their operations;

46. *Expresses concern* over the misappropriation and misuse of Indigenous Peoples' cultural heritage, reaffirms that Indigenous Peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, and that they also have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their intellectual property over such cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, and recalls that States, in conjunction with Indigenous Peoples, shall take effective measures to recognize and protect the exercise of these rights, in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and as acknowledged in national law;

47. *Underscores* the need to ensure equal protection of the law and equality before the courts for Indigenous women and girls at all levels and, to that end, the importance of providing systematic gender-sensitivity training, as appropriate, for police and security forces, prosecutors, judges and lawyers, integrating gender considerations into security sector reform initiatives, developing protocols and guidelines and enhancing or putting in place appropriate accountability measures for adjudicators;

48. *Encourages* States and entities of the United Nations system to strengthen international cooperation, including to address the disadvantages faced by Indigenous Peoples, and to increase technical cooperation and financial assistance in this regard;

49. *Encourages* the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund and other relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, in accordance with their mandates, to carry out research and evidence-gathering on the prevalence and root causes of suicide among Indigenous youth and children and good practices on its prevention and to consider developing, as appropriate, strategies or policies, consistent with national priorities, in cooperation with Member States, to tackle it, including through consultation with Indigenous Peoples, in particular Indigenous youth organizations;

50. *Recalls* the report of the Secretary-General on enhancing the participation of Indigenous Peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them,<sup>351</sup> and recalls with appreciation the work led by the Presidents of the General Assembly at its seventieth to seventy-fifth sessions in conducting consultations with Member States, Indigenous Peoples' representatives and institutions from all regions of the world and existing mechanisms of the United Nations on possible measures to enable the participation of Indigenous Peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them, which led to the adoption of Assembly resolution [71/321](#), taking into account the achievements in that regard of other bodies and organizations throughout the United Nations system, to be preceded by consultations with Indigenous Peoples' representatives and institutions from all regions of the world as an input to the intergovernmental process;

51. *Takes note with appreciation* of the summary reports of the three informal interactive hearings on possible further measures necessary to enhance the participation of Indigenous Peoples' representatives and institutions in relevant United Nations meetings on issues affecting them, held at United Nations Headquarters on 17 April 2018, 25 April 2019 and 20 April 2023, recalls General Assembly resolution [70/232](#), whereby the Assembly requested the President of the General Assembly to conduct timely, inclusive, representative and transparent consultations with Member States, Indigenous Peoples' representatives and institutions from all regions of the world, and existing relevant mechanisms of the United Nations, on the possible measures necessary, including procedural and institutional steps and accreditation criteria, to enable the participation of Indigenous Peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them, and also recalls Assembly resolutions [71/321](#) and [77/203](#), whereby the Assembly decided to continue the consideration of possible further measures necessary to enhance the participation of Indigenous Peoples' representatives and institutions in relevant United Nations meetings on issues affecting them at the seventy-eighth session, as originally requested in resolution [71/321](#);

52. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to convene, within existing resources, a high-level event to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in order to raise awareness of the importance of pursuing its objectives;

53. *Encourages* the United Nations system to strengthen cooperation with the Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean, considering its fundamental role in the Latin American and Caribbean region in processes of dialogue and consultation between States and Indigenous Peoples;

54. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the question at its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled "Rights of Indigenous Peoples", and to maintain in the provisional agenda the sub-item entitled "Follow-up to the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples".

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<sup>351</sup> [A/75/255](#).

## RESOLUTION 78/190

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 118 to 49, with 14 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/478, para. 33)<sup>352</sup>

\* *In favour:* Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Israel, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against:* Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kiribati, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Abstaining:* Bahamas, Dominica, Guinea, Myanmar, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Korea, Samoa, South Sudan, Switzerland, Tonga, Türkiye, Tuvalu

### **78/190. Combating glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance**

*The General Assembly,*

*Guided* by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>353</sup> the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>354</sup> the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination<sup>355</sup> and other relevant human rights instruments,

*Recalling* the provisions of Commission on Human Rights resolutions 2004/16 of 16 April 2004<sup>356</sup> and 2005/5 of 14 April 2005<sup>357</sup> and relevant Human Rights Council resolutions, in particular resolutions 7/34 of 28 March 2008,<sup>358</sup> 18/15 of 29 September 2011<sup>359</sup> and 21/33 of 28 September 2012,<sup>360</sup> as well as General Assembly resolutions 60/143 of 16 December 2005, 61/147 of 19 December 2006, 62/142 of 18 December 2007, 63/162 of 18 December 2008, 64/147 of 18 December 2009, 65/199 of 21 December 2010, 66/143 of 19 December 2011, 67/154 of 20 December 2012, 68/150 of 18 December 2013, 69/160 of 18 December 2014, 70/139 of 17 December 2015, 71/179 of 19 December 2016, 72/156 of 19 December 2017, 73/157 of 17 December 2018, 74/136 of 18 December 2019, 75/169 of 16 December 2020, 76/149 of 16 December 2021 and 77/204 of 15 December 2022 on this issue, and its resolutions 61/149 of 19 December 2006, 62/220 of 22 December 2007, 63/242 of 24 December 2008, 64/148 of 18 December 2009, 65/240 of 24 December 2010, 66/144 of 19 December 2011, 67/155 of 20 December 2012, 68/151 of 18 December 2013, 69/162 of 18 December 2014, 70/140 of 17 December 2015, 71/181 of 19 December

<sup>352</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, China, Congo, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Gambia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Mali, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Togo, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Zimbabwe.

<sup>353</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>354</sup> See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

<sup>355</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 660, No. 9464.

<sup>356</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2004, Supplement No. 3 (E/2004/23)*, chap. II, sect. A.

<sup>357</sup> *Ibid.*, 2005, *Supplement No. 3* and corrigenda (E/2005/23, E/2005/23/Corr.1 and E/2005/23/Corr.2), chap. II, sect. A.

<sup>358</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/63/53)*, chap. II.

<sup>359</sup> *Ibid.*, *Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53A* and corrigendum (A/66/53/Add.1 and A/66/53/Add.1/Corr.1), chap. II.

<sup>360</sup> *Ibid.*, *Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/67/53/Add.1)*, chap. II.

2016, [72/157](#) of 19 December 2017, [73/262](#) of 22 December 2018, [74/137](#) of 18 December 2019, [75/237](#) of 31 December 2020, [76/226](#) of 24 December 2021 and [77/205](#) of 15 December 2022, entitled “A global call for concrete action for the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action”,

*Acknowledging* other important initiatives of the General Assembly aimed at raising awareness about the suffering of victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and forms of discrimination, including in the historical perspective, in particular regarding commemoration of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade,

*Recalling* the Charter of the Nuremberg Tribunal, and the Judgment of the Tribunal which recognized as criminal, inter alia, the SS organization and its integral parts, including the Waffen SS, through its officially accepted members implicated in or with knowledge of the commission of war crimes and crimes against humanity connected with the Second World War, as well as other relevant provisions of the Charter and the Judgment,

*Mindful* of the horrors of the Second World War, and stressing in this regard that the victory over Nazism in the Second World War contributed to the establishment of the conditions for the creation of the United Nations, designed to prevent future wars and save succeeding generations from the scourge of war,

*Noting* that neo-Nazism is more than just the glorification of a past movement, it is a contemporary phenomenon with strong vested interests in racial inequality and an investment in gaining broad support for its false claims of racial superiority,

*Recalling* the relevant provisions of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance on 8 September 2001,<sup>361</sup> in particular paragraph 2 of the Declaration and paragraphs 84 to 86 of the Programme of Action, as well as the relevant provisions of the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference of 24 April 2009,<sup>362</sup> in particular paragraphs 11, 13 and 54,

*Alarmed* at the spread in many parts of the world of various extremist political parties, movements, ideologies and groups of a racist or xenophobic character, including neo-Nazis and skinhead groups, and at the fact that this trend has resulted in the implementation of discriminatory measures and policies at the local or national level,

*Noting with concern* that, even where neo-Nazis or extremists do not formally participate in government, the presence therein of extreme right-wing ideologues can have the effect of injecting into governance and political discourse the same ideologies that make neo-Nazism and extremism so dangerous,

*Alarmed* at music lyrics and video games that advocate racial hatred and incite discrimination, hostility or violence,

*Concerned* by the use of Internet platforms by groups that advocate hatred to plan, fundraise and circulate information about public events aimed at promoting racism, xenophobia and related intolerance, such as rallies, demonstrations and acts of violence,

*Mindful* of the role that the Internet can play in promoting equality, inclusion and non-discrimination as part of strengthening democracy and respect for human rights,

*Seriously concerned* that neo-Nazi groups, as well as other groups and individuals espousing ideologies of hatred, have increasingly targeted susceptible individuals, mainly children and youth, by means of specifically tailored websites with the aim of their indoctrination and recruitment,

*Deeply concerned* by all recent manifestations of violence and terrorism incited by violent nationalism, racism, antisemitism, discrimination based on religion, belief or origin, including Islamophobia, Christianophobia and Afrophobia, xenophobia and related intolerance, including during sports events,

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<sup>361</sup> See [A/CONF.189/12](#) and [A/CONF.189/12/Corr.1](#), chap. I.

<sup>362</sup> See [A/CONF.211/8](#), chap. I.

*Recognizing with deep concern* the continued alarming increase in instances of discrimination, intolerance and extremist violence motivated by antisemitism, religion or belief, including Islamophobia and Christianophobia, and prejudices against persons of other ethnic origins, religions and beliefs,

*Underlining* the existing lack of uniformity of norms regarding protected speech and expression and prohibited racial discrimination and advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence,

*Noting with concern*, in this regard, that the variation in national standards prohibiting hate speech may provide safe havens for neo-Nazi, extremist, violent nationalist, xenophobic or racist speech owing to the fact that many neo-Nazi and relevant extremist groups of a racist or xenophobic character operate transnationally by relying on Internet service providers or social media platforms,

*Stressing* that the purpose of addressing hate speech is not to limit or prohibit freedom of speech, but to prevent incitement to discrimination and violence, which shall be prohibited by law,

*Expressing its concern* about the use of digital technologies by extremist and hate groups, including neo-Nazi groups, to disseminate their ideology, while recognizing that digital technologies are of great importance for the enjoyment of human rights and for combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

1. *Reaffirms* the relevant provisions of the Durban Declaration and of the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference, in which States condemned the persistence and resurgence of neo-Nazism, neo-Fascism and violent nationalist ideologies based on racial and national prejudice and stated that those phenomena could never be justified in any instance or in any circumstances;

2. *Recalls* the provisions of the Durban Declaration and of the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference, in which States recognized the positive contribution that the exercise of the right to freedom of expression, in particular by the media and new technologies, including the Internet, and full respect for the freedom to seek, receive and impart information can make to the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

3. *Takes note* of the report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, prepared in accordance with the request contained in its resolution 77/204,<sup>363</sup>

4. *Notes with alarm* that the Russian Federation has sought to justify its territorial aggression against Ukraine on the purported basis of eliminating neo-Nazism, and underlines that the pretextual use of neo-Nazism to justify territorial aggression seriously undermines genuine attempts to combat neo-Nazism;

5. *Expresses its appreciation* to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for their efforts to fight racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including the maintenance by the Office of the High Commissioner of the database on practical means to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

6. *Expresses deep concern* about the glorification, in any form, of the Nazi movement, neo-Nazism and former members of the Waffen SS organization, including by erecting monuments and memorials, holding public demonstrations in the name of the glorification of the Nazi past, the Nazi movement and neo-Nazism, declaring or attempting to declare such members and those who fought against the anti-Hitler coalition, collaborated with the Nazi movement and committed war crimes and crimes against humanity participants in national liberation movements, as well as by the renaming of streets glorifying them;

7. *Calls for* the universal ratification and effective implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and urges those States parties that have not yet done so to consider making the declaration under its article 14, thus providing the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination with the competence to receive and consider communications from individuals or groups of individuals within their jurisdiction claiming to be victims of a violation by a State party of any of the rights set forth in the Convention;

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<sup>363</sup> A/78/302.



## V. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Third Committee

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8. *Urges* States to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination by all appropriate means, including legislation as required by circumstances, while ensuring that the definition of racial discrimination set out therein complies with article 1 of the Convention;
9. *Encourages* those States that have made reservations to article 4 of the Convention to give serious consideration to withdrawing such reservations as a matter of priority, as stressed by the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;
10. *Acknowledges* that discrimination based on race, ethnicity, religion or belief in all its forms and manifestations, including neo-Nazism, Islamophobia, Christianophobia and antisemitism, is a threat to social cohesion, not just to those racial and ethnic groups that are their direct target;
11. *Recalls* that any legislative or constitutional measures adopted with a view to countering extremist political parties, movements, ideologies and groups of a racist or xenophobic character, including neo-Nazis and skinhead groups and similar extremist ideological movements, should be in conformity with the relevant international human rights obligations, in particular articles 4 and 5 of the Convention and articles 19 to 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
12. *Encourages* States to develop and implement national action plans for the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, with a view to, inter alia, monitoring closely the phenomenon of Nazism, neo-Nazism and Holocaust denial, such as commemorative celebration of the Nazi regime, its allies and related organizations;
13. *Encourages* States parties to the Convention to take appropriate measures to ensure that their legislation is in accordance with their obligations under the Convention, including those under article 4;
14. *Stresses* that the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association are important in supporting the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance worldwide;
15. *Emphasizes once more* the recommendation of the Special Rapporteur that “any commemorative celebration of the Nazi regime, its allies and related organizations, whether official or unofficial, should be prohibited” by States,<sup>364</sup> also emphasizes that such manifestations do injustice to the memory of the countless victims of the Second World War and negatively influence children and young people, and stresses in this regard that it is important that States take measures, in accordance with international human rights law, to counteract any celebration of the Nazi SS organization and all its integral parts, including the Waffen SS, and that failure by States to effectively address such practices is incompatible with the obligations of States Members of the United Nations under its Charter;
16. *Expresses deep concern* about increased frequency of attempts and activities intended to desecrate or demolish monuments erected in remembrance of those who fought against Nazism during the Second World War, as well as to unlawfully exhume or remove the remains of such persons, and in this regard urges States to fully comply with their relevant obligations, inter alia, under article 34 of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions of 1949;<sup>365</sup>
17. *Firmly condemns* incidents that glorify and promote Nazism, such as acts involving pro-Nazi graffiti and paintings, including on monuments dedicated to victims of the Second World War;
18. *Welcomes* efforts by Member States to preserve historical truth, including through constructing and preserving monuments and memorials dedicated to those who fought in the ranks of the anti-Hitler coalition;
19. *Expresses alarm* over the use by extremist groups, including neo-Nazi groups, and individuals espousing ideologies of hatred, of information technologies, the Internet and social media to recruit new members, especially targeting children and young people, and to disseminate and to amplify their hate-filled messages, while recognizing that the Internet can also be used to counteract these groups and their activities;
20. *Calls upon* States to take appropriate measures to address the new and emerging threats posed by the rise in terrorist attacks incited by racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance, or in the name of religion or belief;

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<sup>364</sup> A/72/291, para. 79.

<sup>365</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1125, No. 17512.



21. *Notes with concern* the significant number of racist incidents worldwide, including the rise of skinhead groups, which have been responsible for many of these incidents, as well as the resurgence of racist and xenophobic violence targeting, inter alia, persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, or on any other grounds, including arson attacks on houses and vandalization of and violence in schools and places of worship and cemeteries;

22. *Reaffirms* that such acts may, in certain circumstances, be qualified as falling within the scope of the Convention, that they may not be justifiable as exercises of freedom of peaceful assembly, freedom of association and freedom of expression and that they will often fall within the scope of article 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and may be subject to certain restrictions, as set out in articles 19, 21 and 22 of the Covenant;

23. *Encourages* States to take appropriate concrete measures, including legislative and educational ones, in accordance with their international human rights obligations, in order to prevent revisionism in respect of the Second World War and the denial of the crimes against humanity and war crimes committed during the Second World War;

24. *Calls upon* States to take active measures to ensure that education systems develop the necessary content to provide accurate accounts of history, as well as to promote tolerance and other international human rights principles;

25. *Recalls* the recommendation of the Special Rapporteur that education that seeks to undercut the racist effects of nationalist populism should include accurate and representative accounts of national history that give voice to racial and ethnic diversity and that expose the untruths of those who attempt to write ethnic groups out of national histories and identities in order to sustain ethnonationalist myths of racially or ethnically “pure” nations;<sup>366</sup>

26. *Condemns without reservation* any denial of or attempt to deny the Holocaust, as well as any manifestation of religious intolerance, incitement, harassment or violence against persons or communities, on the basis of ethnic origin or religious belief;

27. *Affirms its deep commitment* to the duty of remembrance, and welcomes the call of the Special Rapporteur for the active preservation of those Holocaust sites that served as Nazi death camps, concentration and forced labour camps and prisons, as well as his encouragement to States to take measures, including legislative, law enforcement and educational measures, to put an end to all forms of Holocaust denial;<sup>367</sup>

28. *Recalls* the conclusions of the Special Rapporteur that revisionism and attempts to falsify history may, in certain circumstances, fall under the prohibition of hate speech under article 4 (a) of the Convention, which States are required to declare as offences punishable by law,<sup>368</sup> and that neo-Nazi recruitment attempting to mainstream extreme ideologies or racial, ethnic or religious hatred and intolerance may fall under article 4 (b) of the Convention;

29. *Calls upon* States to continue to take all appropriate measures aimed at preventing and countering hate speech, including on the Internet, and incitement to violence against persons in vulnerable situations, including the organization of meetings and violent protests, fundraising and engagement in other activities;

30. *Expresses serious concern* regarding attempts to prohibit, at the legislative level, symbols associated in States with the victory over Nazism;

31. *Expresses deep concern* about attempts at commercial advertising aimed at exploiting the sufferings of the victims of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during the Second World War by the Nazi regime;

32. *Stresses* the need to respect the memory and that the practices described above do injustice to the memory of the countless victims of crimes against humanity committed in the Second World War, in particular those committed by the SS organization and by those who fought against the anti-Hitler coalition and collaborated with the Nazi movement, and may negatively influence children and young people, and that failure by States to effectively address such practices is incompatible with the obligations of States Members of the United Nations under its Charter, including those related to the purposes and principles of the Organization;

33. *Also stresses* that all such practices may fuel contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, antisemitism, discrimination based on religion or belief, including Islamophobia and Christianophobia, xenophobia

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<sup>366</sup> A/73/305 and A/73/305/Corr.1, para. 56.

<sup>367</sup> A/72/291, para. 91.

<sup>368</sup> A/HRC/38/53, para. 15.

and related intolerance and contribute to the spread and multiplication of various extremist political parties, movements and groups of a racist or xenophobic character, including neo-Nazis and skinhead groups, and in this regard calls for increased vigilance;

34. *Expresses concern* that the human rights and democratic challenges posed by extremist political parties, movements and groups are universal and no country is immune to them;

35. *Emphasizes* the need to take appropriate measures necessary to counter the practices described above, and calls upon States and all other stakeholders to take more effective measures, while fully respecting international human rights law, to prevent, counter and combat those phenomena and extremist movements of a racist or xenophobic character, which pose a real threat to democratic values, and to increase their vigilance and be proactive in strengthening their efforts to recognize and effectively address those challenges;

36. *Underlines* the importance of reliable disaggregated data and statistics on racist and xenophobic crimes for identifying the types of offences committed, the profiles of victims and of perpetrators and whether the latter are affiliated with extremist movements or groups, thus enhancing better understanding of the phenomenon, identifying effective measures to address such racist and xenophobic crimes and assessing the impact of these measures, and recalls in this regard the commitments made in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>369</sup> on data, monitoring and accountability, including collecting data disaggregated by characteristics relevant in national contexts;

37. *Encourages* States to adopt further measures to support training for the police and other law enforcement bodies on the ideologies of extremist political parties, movements and groups the advocacy of which constitutes incitement to racist and xenophobic violence, to strengthen their capacity to address racist and xenophobic crimes and prevent racial profiling practices, to fulfil their responsibility for bringing to justice the perpetrators of such crimes and to combat impunity;

38. *Expresses deep concern* about the increased number of seats occupied by representatives of extremist parties of a racist or xenophobic character in a number of national and local parliaments, and emphasizes in this regard the need for all democratic political parties to base their programmes and activities on respect for human rights and freedoms, democracy, the rule of law and good governance and to condemn all messages disseminating ideas that are based on racial superiority or hatred and that have the objective of fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

39. *Recalls* the concern of the Special Rapporteur regarding the resurgence of neo-Nazism in contemporary times and growing support for and acceptance of neo-Nazism and related ideology in an increasing number of countries;<sup>370</sup>

40. *Notes with appreciation*, in this regard, the call of the Special Rapporteur upon political leaders and parties to strongly condemn incitement to racial discrimination or xenophobia, to promote tolerance and respect and to refrain from forming coalitions with extremist parties of a racist or xenophobic character;<sup>371</sup>

41. *Welcomes* the recommendation of the Special Rapporteur to continue to take steps through national legislation, in accordance with international human rights law, aimed at preventing hate speech and incitement to violence, to withdraw support – financial and otherwise – from political parties and other organizations that engage in neo-Nazi or other hate speech and to take steps to dismantle responsible organizations where such hate speech aims, or can reasonably be expected, to incite violence;<sup>372</sup>

42. *Encourages* States to improve diversity within law enforcement agencies, and urges them to take all appropriate measures to facilitate the filing of complaints about and to impose appropriate sanctions against those within the public service found to have committed racially motivated violence or to have used hate speech;

43. *Expresses deep concern* about the increase in reported cases of racism, antisemitism, discrimination based on religion, belief or origin, including Islamophobic, Arabophobic, Afrophobic and xenophobic manifestations during sports events, including those committed by extremist groups of a racist or xenophobic character, including neo-Nazis

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<sup>369</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>370</sup> A/HRC/38/53, para. 16.

<sup>371</sup> A/72/291, para. 83.

<sup>372</sup> A/HRC/38/53, para. 35 (c).

and skinhead groups, and calls upon States, international organizations, sports federations and other relevant stakeholders to strengthen measures to address such incidents, while also welcoming the steps that many States and sports federations, clubs and fan groups have taken to eliminate racism at sporting events, including through sport practised without discrimination of any kind and in the Olympic spirit, which require human understanding, tolerance, inclusion, fair play and solidarity;

44. *Recalls* the recommendation of the Special Rapporteur to introduce into national criminal law a provision according to which committing an offence with racist or xenophobic motivations or aims constitutes an aggravating circumstance, allowing for enhanced penalties,<sup>373</sup> and encourages those States whose legislation does not contain such provisions to consider that recommendation;

45. *Notes* measures taken by States to prevent discrimination against, in particular but not limited to, persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, people of African descent, Roma, migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers, and to ensure their integration into society, urges States to ensure the full and effective implementation of legal, policy and institutional measures protecting these individuals and groups, including women and girls, and recommends that States effectively guarantee to everyone, without discrimination of any kind, their human rights, including those related to safety and security, access to justice, adequate reparation and appropriate information about their rights, and pursue prosecution and adequate punishment, as appropriate, of those responsible for racist and xenophobic crimes against them, including the possibility of seeking reparation or satisfaction for damages suffered as a result of such crimes;

46. *Calls upon* States to increase awareness about available national and other remedies for human rights violations based on racial discrimination and racism;

47. *Underlines* that the roots of extremism are multifaceted and must be addressed through adequate measures such as education, awareness-raising and the promotion of dialogue, and in this regard recommends the increase of measures to raise awareness among young people of the dangers of the ideologies and activities of extremist political parties, movements and groups;

48. *Reaffirms*, in this regard, the particular importance of all forms of education, including human rights education, as a complement to legislative measures, and calls upon States to continue to invest in education, in both conventional and non-conventional curricula, inter alia, in order to transform attitudes and counteract ideas of racial hierarchies and superiority, and counter their negative influence, and to promote the values of non-discrimination, equality and respect for all, as outlined by the Special Rapporteur;

49. *Recognizes* the paramount role of education in promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms and combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, especially in promoting the principles of tolerance, non-discrimination, inclusion and respect for ethnic, religious and cultural diversity and preventing the spread of extremist racist and xenophobic movements and ideas;

50. *Strongly condemns* the use in educational settings of educational material and rhetoric that promulgate racism, discrimination, hatred and violence on the basis of ethnic origin, nationality, religion or belief;

51. *Emphasizes* the recommendation of the Special Rapporteur presented at the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly, in which he emphasized the importance of history classes in teaching the dramatic events and human suffering which arose out of the adoption of ideologies such as Nazism and Fascism;<sup>374</sup>

52. *Stresses* the importance of other positive measures and initiatives aimed at bringing communities together and providing them with space for genuine dialogue, such as round tables, working groups and seminars, including training seminars for State agents and media professionals, as well as awareness-raising activities, especially those initiated by civil society representatives, which require continued State support;

53. *Underlines* the positive role that relevant United Nations entities and programmes, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, can play in the aforementioned areas;

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<sup>373</sup> A/69/334, para. 81.

<sup>374</sup> A/64/295, para. 104.

54. *Reaffirms* article 4 of the Convention, according to which States parties condemn all propaganda and all organizations which are based on ideas or theories of superiority of one race or group of persons of one colour or ethnic origin, or which attempt to justify or promote racial hatred and discrimination in any form, and undertake to adopt immediate and positive measures designed to eradicate all incitement to, or acts of, such discrimination and, to this end, with due regard to the principles embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the rights expressly set forth in article 5 of the Convention, inter alia:

(a) Shall declare an offence punishable by law all dissemination of ideas based on racial superiority or hatred, and incitement to racial discrimination, as well as all acts of violence or incitement to such acts against any race or group of persons of another colour or ethnic origin, and also the provision of any assistance to racist activities, including the financing thereof;

(b) Shall declare illegal and prohibit organizations, and also organized and all other propaganda activities, which promote and incite racial discrimination, and shall recognize participation in such organizations or activities as an offence punishable by law;

(c) Shall not permit public authorities or public institutions, national or local, to promote or incite racial discrimination;

55. *Also reaffirms* that, as underlined in paragraph 13 of the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference, any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence should be prohibited by law, that all dissemination of ideas based on racial superiority or hatred, or incitement to racial discrimination, as well as all acts of violence or incitement to such acts, shall be declared offences punishable by law, in accordance with the international obligations of States, and that these prohibitions are consistent with freedom of opinion and expression;

56. *Recalls* the United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech, which sets out strategic guidance for the United Nations system to address hate speech at the national and global levels;

57. *Recognizes* the positive role that the exercise of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, as well as full respect for the freedom to seek, receive and impart information, including through the Internet, can play in combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

58. *Calls upon* States to strengthen freedom of expression, which can play a crucial role in promoting democracy and combating racist and xenophobic ideologies based on racial superiority;

59. *Also calls upon* States, which have the primary responsibility to counter discrimination and hate speech, and all relevant actors, including political and religious leaders, to promote inclusion and unity in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and to prevent, speak out and take strong action against racism, xenophobia, hate speech, violence, discrimination and stigmatization;

60. *Expresses concern* about the increased use of digital technologies to promote and disseminate racism, racial hatred, xenophobia, racial discrimination and related intolerance, and in this regard calls upon States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to counter the dissemination of the above-mentioned ideas while respecting their obligations under articles 19 and 20 of the Covenant, which guarantee the right to freedom of expression and outline the grounds on which the exercise of this right can be legitimately restricted;

61. *Recognizes* the need to promote the use of new information and communications technologies, including the Internet, to contribute to the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

62. *Also recognizes* the positive role that the media can play in combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, promoting a culture of tolerance and inclusion and representing the diversity of a multicultural society;

63. *Encourages* States, civil society and other relevant stakeholders to use all opportunities, including those provided by the Internet and social media, to counter, in accordance with international human rights law, the dissemination of ideas based on racial superiority or hatred and to promote the values of equality, non-discrimination, diversity and democracy;

64. *Encourages* national human rights institutions, where they exist, to develop appropriate programmes to promote tolerance, inclusion and respect for all and to collect relevant information in this regard;

65. *Notes* the importance of strengthening cooperation at the regional and international levels with the aim of countering all manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, in particular regarding issues raised in the present resolution;

66. *Stresses* the importance of cooperating closely with civil society and international and regional human rights mechanisms in order to counter effectively all manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, as well as extremist political parties, movements and groups, including neo-Nazis and skinhead groups, and other similar extremist ideological movements that incite racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

67. *Recalls* the request of the Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 2005/5, that the Special Rapporteur continue to reflect on this issue, make relevant recommendations in future reports and seek and take into account in this regard the views of Governments and non-governmental organizations;

68. *Invites* States to consider including in their reports for the universal periodic review and their reports to relevant treaty bodies information on the steps taken to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including with the aim of implementing the provisions of the present resolution;

69. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to prepare, for submission to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session and to the Human Rights Council at its fifty-sixth session, reports on the implementation of the present resolution, and encourages the Special Rapporteur to pay specific attention to paragraphs 5, 12, 14, 15, 16, 20, 28, 29, 30, 48 and 50 above, based on the views collected in accordance with the request of the Commission, as recalled in paragraph 66 above;

70. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Governments and non-governmental organizations that have submitted information to the Special Rapporteur in the course of the preparation of her report to the General Assembly;

71. *Encourages* States and non-governmental organizations to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur, including by providing information on developments with regard to the issues raised in the present resolution in order to contribute to the preparation of future reports to the General Assembly;

72. *Stresses* that such information is important for the sharing of experiences and best practices in the fight against extremist political parties, movements and groups, including neo-Nazis and skinhead groups, and other extremist ideological movements that incite racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

73. *Encourages* Governments to invest more resources in building and sharing knowledge on successful positive measures to prevent and counter racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, in addition to sanctioning any violations, including by providing remedies to victims of violations, as appropriate;

74. *Encourages* Governments, non-governmental organizations and relevant actors to disseminate, as widely as possible, information regarding the contents of and the principles outlined in the present resolution, including through the media, but not limited to it;

75. *Decides* to remain seized of the issue.

## RESOLUTION 78/191

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 129 to 52, with 6 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/479, para. 34)<sup>375</sup>

\* *In favour:* 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, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana,

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<sup>375</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Central African Republic, China, Congo, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Jamaica, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Malaysia, Myanmar, Namibia, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

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, 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 Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against:* Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Abstaining:* Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kiribati, Mexico, Palau, Switzerland, Tonga

**78/191. Use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* all of its previous resolutions on the subject, including resolution [77/206](#) of 15 December 2022, and Human Rights Council resolutions on the subject, including resolution [54/3](#) of 11 October 2023,<sup>376</sup> as well as all resolutions adopted by the Commission on Human Rights in this regard,

*Recalling also* all of its relevant resolutions, in which, inter alia, it condemned any State that permitted or tolerated the recruitment, financing, training, assembly, transit or use of mercenaries with the objective of overthrowing the Governments of States Members of the United Nations, especially those of developing countries, or of fighting against national liberation movements, and recalling further the relevant resolutions and international instruments adopted by the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the Organization of African Unity, inter alia, the Organization of African Unity Convention for the elimination of mercenarism in Africa,<sup>377</sup> as well as by the African Union,

*Reaffirming* the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations concerning the strict observance of the principles of sovereign equality, political independence, the territorial integrity of States, the self-determination of peoples, the non-use of force or of the threat of use of force in international relations and non-interference in affairs within the domestic jurisdiction of States,

*Reaffirming also* that, by virtue of the principle of self-determination, all peoples have the right freely to determine their political status and to pursue their economic, social and cultural development and that every State has the duty to respect this right in accordance with the provisions of the Charter,

*Deeply concerned* at the continuation of acts or threats of foreign military intervention and occupation that are threatening to suppress, or have already suppressed, the right to self-determination of peoples and nations,

*Reaffirming* the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,<sup>378</sup>

*Acknowledging with appreciation* the work and contributions of the open-ended intergovernmental working group established by the Human Rights Council with the mandate of considering the possibility of elaborating an international regulatory framework, including the option of elaborating a legally binding instrument on the regulation, monitoring and oversight of the activities of private military and security companies,

*Alarmed and concerned* at the danger that the activities of mercenaries constitute to peace and security in developing countries in various parts of the world, in particular in areas of armed conflict, and about the threat they pose to the integrity of and respect for the constitutional order of the affected countries,

<sup>376</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/78/53/Add.1)*, chap. III, sect. A.

<sup>377</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1490, No. 25573.

<sup>378</sup> Resolution [2625 \(XXV\)](#), annex.



*Deeply concerned* at the loss of life, the substantial damage to property and the negative effects on the policies and economies of affected countries resulting from international criminal mercenary activities,

*Convinced* that, notwithstanding the way in which mercenaries or mercenary-related activities are used or the form that they take to acquire some semblance of legitimacy, they are a threat to peace, security and the self-determination of peoples and an obstacle to the enjoyment of all human rights by peoples,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the latest report of the Working Group of the Human Rights Council on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination;<sup>379</sup>

2. *Reaffirms* that the use of mercenaries and their recruitment, financing, protection and training are causes for grave concern to all States and that they violate the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations;

3. *Recognizes* that armed conflict, terrorism, arms trafficking and covert operations by third Powers encourage, inter alia, the demand for mercenaries on the global market;

4. *Urges*, once again, all States to take the steps necessary and to exercise the utmost vigilance against the menace posed by the activities of mercenaries and to take legislative measures to ensure that their territories and other territories under their control are not used for, and that their nationals do not take part in, the recruitment, assembly, financing, training, protection or transit of mercenaries for the planning of activities designed to impede the right of peoples to self-determination, to destabilize or overthrow the Government of any State or to dismember or impair, totally or in part, the territorial integrity or political unity of sovereign and independent States conducting themselves in accordance with the right of peoples to self-determination;

5. *Requests* all States to exercise the utmost vigilance against any kind of recruitment, training, hiring or financing of mercenaries by private companies offering international military consultancy and security services, and to impose a specific ban on such companies intervening in armed conflicts or actions to destabilize constitutional regimes;

6. *Encourages* States that import military assistance or consultancy and security services provided by private companies to establish national regulatory mechanisms for registering and licensing those companies in order to ensure that the imported services provided by those private companies neither impede the enjoyment of human rights nor violate human rights in the recipient country;

7. *Emphasizes its utmost concern* about the impact of the activities of private military and security companies on the enjoyment of human rights, in particular when operating in armed conflicts, and notes that private military and security companies and their personnel are rarely held accountable for violations of human rights;

8. *Calls upon* all States that have not yet done so to consider acceding to or ratifying the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries;<sup>380</sup>

9. *Welcomes* the cooperation extended by those countries that have received a visit by the Working Group on the use of mercenaries since the establishment of its mandate and the adoption by some States of national legislation that restricts the recruitment, assembly, financing, training and transit of mercenaries;

10. *Condemns* recent mercenary activities in developing countries in various parts of the world, in particular in areas of conflict, and the threat they pose to the integrity of and respect for the constitutional order of those countries and the exercise of the right of their peoples to self-determination, and stresses the importance for the Working Group on the use of mercenaries of looking into sources and root causes, as well as the political motivations of mercenaries and for mercenary-related activities;

11. *Calls upon* States to investigate the possibility of mercenary involvement whenever and wherever criminal acts of a terrorist nature occur and to bring to trial those found responsible or to consider their extradition, if so requested, in accordance with national law and applicable bilateral or international treaties;

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<sup>379</sup> [A/78/535](#).

<sup>380</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2163, No. 37789.



## V. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Third Committee

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12. *Condemns* any form of impunity granted to perpetrators of mercenary activities and to those responsible for the use, recruitment, financing and training of mercenaries, and urges all States, in accordance with their obligations under international law, to bring them, without distinction, to justice;

13. *Calls upon* Member States, in accordance with their obligations under international law, to cooperate with and assist the judicial prosecution of those accused of mercenary activities in transparent, open and fair trials;

14. *Requests* the Working Group on the use of mercenaries and other experts to continue their participation, including by submitting contributions, in other subsidiary bodies of the Human Rights Council considering issues related to the use of mercenaries and mercenary-related activities in all their forms and manifestations, including private military and security companies;

15. *Requests* the Working Group on the use of mercenaries to continue its work with respect to the strengthening of the international legal framework for the prevention and sanction of the recruitment, use, financing and training of mercenaries, taking into account the proposal for a new legal definition of a mercenary drafted by the Special Rapporteur on the use of mercenaries as a means of impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination in his report submitted to the Commission on Human Rights at its sixtieth session<sup>381</sup> and the evolving phenomenon of mercenaries and its related forms;

16. *Also requests* the Working Group on the use of mercenaries to continue to study and identify sources and causes, emerging issues, manifestations and trends regarding mercenaries or mercenary-related activities and private military and security companies and their impact on human rights, particularly on the right of peoples to self-determination;

17. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as a matter of priority, to publicize the adverse effects of the activities of mercenaries on the right of peoples to self-determination and, when requested and where necessary, to render advisory services to States that are affected by those activities;

18. *Recommends* that all Member States, including those confronted with the phenomenon of private military and security companies, as contracting States, States of operations, home States or States whose nationals are employed to work for a private military and security company, contribute to the work of the open-ended intergovernmental working group, taking into account the initial work done by the Working Group on the use of mercenaries;

19. *Urges* all States to cooperate fully with the Working Group on the use of mercenaries in the fulfilment of its mandate;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to provide the Working Group on the use of mercenaries with all the assistance and support necessary for the fulfilment of its mandate, both professional and financial, including through the promotion of cooperation between the Working Group and other components of the United Nations system that deal with countering mercenary-related activities, in order to meet the demands of its current and future activities;

21. *Requests* the Working Group on the use of mercenaries to consult States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on the implementation of the present resolution and to report, with specific recommendations, to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session its findings on the use of mercenaries to undermine the enjoyment of all human rights and to impede the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination;

22. *Decides* to consider the question of the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination at its seventy-ninth session under the item entitled “Right of peoples to self-determination”.

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<sup>381</sup> See [E/CN.4/2004/15](#), para. 47.

## RESOLUTION 78/192

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 172 to 4, with 10 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/479, para. 34)<sup>382</sup>

\* *In favour:* Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, 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, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against:* Israel, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, United States of America

*Abstaining:* Cameroon, Guatemala, Kiribati, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, South Sudan, Togo, Tonga, Tuvalu

### 78/192. The right of the Palestinian people to self-determination

*The General Assembly,*

*Aware* that the development of friendly relations among nations, based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, is among the purposes and principles of the United Nations, as defined in the Charter,

*Recalling*, in this regard, its resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970, entitled "Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations",

*Bearing in mind* the International Covenants on Human Rights,<sup>383</sup> the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>384</sup> the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples<sup>385</sup> and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,<sup>386</sup>

*Recalling* the Declaration on the Occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations,<sup>387</sup>

*Recalling also* the United Nations Millennium Declaration,<sup>388</sup>

<sup>382</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Bahamas, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Egypt (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Eritrea, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Haiti, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Namibia, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Timor-Leste, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe and State of Palestine.

<sup>383</sup> Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

<sup>384</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>385</sup> Resolution 1514 (XV).

<sup>386</sup> A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

<sup>387</sup> Resolution 50/6.

<sup>388</sup> Resolution 55/2.

*Recalling further* the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory,<sup>389</sup> and noting in particular the reply of the Court, including on the right of peoples to self-determination, which is a right *erga omnes*,<sup>390</sup>

*Recalling* the conclusion of the Court, in its advisory opinion of 9 July 2004, that the construction of the wall by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, along with measures previously taken, severely impedes the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination,<sup>391</sup>

*Stressing* the urgency of achieving without delay an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement between the Palestinian and Israeli sides, based on the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, the Madrid terms of reference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative<sup>392</sup> and the Quartet road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,<sup>393</sup>

*Stressing also* the need for respect for and preservation of the territorial unity, contiguity and integrity of all of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and recalling in this regard its resolution 58/292 of 6 May 2004,

*Recalling* its resolution 77/208 of 15 December 2022,

*Recalling also* its resolution 67/19 of 29 November 2012,

*Affirming* the right of all States in the region to live in peace within secure and internationally recognized borders,

1. *Reaffirms* the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including the right to their independent State of Palestine;

2. *Urges* all States and the specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system to continue to support and assist the Palestinian people in the early realization of their right to self-determination.

#### RESOLUTION 78/193

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/479, para. 34)<sup>394</sup>

#### 78/193. Universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* the importance, for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights, of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and embodied in the International Covenants on Human Rights,<sup>395</sup> as well as in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples contained in its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960,

*Welcoming* the progressive exercise of the right to self-determination by peoples under colonial, foreign or alien occupation and their emergence into sovereign statehood and independence,

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<sup>389</sup> See A/ES-10/273 and A/ES-10/273/Corr.1.

<sup>390</sup> Ibid., advisory opinion, para. 88.

<sup>391</sup> Ibid., para. 122.

<sup>392</sup> A/56/1026-S/2002/932, annex II, resolution 14/221.

<sup>393</sup> S/2003/529, annex.

<sup>394</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, China, Colombia, Congo, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Eswatini, Haiti, Honduras, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, Zimbabwe and State of Palestine.

<sup>395</sup> Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

*Deeply concerned* at the continuation of acts or threats of foreign military intervention and occupation that are threatening to suppress, or have already suppressed, the right to self-determination of peoples and nations,

*Expressing grave concern* that, as a consequence of the persistence of such actions, millions of people have been or are being uprooted from their homes as refugees and displaced persons, and emphasizing the urgent need for concerted international action to alleviate their condition,

*Recalling* the relevant resolutions regarding the violation of the right of peoples to self-determination and other human rights as a result of foreign military intervention, aggression and occupation adopted by the Commission on Human Rights at its sixty-first<sup>396</sup> and previous sessions,

*Reaffirming* its previous resolutions on the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination, including resolution 77/207 of 15 December 2022,

*Reaffirming also* its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, containing the United Nations Millennium Declaration, and recalling its resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005, containing the 2005 World Summit Outcome, which, inter alia, upheld the right to self-determination of peoples under colonial domination and foreign occupation,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the right of peoples to self-determination,<sup>397</sup>

1. *Reaffirms* that the universal realization of the right of all peoples, including those under colonial, foreign and alien domination, to self-determination is a fundamental condition for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights and for the preservation and promotion of such rights;

2. *Declares its firm opposition* to acts of foreign military intervention, aggression and occupation, since these have resulted in the suppression of the right of peoples to self-determination and other human rights in certain parts of the world;

3. *Calls upon* those States responsible to cease immediately their military intervention in and occupation of foreign countries and territories and all acts of repression, discrimination, exploitation and maltreatment, in particular the brutal and inhuman methods reportedly employed in the execution of those acts against the peoples concerned;

4. *Deplores* the plight of millions of refugees and displaced persons who have been uprooted as a result of the aforementioned acts, and reaffirms their right to return to their homes voluntarily in safety and with honour;

5. *Requests* the Human Rights Council to continue to give special attention to violations of human rights, especially the right to self-determination, resulting from foreign military intervention, aggression or occupation;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on this question to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session under the item entitled "Right of peoples to self-determination".

#### RESOLUTION 78/194

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/481, para. 72)<sup>398</sup>

#### 78/194. Commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

*The General Assembly,*

*Guided* by the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations,

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<sup>396</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 3* and corrigenda (E/2005/23, E/2005/23/Corr.1 and E/2005/23/Corr.2), chap. II, sect. A.

<sup>397</sup> A/78/261.

<sup>398</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Austria, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Slovakia and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

*Guided also* by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights<sup>399</sup> and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,<sup>400</sup> as well as the International Covenants on Human Rights<sup>401</sup> and other relevant human rights instruments,

*Noting* that 2023 marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the thirtieth anniversary of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, and acknowledging the importance of these instruments for the promotion and protection of all human rights,

*Emphasizing* that these anniversaries offer a valuable opportunity to raise awareness and to reflect on achievements, best practices and challenges with regard to the full realization of human rights for all, without discrimination of any kind,

*Recalling* the continued practice established in its resolution [2217 A \(XXI\)](#) of 19 December 1966, in which it decided to award at five-year intervals the United Nations award for outstanding achievements in the field of human rights,

*Reaffirming* the importance of ensuring the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

1. *Welcomes* the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the thirtieth anniversary of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, and stresses the importance of all United Nations human rights mechanisms with regard to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

2. *Also welcomes* the commemoration of these anniversaries by States, international organizations and all relevant stakeholders through various initiatives, including the programme of activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and invites States and all relevant stakeholders to take part meaningfully, where appropriate;

3. *Urges* States to redouble their efforts in fulfilling their duty to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to implement the provisions enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.

## RESOLUTION 78/195

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee ([A/78/481/Add.1](#), para. 9)<sup>402</sup>

### **78/195. Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto: situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution [76/154](#) of 16 December 2021 and its previous relevant resolutions, and relevant resolutions of the Human Rights Council and of the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions,

*Recalling also* the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and the need for persons with disabilities to be guaranteed the full enjoyment of their rights and freedoms without discrimination,

<sup>399</sup> Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

<sup>400</sup> [A/CONF.157/24 \(Part I\)](#), chap. III.

<sup>401</sup> Resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

<sup>402</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

*Reaffirming* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>403</sup> the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities<sup>404</sup> and the Optional Protocol thereto,<sup>405</sup> the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,<sup>406</sup> the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>407</sup> the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination<sup>408</sup> and all other relevant international human rights instruments,

*Recalling* the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,<sup>409</sup> the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030<sup>410</sup> and the New Urban Agenda,<sup>411</sup>

*Reaffirming* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>412</sup> which is inclusive of persons with disabilities and in which Member States pledged to leave no one behind, recognizing that the contributions of persons with disabilities are important to its full and effective implementation, and acknowledging that Member States, while implementing the 2030 Agenda, should, inter alia, respect, protect, promote and fulfil human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without discrimination of any kind,

*Recognizing* that international cooperation is key for disability-inclusive development, which is needed to ensure that sufficient means of implementation exist to provide countries with the opportunity to realize the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities, in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Welcoming* the fact that, since the opening for signature of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto on 30 March 2007, 164 States and 1 regional integration organization have signed and 188 States and 1 regional integration organization have ratified or acceded to the Convention and 94 States have signed and 105 States have ratified the Optional Protocol,

*Noting with appreciation* the work and activities that have been and continue to be undertaken in support of the Convention and towards the fulfilment and mainstreaming of the rights of all persons with disabilities, particularly through, inter alia, the Conference of States Parties to the Convention, the Under-Secretary-General and Senior Adviser on Policy, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, other human rights treaty bodies, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility, the Inter-Agency Support Group on the Convention and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Task Team on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action,

*Recalling* that persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual, psychosocial or sensory impairments which, in interaction with various barriers, may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others, including in relation to their access to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications, including information and communications technologies and systems, and to other facilities and services open or provided to the public, in both urban and rural areas,

*Recalling in particular* that article 11 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities provides that States parties to the Convention shall take, in accordance with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, all necessary measures to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of disasters caused by natural or man-made hazards,

*Noting* the importance of article 18 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in which States parties are called upon to recognize the rights of persons with disabilities to liberty of movement, to freedom to choose their residence and to a nationality, on an equal basis with others,

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<sup>403</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>404</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

<sup>405</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2518, No. 44910.

<sup>406</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

<sup>407</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>408</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 660, No. 9464.

<sup>409</sup> A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

<sup>410</sup> Resolution 69/283, annex II.

<sup>411</sup> Resolution 71/256, annex.

<sup>412</sup> Resolution 70/1.

*Emphasizing* the need to ensure that persons with disabilities are protected in situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of disasters caused by natural or man-made hazards, and have equal access to humanitarian assistance,

*Recognizing* that persons with disabilities are often disproportionately affected in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters and in their aftermath, and that they may require specific protection and safety measures, recognizing further the need to support further participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities in the development of measures and decision-making processes relating thereto, in order to ensure disability-inclusive risk reduction and humanitarian action, and recognizing the special coping mechanisms developed by persons with disabilities to withstand the effects of conflict and natural disasters,

*Recognizing also* the critical contributions of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations to conflict prevention, resolution, reconciliation, reconstruction, peacebuilding and addressing the root causes of conflict, and in this regard stressing the importance of sustained consultation and dialogue between persons with disabilities, including their representative organizations, and humanitarian organizations and national and international decision makers,

*Recognizing further* the particular barriers faced by persons with disabilities in accessing justice, including access to effective remedies and, as appropriate, reparation, in relation to violations of international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law,

*Noting* the need for Member States, the United Nations system and other stakeholders to further strengthen the normative framework on disability, including the rights of persons with disabilities, in line with the pledge of leaving no one behind contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to consider disability as a global issue, cutting across the pillars of the United Nations,

*Welcoming* progress towards mainstreaming disability, including the rights of persons with disabilities, in the work of the United Nations, and the implementation by the United Nations system of the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy, and welcoming also the leadership of the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly to bring about transformative and systematic change on disability inclusion across the United Nations system,

*Welcoming also* the contributions of the Steering Committee on Accessibility to improving the accessibility of United Nations premises, conferences and meetings, and information and communications, and notes other disability-related initiatives such as the Global Disability Summit,

*Taking note* of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action, of 2019, and the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action,

*Welcoming* the observance of international disability-related days, in particular the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, World Autism Awareness Day and World Down Syndrome Day, while emphasizing that the protection and promotion of the rights of all persons with all types of disabilities remains an important aspect of the work of the United Nations,

*Recalling* that the 2018 *Disability and Development Report: Realizing the Sustainable Development Goals by, for and with Persons with Disabilities*<sup>413</sup> presents an overview of the status of accessibility for persons with disabilities, including the participation of persons with disabilities, in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the persistent gaps in this regard, identifies good practices and includes recommendations on scaling up actions to ensure the full, equal, effective and meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in the programmes, policies and efforts of States for the effective implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the disability-inclusive achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Recognizing* that the illness, death, socioeconomic disruption and devastation caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, including to health as well as care and support systems, have had a disproportionate impact on persons with disabilities and brought urgency to strengthening international cooperation to prevent, prepare for and

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<sup>413</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No. 19.IV.4.



respond to pandemics and other health emergencies, taking into account lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and other health emergencies,

*Expressing concern* that women and girls with disabilities in diverse situations and conditions are subject to multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, which limit their enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with others, and recognizing that the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls is crucial to making progress across all the Sustainable Development Goals and targets which contribute, inter alia, to the empowerment of women and girls with disabilities and facilitate the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,

*Recognizing* that persons with disabilities, including women and girls with disabilities, are often disproportionately affected in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of disasters caused by natural or man-made hazards, and in their aftermath, and that they are often at increased risk of discrimination, exploitation and all forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, offline and online, abandonment, and lack of access to basic and essential services, and emphasizing the need to consider their particular needs in humanitarian response,

*Recognizing also* that the rights and needs of persons with disabilities are often overlooked in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of disasters caused by natural or man-made hazards, including in the early phases, and the importance of providing timely and appropriate protection, reintegration and rehabilitation assistance and access to assistive technologies, recognizing the major impediments that developing countries face in accessing new technologies, to persons with disabilities, while ensuring that the diversity of persons with disabilities is taken into account and that all their specific rights and needs are addressed, in particular those of women and children with disabilities, and persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, such as access to health-care services, care and support programmes, psychosocial support and educational programmes and livelihoods, in order to further promote their role as agents of change,

*Recognizing further* that Indigenous persons with disabilities, including Indigenous women and children, are disproportionately affected by the direct consequences of climate change owing to their close relationship with and protection of the environment and its resources, and specific measures are required to ensure that their rights are protected, respected and fulfilled in this context,

*Recognizing* the importance of accessibility for persons with disabilities in all aspects of life, including in the civil, political, social, economic and cultural spheres, to health and education and to information and communications, and the need to identify and eliminate prejudice, discrimination, obstacles and barriers that limit the access of persons with disabilities to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications, including information and communications technologies and systems, and to other facilities and services open or available to the public, in both urban and rural areas, on an equal basis with others,

*Recognizing also* the importance of strengthening protections and ensuring the full, equal, effective and meaningful participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities, and recognizing further the diversity of persons with disabilities, in crisis prevention, humanitarian response plans and post-conflict, emergency and disaster recovery and reconstruction planning, including on accessibility and reasonable accommodation, as well as care and support arrangements,

*Recognizing further* that persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities through their representative organizations, as well as civil society organizations committed to disability mainstreaming, should be consulted closely and actively involved in decision-making processes and in the development and implementation of legislation and policies and programmes, especially those concerning them directly,

*Emphasizing* that accessibility is a precondition for persons with disabilities to live independently, participate fully and effectively in all aspects of life, including in political and public life and decision-making processes, and fully enjoy all their human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with others, and recognizing the importance of accessibility measures, including through the use of universal design and assistive technologies, as a means of investing in society as a whole and as an integral part of the 2030 Agenda,

*Recognizing* that information and communications technologies, including assistive technology and devices, have shown their potential to strengthen the exercise of human rights, and that they can create conditions enabling persons with disabilities to fully enjoy their human rights and can contribute to their social inclusion and

empowerment and allow them to live independently in the community on an equal basis with others and to fully, effectively and meaningfully participate in society and in the workplace,

*Recognizing also* the intersection between older age and disability and the specific challenges linked to accessibility for older persons with disabilities, especially those faced by older women with disabilities,

*Recognizing further* the need to promote and protect the human rights of all persons with disabilities, including those who require more intensive support to attain and maintain maximum independence, full physical, mental, social and vocational abilities and full inclusion and participation in all aspects of life,

*Recognizing* that persons with disabilities are often disproportionately affected in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters and in their aftermath, and that they may require specific protection and safety measures, recognizing further the need to support further participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities in the development of measures and decision-making processes relating thereto, in order to ensure disability-inclusive risk reduction and humanitarian action, and recognizing the special coping mechanisms developed by persons with disabilities to withstand the effects of conflict and natural disasters,

*Recognizing also* the contribution of family members towards the full and equal enjoyment by persons with disabilities of their human rights, including to participate in decision-making processes, inter alia, through participation in organizations which empower persons with disabilities to have a voice and full control of their own lives, and recognizing the need for States to raise awareness throughout society, including at the family level, regarding persons with disabilities and to foster respect for their rights and dignity, including participation,

*Recognizing further* the need for States to accelerate the development, implementation and mainstreaming of strategies that respect, protect and fulfil the rights of all persons with disabilities, including women and girls, to the enjoyment of civil, political, economic, cultural and social rights, without discrimination, by adopting legislation, policies and programmes that are inclusive of and accessible to all persons with disabilities, including those who are in vulnerable situations, and affirming that realizing their human rights requires their full and effective participation and inclusion in all aspects of public, political, economic, cultural, social and family life, on an equal basis with all others,

*Emphasizing* the right to privacy and the respect for data-protection regulations and standards in all uses of information and communications technologies and systems,

*Welcoming* the positive role of civil society in the promotion and implementation of the rights of persons with disabilities, and stressing the importance of closely consulting and actively involving persons with disabilities, including women and children, through their representative organizations, in the development and implementation of legislation and policies that affect their lives and in other decision-making processes concerning issues relating to persons with disabilities, thereby minimizing the risk of creating barriers to accessibility for all persons with disabilities,

*Stressing* the need for capacity-development efforts aimed at empowering persons with disabilities and their representative organizations to ensure equal access to quality education, full and productive employment and decent work on an equal basis and without discrimination to persons with disabilities, including by promoting access to inclusive education systems, skills development, volunteering opportunities and vocational and entrepreneurial training in order to enable persons with disabilities to attain and maintain maximum independence,

*Acknowledging* the importance of taking measures to raise awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities in order to eliminate discrimination, stereotypes, prejudices and other barriers which constitute a major impediment to their full, equal and effective participation in society and the economy, as well as in political and public life,

*Concerned* that the continuing lack of available, high-quality, timely and reliable statistics, data and information on the situation of persons with disabilities at the national, regional and global levels contributes to their exclusion in official statistics, policies and programmes, and in this regard recognizing the need to intensify efforts to build the capacity of Member States, and to strengthen, at the national level, data collection, analysis and use of data disaggregated by disability, sex and age for specific indicators, using appropriate measurement tools, including, as appropriate, the United Nations Children's Fund Module on Child Functioning and the Washington Group short set of questions on disability and other data-collection methodologies, to support the development of evidence-based

policies and programmes that are accessible to and inclusive of persons with disabilities, including women and girls, on an equal basis with others,

*Stressing* the relevance of disaggregated data collection and analysis, including by disability, age, sex and other characteristics relevant to national contexts, as an important element in the design of inclusive policies, including those relating to the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of disasters caused by natural or man-made hazards,

1. *Calls upon* those States that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto as a matter of priority;

2. *Encourages* States that have ratified the Convention and submitted one or more reservations to it to review regularly the effect and continued relevance of such reservations and to consider the possibility of withdrawing them;

3. *Requests* United Nations agencies and organizations, and invites intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to continue to strengthen efforts undertaken to disseminate accessible and easy-to-understand information on the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto, including to children and young people to promote their understanding, and to assist States parties in implementing their obligations under those instruments;

4. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Status of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto: protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies and easy-to-understand communication as an accessibility resource and tool for persons with disabilities”,<sup>414</sup> and the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities;<sup>415</sup>

5. *Urges* States to commit to build back stronger by learning lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic, including by enhancing the resilience of programmes for persons with disabilities during health emergencies, implementing resilient and inclusive recovery plans in consultation with persons with disabilities to reach targets and harnessing innovations such as digital technologies, and recognizing the importance of care and support systems for inclusion;

6. *Encourages* Member States and other relevant stakeholders to ensure the meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in processes of monitoring and evaluation of humanitarian assistance, and ensure that they have adequate access to feedback mechanisms during situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters, and increase public resources for disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction;

7. *Calls upon* those States that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled;

8. *Emphasizes* the importance of mainstreaming disability issues as an integral part of relevant sustainable development strategies, and encourages States to apply a human rights-based and gender-responsive approach and to intensify their efforts to advance the rights of persons with disabilities in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, consistent with their international obligations;

9. *Also emphasizes* the importance of mainstreaming the perspective of persons with disabilities in humanitarian response and disaster risk reduction, and recognizes the importance of non-discrimination and their full, equal, effective and meaningful participation in and contribution to design, planning, implementation and review of humanitarian responses, as well as disaster risk reduction, preparedness, emergency response, recovery and transition from relief to development, as well as the implementation of systematic approaches, policies and programmes that are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities;

10. *Encourages* States to review and repeal any law or policy that restricts the full and effective participation in political and public life of persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others or discriminates against persons with disabilities, including with regard to accessing a service or facility open to the public, and to establish accessible and effective channels of redress for discrimination on the basis of disability;

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<sup>414</sup> A/78/331.

<sup>415</sup> A/78/174.

11. *Urges* States to take steps to eliminate multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination against all women and girls with disabilities through repealing discriminatory laws, policies and practices, to take all effective measures to remove any other barriers faced by women and girls with disabilities in accessing, inter alia, the physical, social, economic and cultural environment, transportation, health and education, information and communications, including information and communications technologies and systems, and other facilities and services open or provided to the public and to ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all rights stipulated in the Convention, including to effectively and fully participate in public life and in the conduct of public affairs;

12. *Also urges* States to ensure that persons with disabilities are provided with adequate support in order to participate fully in the labour market and ensure that employment opportunities and the ability to improve the quality of their employment are not lost as a result of situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, through encouraging the use of innovations such as flexible working, teleworking, robotics and artificial intelligence, and other technological advancements, and cooperation between employment, health and welfare policy;

13. *Further urges* States to take all appropriate measures to eliminate violence and discrimination against persons with disabilities, including women and girls, in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters, and ensure that their specific needs are addressed, such as access to basic services, including health-care services, rehabilitation assistance, psychosocial support and educational programmes, as well as transportation and information and communications technologies and systems on an equal basis with others;

14. *Calls upon* all States to ensure the full enjoyment by children with disabilities of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, on an equal basis with other children, in recognition that discrimination against any child on the basis of a disability is a violation of the inherent dignity and worth of the child, to enhance inclusion and address barriers faced by children with disabilities, including addressing discriminatory, attitudinal and environmental barriers to their participation and inclusion in society and in the community, to develop gender- and age-sensitive policies and capacities to ensure the rights and address the particular needs of children with disabilities, including children in vulnerable situations, including migrant children, children without parental care, children in street situations and child victims of trafficking, and those affected by climate change, and to prevent and respond to all forms of violence, including cases of sexual and gender-based violence;

15. *Encourages* Member States to take appropriate measures to ensure that persons with disabilities have access on an equal basis with others to basic and essential services provided in the context of situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, including education, livelihoods, health-care services, care and support programmes, transportation and information and communications technologies and systems;

16. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations system, civil society and other relevant stakeholders to fully include persons with disabilities in all stages of addressing situations of risk, including armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of disasters caused by natural or man-made hazards, especially in areas where they experience additional barriers due to their disability, and recognize that persons with disabilities have the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health without discrimination, including through providing timely and appropriate, quality and free or affordable health-care services and programmes as provided to other persons in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, including in the area of sexual and reproductive health and population-based public health programmes, and provide health services needed by persons with disabilities specifically because of their disabilities;

17. *Encourages* Member States and relevant stakeholders to work with national emergency committees and mental health support providers in order to include mental health and psychosocial support needs in emergency preparedness and response plans and enable access to age- and gender-responsive and disability-inclusive, safe and supportive services that address psychological trauma (individual and collective), including that caused by situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of disasters caused by natural or man-made hazards, for all, including health workers and humanitarian personnel, during and following emergencies, with due attention to the longer-term funding required to build or rebuild community-based, resilient mental health systems after the emergency;

18. *Encourages* States to adopt inclusive strategies that address the barriers to the participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations at all levels of decision-making processes, and to adopt a framework for equality, non-discrimination and the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities;

19. *Calls upon* States to ensure the full and effective participation of and consultation with persons with disabilities, including through their representative organizations, in the development and implementation of policies and programmes for the implementation of the Convention, as well as in other relevant issues at the national and local levels, including through the inclusion of persons with disabilities in boards, organs and institutions and integrating consultative processes in such policies and programmes as appropriate;

20. *Also calls upon* States to promote other appropriate forms of assistance and support to persons with disabilities to ensure their access to information, to provide information intended for the general public to persons with disabilities using accessible formats and technologies useful for persons with different kinds of disabilities in a timely manner and without additional cost, and to expand the availability and improve the affordability of information and communications technologies, as well as to facilitate cooperation in research and access to scientific and technical knowledge to promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities;

21. *Urges* Member States, in collaboration with other stakeholders, to close the digital divides and promote the digital inclusion of persons with disabilities, addressing the challenges associated with accessibility, affordability, digital literacy and digital skills, and awareness;

22. *Calls upon* States to ensure that persons with disabilities have the opportunity to choose their place of residence and where and with whom they live on an equal basis with others and are not obliged to live in a particular living arrangement and that persons with disabilities have access to a range of in-home, residential and other community support services, including personal assistance necessary to support living and inclusion in the community, and to prevent isolation or segregation from the community;

23. *Also calls upon* States to promote and facilitate access to and sharing of accessible and assistive technologies, especially new and emerging ones, including information and communications systems, mobility aids, assistive devices and other assistive technologies, by persons with disabilities, and to promote research and development in this regard, so that these technologies and systems become accessible at minimal cost and at an early stage;

24. *Urges* States to consider laws, policies and procedures relating to public procurement to ensure that persons with disabilities can access any service or facility open to the public on an equal basis with others;

25. *Encourages* States to disseminate information to and work with the private sector, including employers and other relevant stakeholders, to implement accessibility measures for any facilities or services that are open or provided to the public that take into account all aspects of accessibility for persons with disabilities;

26. *Urges* States to enable the full, equal, effective and meaningful participation of persons with disabilities, including their representative organizations, in humanitarian assistance action, as well as in conflict prevention, resolution, reconciliation, reconstruction and peacebuilding, and to ensure that a disability-inclusive approach is prioritized;

27. *Encourages* Member States and other relevant stakeholders to ensure the full, equal, effective and meaningful participation of persons with disabilities, including their representative organizations, in processes of monitoring and evaluation of humanitarian assistance, and ensure that they have adequate access to feedback mechanisms during situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of disasters caused by natural or man-made hazards, and increase public resources for disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction;

28. *Encourages* States to ensure access to information, services and assistance for all persons with disabilities, including persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, including by producing early and accessible warning systems and providing information and communications about situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies in accessible formats for persons with disabilities, including by using local languages and technologies appropriate to different kinds of disabilities, such as easy-to-understand communications, in a timely manner, and promoting access to basic and essential services, including health-care services, and by strengthening the preparedness of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of disasters caused by natural or man-made hazards;

29. *Calls upon* States to strengthen efforts to empower all persons with disabilities and enhance their participation and promote their leadership in society through taking measures to address and remove all barriers that prevent or restrict their access and full inclusion and participation in the community on an equal basis with others,

including in the government and public sector, the private sector, civil society and all branches and bodies of the national monitoring system of the Convention, and to work to ensure that persons with disabilities are closely consulted and actively involved, through their representative organizations, in the design, implementation and monitoring of all legislation, policies and programmes which have an impact on their lives;

30. *Encourages* States to provide support to existing organizations and promote the creation of organizations, including civil society organizations and networks of persons with disabilities, as appropriate, and to promote and support persons with disabilities in taking leadership roles in public decision-making bodies at all levels, recognizing the importance for States of having an open, inclusive and transparent engagement with civil society in the implementation of measures on persons with disabilities;

31. *Calls upon* States to collect and analyse data disaggregated by income, sex, race, age, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographical location and other characteristics relevant to national contexts to assist, inter alia, with the identification and eradication of barriers and all forms of discrimination, including multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, that prevent persons with disabilities from enjoying all the rights stipulated in the Convention, to guide inclusive policy planning and to be used on an ongoing basis to assess and advance participation, and also calls upon States to improve data-collection systems for adequate monitoring and evaluation frameworks on the implementation of the Convention and the Sustainable Development Goals for all persons with disabilities;

32. *Urges* States and other relevant stakeholders, including national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles,<sup>416</sup> where they exist, to continue to support the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by, inter alia, supporting the disaggregation of data by disability, sex and age for specific indicators, using appropriate measurement tools, including, as appropriate, the United Nations Children's Fund Module on Child Functioning and the Washington Group short set of questions on disability and other data-collection methodologies, to assist States in measuring the achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 associated targets and programming policies in the context of the Goals;

33. *Encourages* States to engage in international cooperation efforts, where required, aimed at enhancing their national capacities to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of disasters caused by natural or man-made hazards, and invites relevant United Nations entities, in accordance with their respective mandates, to consider ways to foster international cooperation activities in this regard;

34. *Encourages* States, United Nations entities and relevant international organizations, inter alia:

(a) To ensure that international cooperation is gender-responsive and disability-inclusive, including through the implementation of disability markers to monitor the implementation of programmes and the collection of data and statistics on persons with disabilities in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, targets and indicators, as well as other international frameworks;

(b) To support, promote and strengthen international cooperation and assistance, and enhance partnerships and coordination, including South-South cooperation, among themselves and with the active participation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, as well as other relevant civil society organizations and stakeholders, in strengthening the means of implementation of the Convention and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through the mobilization of financial resources, technical cooperation and facilitation of access to and sharing of accessible and assistive technologies on mutually agreed terms;

(c) To take effective and appropriate steps to facilitate the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of disasters caused by natural or man-made hazards, having regard for the measures contemplated by the Convention, and to include persons with disabilities in their planning, response and recovery actions, to identify and eliminate obstacles and barriers to ensuring their safety;

(d) To build capacity and sensitivity for disability inclusion among personnel involved in disaster and emergency response and humanitarian assistance, including emergency first responders, by raising awareness of the rights and needs of persons with disabilities, holding consultations with persons with disabilities and their

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<sup>416</sup> Resolution 48/134, annex.

representative organizations, and including provisions for disability inclusion in government protocols and procedures;

(e) To ensure accessibility, including through universal design in programming, and in all post-emergency reconstruction and rebuilding, particularly during planning and reconstruction of infrastructure and public facilities, including housing, transportation and communication;

(f) To enhance the collection, dissemination and use of data on persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, disaggregated by disability, age, sex and other characteristics relevant to national contexts, using data collection methodologies such as the Washington Group short set of questions on disability, as appropriate, in consultation with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations;

35. *Encourages* States to integrate the rights of persons with disabilities into national policies and action plans for the implementation of relevant international instruments addressing situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of disasters caused by natural or man-made hazards;

36. *Encourages* the United Nations system, international financial and development institutions, and other international and regional organizations:

(a) To increase assistance to support Member States, upon their request, in substantially enhancing the participation of persons with disabilities, including through their organizations, in decision-making, including through building capacity, training and supporting persons with disabilities in participating in public life, and sharing experiences and best practices;

(b) To provide sustained, long-term support to national partners, including organizations of persons with disabilities, and civil society organizations, in their efforts to become more disability-inclusive and promote the participation of persons with disabilities;

(c) To ensure non-discrimination for all persons with disabilities, and ensure opportunities for persons with disabilities to participate on an equal basis with others in humanitarian preparedness and response;

37. *Recalls* its decision on accessible seating for representatives with disabilities in resolution [73/341](#) of 12 September 2019 on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, and in this regard also recalls the note by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management of the Secretariat implementing the decision;

38. *Invites* the Chair of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities to address and engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly annually, under the item entitled “Promotion and protection of human rights”, as a way to enhance communication between the Assembly and the Committee;

39. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the system-wide implementation of the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy,<sup>417</sup> and calls upon the United Nations system, including its agencies, funds and programmes, within their respective mandates, to continue to work collaboratively to accelerate the full and effective mainstreaming of disability inclusion into the United Nations system, including by implementing and reporting on the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy across its programmes and operations;

40. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session a progress report on steps taken by the United Nations system towards mainstreaming disability inclusion, including implementation of the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy, within existing resources;

41. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations and other relevant stakeholders to take part in implementing the recommendations endorsed by the Steering Committee on Accessibility in June 2019;

42. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its eightieth session a report on how diverse contexts amplify the barriers faced by persons with disabilities, particularly those subjected to discrimination or whose rights, as outlined by the Convention, are not upheld, including good practices and challenges in the implementation of the Convention in that regard, in consultation with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, relevant United Nations entities, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for

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<sup>417</sup> [A/77/344](#) and [A/78/281](#).



Human Rights, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the United Nations Children's Fund, taking into account the views of relevant stakeholders and using existing available materials, and to include a segment on the status of the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto;

43. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to maintain the levels of resources required by the relevant offices in the United Nations system for the fulfilment of their tasks with respect to their work on the rights of and inclusive development for persons with disabilities.

## RESOLUTION 78/196

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 125 to 54, with 6 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/481/Add.2, para. 139)<sup>418</sup>

\* *In favour:* Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, 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, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against:* Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Abstaining:* Armenia, Chile, Costa Rica, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay

### 78/196. Promotion of a democratic and equitable international order

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its previous resolutions on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order, including resolution 77/215 of 15 December 2022, and Human Rights Council resolutions 18/6 of 29 September 2011,<sup>419</sup> 33/3 of 29 September 2016,<sup>420</sup> 36/4 of 28 September 2017,<sup>421</sup> 39/4 of 27 September 2018,<sup>422</sup> 42/8 of 26 September

<sup>418</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, China, Comoros, Congo, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Gambia, Guinea, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mali, Myanmar, Namibia, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Uganda, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Zimbabwe.

<sup>419</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53A* and corrigendum (A/66/53/Add.1 and A/66/53/Add.1/Corr.1), chap. II.

<sup>420</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 53A* and corrigendum (A/71/53/Add.1 and A/71/53/Add.1/Corr.1), chap. II.

<sup>421</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 53A* (A/72/53/Add.1), chap. III.

<sup>422</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 53A* (A/73/53/Add.1), chap. III.

2019,<sup>423</sup> 45/4 of 6 October 2020,<sup>424</sup> 48/8 of 8 October 2021<sup>425</sup>, 51/11 of 6 October 2022<sup>426</sup> and 54/4 of 11 October 2023,<sup>427</sup>

*Reaffirming* the commitment of all States to fulfil their obligations to promote universal respect for, and observance and protection of, all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, other instruments relating to human rights and international law,

*Affirming* that the enhancement of international cooperation for the promotion and protection of all human rights for all should continue to be carried out in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter and international law, as set forth in Articles 1 and 2 of the Charter, and with full respect for, inter alia, sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence, the non-use of force or the threat of force in international relations and non-intervention in matters that are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State,

*Recalling* the Preamble to the Charter, in particular the determination to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small,

*Reaffirming* that everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights<sup>428</sup> can be fully realized,

*Reaffirming also* the determination expressed in the Preamble to the Charter to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom, to practise tolerance and good-neighbourliness and to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

*Stressing* that the responsibility for managing worldwide economic and social issues, including pandemics and other health-related global challenges, as well as threats to international peace and security, must be shared among the nations of the world and should be exercised multilaterally, and that in this regard the central role must be played by the United Nations, as the most universal and representative organization in the world,

*Concerned* about the continued abuse by Member States of the extraterritorial application of their national legislation in a manner that affects the sovereignty of other States, the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction and the full enjoyment of human rights,

*Considering* the major changes taking place on the international scene and the aspirations of all peoples for an international order based on the principles enshrined in the Charter, including promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, peace, democracy, justice, equality, the rule of law, pluralism, development, better standards of living and solidarity,

*Recognizing* that the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights is essential for the full achievement of the purposes of the United Nations, including the effective promotion and protection of all human rights for all,

*Considering* that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set out therein, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status,

*Reaffirming* that democracy, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing and that democracy is based on the freely expressed will of the people to

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<sup>423</sup> Ibid., *Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/74/53/Add.1)*, chap. III.

<sup>424</sup> Ibid., *Seventy-fifth Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/75/53/Add.1)*, chap. III.

<sup>425</sup> Ibid., *Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/76/53/Add.1)*, chap. III.

<sup>426</sup> Ibid., *Seventy-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/77/53/Add.1)*, chap. III.

<sup>427</sup> Ibid., *Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/78/53/Add.1)*, chap. III, sect. A.

<sup>428</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).

determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives, as enshrined in the Vienna Declaration and Programme for Action,<sup>429</sup>

*Recognizing* that the promotion and protection of human rights should be based on the principle of cooperation and genuine dialogue and aimed at strengthening the capacity of Member States to comply with their human rights obligations for the benefit of all human beings,

*Emphasizing* that democracy is not only a political concept, but that it also has economic and social dimensions,

*Recognizing* that democracy, respect for all human rights, including the right to development, transparent and accountable governance and administration in all sectors of society and effective participation by civil society are an essential part of the necessary foundations for the realization of social and people-centred sustainable development,

*Welcoming*, in this regard, that 25 June 2023 marked the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action by the World Conference on Human Rights, and that 10 December 2023 marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and stressing the need to further strengthen efforts towards their implementation,

*Noting with concern* that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance may be aggravated by, inter alia, inequitable distribution of wealth, marginalization and social exclusion,

*Reaffirming* that dialogue among religions, cultures and civilizations could contribute greatly to the enhancement of international cooperation at all levels,

*Underlining* the fact that it is imperative for the international community to ensure that globalization becomes a positive force for all the world's people and that only through broad and sustained efforts, based on our common humanity in all its diversity, can globalization be made fully inclusive and equitable,

*Deeply concerned* that the current global economic, financial, energy and food crises, resulting from a combination of several major factors, including macroeconomic and other factors, such as environmental degradation, desertification and global climate change, natural disasters and the lack of financial resources and the technology necessary to confront their negative impact in developing countries, particularly in the least developed countries and small island developing States, represent a global scenario that is threatening the adequate enjoyment of all human rights and widening the gap between developed and developing countries,

*Recognizing* that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic is one of the greatest global challenges in the history of the United Nations, and noting with deep concern its impact on health and the loss of life, mental health and well-being, as well as the negative impact on global humanitarian needs, the enjoyment of human rights and across all spheres of society, including on livelihoods, food security and nutrition, and education, the exacerbation of poverty and hunger, disruption to economies, trade, societies and environments, and the exacerbation of economic and social inequalities within and among countries, reversing hard-won development gains and hampering progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>430</sup> and all its Goals and targets,

*Reaffirming* its commitment to international cooperation and multilateralism and its strong support for the central role of the United Nations system, recognizing the key leadership role of the World Health Organization in the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and recognizing also that a democratic and equitable international order enhances the capacities of all countries to respond to and recover from pandemics and other global challenges,

*Recognizing* the role of extensive immunization against COVID-19 as a global public good for health in preventing, containing and stopping transmission in order to bring the pandemic to an end, through global access to vaccines that are safe, of quality, efficacious, effective and affordable for all countries,

*Deeply concerned* about the uneven access of developing countries to safe, quality, efficacious, effective and affordable vaccines against COVID-19, and emphasizing that a multilateral approach, based on a democratic and equitable international order, enhances the capacities of all countries, in particular developing countries, to have equal access to vaccines and other means to respond to and recover from the pandemic,

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<sup>429</sup> A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

<sup>430</sup> Resolution 70/1.

*Recognizing* that a democratic and equitable order requires the reform of international financial institutions, in order to widen and strengthen the level of participation of developing countries in the international decision-making process, and a more transparent and open financial system, as well as adequate measures against illicit financial flows, such as tax fraud, tax evasion, illegal capital flight, money-laundering and the proceeds of corruption, and for improving tax transparency worldwide,

*Stressing* that efforts to make globalization fully inclusive and equitable must include policies and measures at the global level that correspond to the needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition and are formulated and implemented with their effective participation,

*Stressing also* the need for adequate financing of, technology transfer to and capacity-building in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, including to support their efforts to adapt to climate change,

*Having listened* to the peoples of the world, and recognizing their aspirations to justice, to equality of opportunity for all, to the enjoyment of their human rights, including the right to development, to live in peace and freedom and to equal participation without discrimination in economic, social, cultural, civil and political life,

*Recalling* Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 on institution-building of the Council and 5/2 on the Code of Conduct for Special Procedures Mandate Holders of the Council of 18 June 2007,<sup>431</sup> and stressing that all mandate holders shall discharge their duties in accordance with those resolutions and the annexes thereto,

*Emphasizing* the importance of the 2030 Agenda for the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order,

*Resolved* to take all measures within its power to secure a democratic and equitable international order,

1. *Affirms* that everyone is entitled to a democratic and equitable international order;
2. *Also affirms* that a democratic and equitable international order fosters the full realization of all human rights for all;
3. *Takes note* of the report of the Independent Expert of the Human Rights Council on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order;<sup>432</sup>
4. *Calls upon* all Member States to fulfil their commitment expressed in Durban, South Africa, during the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, to maximize the benefits of globalization through, inter alia, the strengthening and enhancement of international cooperation to increase equality of opportunities for trade, economic growth and sustainable development, global communications through the use of new technologies and increased intercultural exchange through the preservation and promotion of cultural diversity,<sup>433</sup> and reiterates that only through broad and sustained efforts to create a shared future based upon our common humanity and all its diversity can globalization be made fully inclusive and equitable;
5. *Reaffirms* that democracy includes respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and is a universal value based on the freely expressed will of people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives, and re-emphasizes the need for universal adherence to and implementation of the rule of law at both the national and international levels;
6. *Affirms* that a democratic and equitable international order requires, inter alia, the realization of the following:
  - (a) The right of all peoples to self-determination, by virtue of which they can freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development;
  - (b) The right of peoples and nations to permanent sovereignty over their natural wealth and resources;
  - (c) The right of every human person and all peoples to development;

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<sup>431</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/62/53)*, chap. IV, sect. A.

<sup>432</sup> [A/78/262](#).

<sup>433</sup> See [A/CONF.189/12](#) and [A/CONF.189/12/Corr.1](#), chap. I.

- (d) The right of all peoples to peace;
  - (e) The right to an international economic order based on equal participation in the decision-making process, interdependence, mutual interest, solidarity and cooperation among all States;
  - (f) International solidarity, as a right of peoples and individuals;
  - (g) The promotion and consolidation of transparent, democratic, just and accountable international institutions in all areas of cooperation, in particular through the implementation of the principle of full and equal participation in their respective decision-making mechanisms;
  - (h) The right to equitable participation of all, without any discrimination, in domestic and global decision-making;
  - (i) The principle of equitable regional and gender-balanced representation in the composition of the staff of the United Nations system;
  - (j) The promotion of a free, just, effective and balanced international information and communications order based on international cooperation for the establishment of a new equilibrium and greater reciprocity in the international flow of information, in particular correcting the inequalities in the flow of information to and from developing countries;
  - (k) Respect for cultural diversity and the cultural rights of all, since this enhances cultural pluralism, contributes to a wider exchange of knowledge and understanding of cultural backgrounds, advances the application and enjoyment of universally accepted human rights across the world and fosters stable, friendly relations among peoples and nations worldwide;
  - (l) The right of every person and all peoples to a healthy environment and to enhanced international cooperation that responds effectively to the needs for assistance of national efforts to adapt to climate change, particularly in developing countries, and that promotes the fulfilment of international agreements in the field of mitigation;
  - (m) The promotion of equitable access to benefits from the international distribution of wealth through enhanced international cooperation, in particular in international economic, commercial and financial relations;
  - (n) The enjoyment by everyone of ownership of the common heritage of humankind in connection to the public right of access to culture;
  - (o) The shared responsibility of the nations of the world for managing worldwide economic and social development, including addressing pandemics and other health-related global challenges, as well as threats to international peace and security, which should be exercised multilaterally;
7. *Stresses* the importance of preserving the rich and diverse nature of the international community of nations and peoples, as well as respect for national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds, in the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights;
8. *Also stresses* that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and that the international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis, and reaffirms that, while the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, it is the duty of States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all;
9. *Reaffirms*, among other principles, the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in internal affairs;
10. *Urges* all actors on the international scene to build an international order based on inclusion, social justice, equality and equity, human dignity, solidarity, mutual understanding and promotion of and respect for cultural diversity and universal human rights and to reject all doctrines of exclusion based on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;
11. *Reaffirms* that all States should promote the establishment, maintenance and strengthening of international peace and security and, to that end, should do their utmost to achieve general and complete disarmament under

effective international control, as well as to ensure that the resources released by effective disarmament measures are used for comprehensive development, in particular that of the developing countries;

12. *Underlines* that attempts to overthrow legitimate Governments by force disrupt the democratic and constitutional order, the legitimate exercise of power and the full enjoyment of human rights, and reaffirms that every State has an inalienable right to choose its political, economic, social and cultural system, without interference in any form by other States;

13. *Reaffirms* the need to continue working urgently for the establishment of a new international economic order based on equity, sovereign equality, interdependence, common interest and cooperation among all States, irrespective of their economic and social systems, which shall correct inequalities and redress existing injustices, make it possible to eliminate the widening gap between the developed and the developing countries and ensure steadily accelerating economic and social development and peace and justice for present and future generations, in accordance with relevant previous General Assembly resolutions, programmes of action and major conferences and summits in the economic, social and related areas;

14. *Also reaffirms* that the international community should devise ways and means to remove the current obstacles and meet the challenges to the full realization of all human rights for all and to prevent the continuation of human rights violations resulting therefrom throughout the world;

15. *Urges* States to continue their efforts, through enhanced international cooperation, towards the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order;

16. *Calls upon* Member States to continue to support international cooperation and multilateral efforts, under the leadership of the United Nations system and in particular the World Health Organization, and to work with all relevant actors to mobilize a coordinated global response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its adverse social, economic and financial impact on all societies that contributes to a more democratic and equitable international order;

17. *Affirms* that a democratic and equitable international order, as prescribed in the Charter of the United Nations, cannot be achieved only through the deregulation of trade, markets and financial services;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to provide all the human and financial resources necessary for the effective fulfilment of the mandate of the Independent Expert;

19. *Calls upon* all Governments to cooperate with and assist the Independent Expert in his task, to supply all necessary information requested by him and to consider responding favourably to the requests of the Independent Expert to visit their countries to enable him to fulfil his mandate more effectively;

20. *Requests* the Human Rights Council, the human rights treaty bodies, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the special mechanisms extended by the Council and the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee to pay due attention, within their respective mandates, to the present resolution and to make contributions towards its implementation;

21. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner to build upon the issue of the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of Member States, United Nations organs, bodies and components, intergovernmental organizations, in particular the Bretton Woods institutions, and non-governmental organizations and to disseminate it on the widest possible basis;

23. *Requests* the Independent Expert to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, with a focus on the contributions of the reform of the international financial architecture on building a democratic and equitable international order;

24. *Decides* to continue consideration of the matter at its seventy-ninth session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights".

RESOLUTION 78/197

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/481/Add.2, para. 139)<sup>434</sup>

**78/197. Strengthening United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity**

*The General Assembly,*

*Bearing in mind* that among the purposes of the United Nations are those of developing friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples and taking other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace, as well as achieving international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

*Desirous* of achieving further progress in international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all,

*Considering* that such international cooperation should be based on the principles embodied in international law, especially the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>435</sup> the International Covenants on Human Rights<sup>436</sup> and other relevant instruments,

*Deeply convinced* that United Nations action in the field of human rights should be based not only on a profound understanding of the broad range of problems existing in all societies but also on full respect for the political, economic and social realities of each of them, in strict compliance with the purposes and principles of the Charter and for the basic purpose of promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms through international cooperation,

*Recalling* its previous resolutions in this regard,

*Reaffirming* the importance of ensuring the universality, objectivity and non-selectivity of the consideration of human rights issues, as affirmed in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,<sup>437</sup> and the elimination of double standards,

*Welcoming*, in this regard, that 25 June 2023 marked the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action by the World Conference on Human Rights, and that 10 December 2023 marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and stressing the need to further strengthen efforts towards their implementation,

*Reaffirming* the importance of the objectivity, independence, impartiality and discretion of the special rapporteurs and representatives on thematic issues and on countries, as well as of the members of the working groups, in carrying out their mandates,

*Recalling* that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>438</sup> calls for a revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, and emphasizing the importance of international cooperation in realizing the Agenda, including the Sustainable Development Goals,

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<sup>434</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Algeria, Bahamas, Belarus, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, China, Comoros, Congo, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mali, Namibia, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Zimbabwe.

<sup>435</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>436</sup> Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

<sup>437</sup> A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

<sup>438</sup> Resolution 70/1.



*Underlining* the obligation that Governments have to promote and protect human rights and to carry out the responsibilities that they have undertaken under international law, especially the Charter, as well as various international instruments in the field of human rights,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>439</sup>
2. *Reiterates* that, by virtue of the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, all peoples have the right freely to determine, without external interference, their political status and to pursue their economic, social and cultural development, and that every State has the duty to respect that right within the provisions of the Charter, including respect for territorial integrity;
3. *Reaffirms* that it is a purpose of the United Nations and the task of all Member States, in cooperation with the Organization, to promote and encourage respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and to remain vigilant with regard to violations of human rights wherever they occur;
4. *Calls upon* all Member States to base their activities for the promotion and protection of human rights, including the development of further international cooperation in this field, on the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>440</sup> the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights<sup>441</sup> and other relevant international instruments, and to refrain from activities that are inconsistent with that international framework;
5. *Considers* that international cooperation in this field should make an effective and practical contribution to the urgent task of preventing mass and flagrant violations of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and to the strengthening of international peace and security;
6. *Reaffirms* that the promotion, protection and full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, as a legitimate concern of the world community, should be guided by the principles of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity and should not be used for political ends;
7. *Requests* all human rights bodies within the United Nations system, as well as the special rapporteurs and representatives, independent experts and working groups, to take duly into account the contents of the present resolution in carrying out their mandates;
8. *Expresses its conviction* that an unbiased and fair approach to human rights issues contributes to the promotion of international cooperation as well as to the effective promotion, protection and realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all;
9. *Stresses* the continuing need for impartial and objective information on the political, economic and social situations and events of all countries, and in this context highlights the role of the media in raising public awareness of issues of public interest;
10. *Invites* Member States to consider adopting, as appropriate, within the framework of their respective legal systems and in accordance with their obligations under international law, especially the Charter, and international human rights instruments, the measures that they may deem appropriate to achieve further progress in international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all;
11. *Requests* the Human Rights Council to continue taking duly into account the present resolution and to consider further proposals for the strengthening of United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of the principles of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity, including in the context of the universal periodic review;
12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to invite Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to present further practical proposals and ideas that would contribute to the strengthening of United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation based on the principles

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<sup>439</sup> [A/78/272](#).

<sup>440</sup> See resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

<sup>441</sup> *Ibid.*

of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity, and to submit a comprehensive report on the question to the General Assembly at its eightieth session;

13. *Decides* to consider the matter at its eightieth session under the item entitled “Promotion and protection of human rights”.

### RESOLUTION 78/198

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/481/Add.2, para. 139)<sup>442</sup>

#### 78/198. The right to food

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* the Charter of the United Nations and its importance for the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all,

*Reaffirming also* previous resolutions and decisions on the right to food adopted within the framework of the United Nations,

*Recalling* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>443</sup> which provides that everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for her or his health and well-being, including food, the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition,<sup>444</sup> the United Nations Millennium Declaration,<sup>445</sup> in particular Millennium Development Goal 1 on eradicating extreme poverty and hunger by 2015, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>446</sup> in particular the Sustainable Development Goals on ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture and on ending poverty in all its forms everywhere,

*Recognizing* that achieving the Sustainable Development Goals can help to ensure the end of hunger in all its forms by 2030 and to achieve food security,

*Recalling* the provisions of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>447</sup> in which the fundamental right of every person to be free from hunger is recognized,

*Bearing in mind* the importance of the Rome Declaration on World Food Security, the World Food Summit Plan of Action and the Declaration of the World Food Summit: five years later, adopted in Rome on 13 June 2002,<sup>448</sup>

*Reaffirming* the importance of the recommendations contained in the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security, adopted by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in November 2004,<sup>449</sup>

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<sup>442</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Finland, Gambia, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

<sup>443</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>444</sup> *Report of the World Food Conference, Rome, 5–16 November 1974* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.II.A.3), chap. I.

<sup>445</sup> Resolution 55/2.

<sup>446</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>447</sup> See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

<sup>448</sup> A/57/499, annex.

<sup>449</sup> E/CN.4/2005/131, annex.

*Acknowledging* that the right to food has been recognized as the right of every individual, alone or in community with others, to have physical and economic access at all times to sufficient, adequate, nutritious food, in conformity with, inter alia, the culture, beliefs, traditions, dietary habits and preferences of individuals, that is produced and consumed sustainably, thereby preserving access to food for future generations,

*Reaffirming* the Five Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security contained in the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security, adopted in Rome on 16 November 2009,<sup>450</sup>

*Recalling* the proclamation by the General Assembly at its seventy-second session of 2019–2028 as the United Nations Decade of Family Farming and the close links between family farming, the promotion and conservation of historical, cultural and natural heritage, traditional customs and culture, halting the loss of biodiversity and the improvement of the living conditions of people living in rural areas,

*Reaffirming* that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and that they must be treated globally, in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis, as enshrined in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,<sup>451</sup>

*Welcoming*, in this regard, that 25 June 2023 marked the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action by the World Conference on Human Rights, and that 10 December 2023 marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and stressing the need to further strengthen efforts towards their implementation,

*Reaffirming* that a peaceful, stable and enabling political, social and economic environment, at both the national and the international levels, is the essential foundation that will enable States to give adequate priority to food security, improved nutrition and poverty eradication,

*Reiterating*, as set out in the Rome Declaration on World Food Security, the Declaration of the World Food Summit and the Rome Declaration on Nutrition,<sup>452</sup> that food should not be used as an instrument of political or economic pressure, and reaffirming in this regard the importance of international cooperation and solidarity, as well as the necessity of refraining from unilateral measures that are not in accordance with international law and the Charter and that endanger food and nutrition security,

*Expressing appreciation* for the work of the United Nations system, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Food Programme, aimed at ending hunger and achieving food security and improved nutrition,

*Convinced* that each State must adopt a strategy consistent with its resources and capacities to achieve its individual goals in implementing the recommendations contained in the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the World Food Summit Plan of Action, as well as in the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action,<sup>453</sup> and, at the same time, cooperate regionally and internationally in order to organize collective solutions to global issues of food and nutrition security in a world of increasingly interlinked institutions, societies and economies where coordinated efforts and shared responsibilities are essential,

*Recognizing* that, despite the efforts made and the fact that some positive results have been achieved, the problems of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition have a global dimension, that there has not been sufficient progress in reducing hunger and malnutrition and that these problems are increasing dramatically in some regions in the absence of urgent, determined and concerted action,

*Recognizing also* the importance of traditional sustainable agricultural practices, including traditional seed supply systems, as well as access to credit and other financial services, markets, secure land tenure, health care, social services, education, training, knowledge and appropriate and affordable technologies, including efficient irrigation, the reuse of treated wastewater and water harvesting and storage for Indigenous Peoples and others living in rural areas,

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<sup>450</sup> See Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document WSFS 2009/2.

<sup>451</sup> A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

<sup>452</sup> World Health Organization, document EB136/8, annex I.

<sup>453</sup> Ibid., annex II.

*Recognizing further* the complex character of food insecurity and its likely recurrence due to a combination of several major factors, such as the effects of the global financial and economic crisis, environmental degradation, desertification and the adverse impacts of climate change, as well as poverty, natural disasters, armed conflicts, drought, volatility in commodity prices and the lack in many countries of the appropriate technology, investment and capacity-building necessary to confront its impact, particularly in developing countries, including the least developed countries and small island developing States, and the need for coherence and collaboration between international institutions at the global level,

*Noting with great concern* that millions of people are facing famine or the immediate risk of famine or are experiencing severe food insecurity in several regions of the world, and noting also that poverty, armed conflicts, drought and the volatility of commodity prices are among the factors causing or exacerbating famine and severe food insecurity and that additional efforts, including international support, to respond, prevent and prepare for increasing global food insecurity are urgently needed,

*Noting* the unprecedented surge in international food commodity prices which, according to the Food Price Index of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, reached their highest peak in March 2022 since its inception in 1990, in particular the rise in global prices of vegetable oil and grain, including wheat, further affecting people in vulnerable situations,

*Recalling* its resolution 76/264 of 23 May 2022, entitled “State of global food insecurity”, in which the General Assembly welcomed the initiative by the Secretary-General to establish a Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance, with a Steering Committee chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General, while also taking note of other relevant initiatives aimed at promoting food security and improved nutrition, including for those in vulnerable situations,

*Noting* the rise in fertilizer prices and the shortages caused by supply chain disruptions, affecting crop yields and threatening future agricultural productivity and production, especially of wheat, maize, millet, rice, sunflower oil and essential food,

*Noting also* the rise in energy and fuel prices, which is increasing food commodity prices, narrowing fiscal space at a time when the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has exacerbated pre-existing debt vulnerabilities and exposed fragilities in the global financial architecture, with many developing countries at high risk of or already in debt distress,

*Recognizing* that the COVID-19 pandemic is one of the greatest global challenges in the history of the United Nations, and noting with deep concern its impact on health and the loss of life, mental health and well-being, as well as the negative impact on global humanitarian needs, the enjoyment of human rights and across all spheres of society, including on livelihoods, food security and nutrition, and education, the exacerbation of poverty and hunger, disruption to economies, trade, societies and environments, and the exacerbation of economic and social inequalities within and among countries, reversing hard-won development gains and hampering progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda and all its Goals and targets,

*Recognizing also* that the poorest and those who may be vulnerable or in vulnerable situations are the hardest hit by the pandemic and that the impact of the crisis has reversed hard-won development gains and the fulfilment of the right to food for all, and hampered progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 2, which aims to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture,

*Recognizing further* that the COVID-19 global pandemic requires a global response based on unity, solidarity and multilateral cooperation,

*Expressing its deep concern* over the negative effects of armed conflicts on the enjoyment of the right to food,

*Recognizing* that armed conflict impacts on food security can be direct, such as displacement from land, livestock grazing areas and fishing grounds or destruction of food stocks and agricultural assets, or indirect, such as disruptions to food systems and markets, leading to increased food prices or decreased household purchasing power, or decreased access to supplies that are necessary for food preparation, including water and fuel,

*Stressing* the obligation of all States and parties to an armed conflict to protect civilians, in accordance with international humanitarian law, and calling upon Member States, the United Nations and other relevant organizations to take further steps to provide a coordinated emergency response to the food and nutrition needs of affected

populations, while aiming to ensure that such steps are supportive of national strategies and programmes aimed at improving food security and nutrition,

*Reaffirming* that starvation of civilians as a method of combat is prohibited under international humanitarian law and that it is therefore prohibited to attack, destroy, remove or render useless, for that purpose, objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population, such as foodstuffs, agricultural areas for the production of foodstuffs, crops, livestock, drinking water installations and supplies and irrigation works,

*Resolved* to act to ensure that the promotion, protection and fulfilment of all human rights and the human rights perspective are taken into account at the national, regional and international levels in measures to address the realization of the right to food,

*Stressing* the possible benefits of international trade to improve food and nutrition availability,

*Stressing also* that improving access to productive resources and investment in rural development is essential for eradicating hunger and poverty, in particular in developing countries, through, inter alia, the promotion of investments in appropriate small-scale irrigation and water management technologies in order to reduce vulnerability to droughts and tackle water scarcity, as well as in programmes, practices and policies to scale up sustainable agroecological practices,

*Recognizing* the importance of sustainable food systems that are fit to meet environmental, economic and social challenges, in order to guarantee food security and nutrition for all,

*Expressing its deep concern* at the number and scale of natural disasters, diseases and pest infestations, as well as the negative impact of climate change, and their increasing impact in recent years, which have resulted in substantial loss of life and livelihood and threatened agricultural production and food and nutrition security, in particular in developing countries,

*Concerned* that the adverse impacts of climate change and natural disasters are harming agricultural productivity, food production and cropping patterns, thus contributing to food availability shortfalls, and that such impacts are expected to increase with future climate change,

*Emphasizing* that a multisectoral approach that integrates nutrition across all sectors, including agriculture, health, water and sanitation, social protection and education, as well as a gender perspective, is critical to achieving global food security and improved nutrition and the realization of the right to food,

*Recalling* the endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security<sup>454</sup> by the Committee on World Food Security at its thirty-eighth session, held on 11 May 2012, and by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at its 144th session,

*Recalling also* the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems,<sup>455</sup> which were endorsed by the Committee on World Food Security at its forty-first session, held from 13 to 18 October 2014,

*Stressing* the importance of the Second International Conference on Nutrition, hosted by the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome from 19 to 21 November 2014, and of its outcome documents, the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action,

*Stressing also* the need to increase official development assistance devoted to sustainable agriculture and nutrition,

*Recognizing* that small and medium-sized farmers in developing countries need to receive technical, technology transfer and capacity-building support,

*Recognizing also* the importance of the protection and preservation of agrobiodiversity in guaranteeing food security and nutrition and the right to food for all,

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<sup>454</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document CL 144/9 (C 2013/20), appendix D.

<sup>455</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document C 2015/20, appendix D.

*Noting* the cultural values of dietary and eating habits in different cultures, and recognizing that food plays an important role in defining the identity of individuals and communities and is a cultural component that describes and gives value to a territory and its inhabitants,

*Recognizing* the role of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations as the key United Nations agency for rural and agricultural development and its work in supporting the efforts of Member States to achieve the full realization of the right to food, including through its provision of technical assistance to developing countries in support of the implementation of national priority frameworks,

*Recognizing also* the role of the Committee on World Food Security as an inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for a broad range of committed stakeholders to work together in a coordinated manner and in support of country-led processes towards the elimination of hunger and ensuring food security and nutrition for all human beings,

*Taking note with appreciation* of the United Nations Food Systems Summit, convened by the Secretary-General and held on 23 and 24 September 2021, and of the Nutrition for Growth Summit, held in Tokyo on 7 and 8 December 2021,

*Acknowledging* the contribution of parliamentarians nationally and regionally to the reduction of hunger and malnutrition and ultimately to the realization of the right to food, and in this regard recognizing the convening of the first Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition, held in Madrid on 29 and 30 October 2018,

*Recalling* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, and recalling the commitment therein to work together to promote sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development and environmental protection and thereby to benefit all, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution [66/288](#) of 27 July 2012,

*Recalling also* the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030<sup>456</sup> and its guiding principles, which, inter alia, recognize the importance of promoting regular disaster preparedness and response and recovery exercises, with a view to ensuring rapid and effective response to disasters and related displacement, including access to essential food and non-food relief supplies, as appropriate to local needs, as well as of fostering collaboration across global and regional mechanisms and institutions for the implementation and coherence of instruments and tools relevant to disaster risk reduction, such as for climate change adaptation, biodiversity, sustainable development, poverty eradication, environment, agriculture, health, food and nutrition and others, as appropriate,

*Recalling further* the proclamation at its seventieth session of 2016–2025 as the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition, and stressing the opportunity the Decade represents to bring together initiatives and efforts to eradicate hunger and prevent all forms of malnutrition,

*Acknowledging* the work done by the High-level Task Force on Global Food and Nutrition Security established by the Secretary-General, and supporting the Secretary-General in his continuing efforts in this regard, including continued engagement with Member States and the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the right to food,

1. *Reaffirms* that hunger constitutes an outrage and a violation of human dignity and therefore requires the adoption of urgent measures at the national, regional and international levels for its elimination;
2. *Also reaffirms* the right of everyone to have access to safe, sufficient, nutritious and sustainably produced food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger, so as to be able to fully develop and maintain his or her physical and mental capacities;
3. *Expresses its concern* at the fact that the effects created by the world food crisis still continue to have serious consequences for the poorest and most vulnerable people, particularly in developing countries, which have been further aggravated by the impacts of the world financial and economic crisis, and at the particular effects of the crisis on many net food-importing countries, especially the least developed countries;
4. *Expresses particular concern* at the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the fulfilment of all human rights for all, including the right to food, underlines that the pandemic has exacerbated existing high levels of acute

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<sup>456</sup> Resolution [69/283](#), annex II.

food insecurity, and calls upon Member States and other relevant stakeholders to consider the fulfilment of the right to food as part of the response to and recovery from the pandemic by, inter alia, keeping food and agriculture supply chains functioning, ensuring the continued trade in and movement of food and livestock, products and inputs essential for agricultural and food production to markets, minimizing food loss and waste, supporting workers and farmers, including women farmers, in agriculture and food supply chains to continue their essential work, including cross-border, in a safe manner, mobilizing and allocating adequate resources and enhancing institutional and training capacities for an accelerated implementation of sustainable agriculture and food systems, providing continued access to adequate, safe, affordable and nutritious food, and providing adequate social safety nets and assistance to minimize the negative effects of loss of livelihoods and increasing food prices on food insecurity and malnutrition;

5. *Expresses its deep concern* that, according to the report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations entitled *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023: Urbanization, agrifood systems transformation and healthy diets across the rural–urban continuum*, in 2022 between 690 and 783 million people in the world faced hunger and 2.4 billion people did not have access to nutritious, safe and sufficient food all year round;

6. *Considers it alarming* that, as estimated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in 2022, 148 million children under 5 years of age continued to suffer from stunting, 45 million from wasting and 37 million from overweight;

7. *Expresses its deep concern* that, while women contribute more than 50 per cent of the food produced worldwide, they also account for 70 per cent of the world's hungry, that women and girls are disproportionately affected by hunger, food insecurity and poverty, in part as a result of gender inequality and discrimination, that in many countries girls are twice as likely as boys to die from malnutrition and preventable childhood diseases, and that it is estimated that almost twice as many women as men suffer from malnutrition;

8. *Encourages* all States to mainstream a gender perspective in food security programmes and to take action to address de jure and de facto gender inequality and discrimination against women, in particular when they contribute to the malnutrition of women and girls, including measures to ensure the full and equal realization of the right to food and that women have equal access to resources, including income, land and water and their ownership and agricultural inputs, as well as full and equal access to health care, education, science and technology, to enable them to feed themselves and their families, and in this regard stresses the need to empower women and strengthen their role in decision-making;

9. *Encourages* the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the right to food to continue to mainstream a gender perspective in the fulfilment of his mandate, and encourages the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and all other United Nations bodies and mechanisms addressing the right to food and food insecurity and malnutrition to continue to integrate a gender perspective into their relevant policies, programmes and activities;

10. *Reaffirms* the need to ensure that programmes delivering safe and nutritious food are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities;

11. *Stresses* that the primary responsibility of States is to promote and protect the right to food and that the international community should provide, through a coordinated response and upon request, international cooperation in support of national and regional efforts by providing the assistance necessary to increase food production and access to food, including through agricultural development assistance, the transfer of technology, food crop rehabilitation assistance and food aid, ensuring food security, with special attention to the specific needs of women and girls, and promoting innovation, support for agricultural training and the development of adapted technologies, research on rural advisory services and support for access to financing services, and ensure support for the establishment of secure land tenure systems;

12. *Calls upon* all States and, if appropriate, relevant international organizations to take measures and support programmes that are aimed at combating undernutrition in mothers, in particular during pregnancy and breastfeeding, and in children, and the irreversible effects of chronic undernutrition in early childhood, in particular from birth to the age of 2 years;

13. *Also calls upon* all States and, where appropriate, relevant international organizations to implement policies and programmes to reduce and eliminate preventable mortality and morbidity, as a result of malnutrition, of children under 5 years of age, and in this regard urges States to disseminate the technical guidance prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in collaboration with the World Health



Organization,<sup>457</sup> and to apply it, as appropriate, in the design, implementation, evaluation and monitoring of laws, policies, programmes, budgets and mechanisms for remedy and redress aimed at eliminating preventable mortality and morbidity of children under 5 years of age;

14. *Encourages* all States to take steps, with a view to progressively achieving the full realization of the right to food, including steps to promote the conditions for everyone to be free from hunger and, as soon as possible, to enjoy fully the right to food, and to create and adopt national plans to combat hunger;

15. *Recognizes* the advances made through South-South cooperation in developing countries and regions in connection with food security and the development of agricultural production for the full realization of the right to food;

16. *Stresses* that improving access to productive resources and responsible public investment in rural development, taking into consideration the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems, as endorsed by the Committee on World Food Security, is essential for eradicating hunger and poverty, in particular in developing countries, including through the promotion of investment, including private investment, in appropriate small-scale irrigation and water management technologies in order to reduce vulnerability to droughts and to tackle water scarcity;

17. *Recognizes* the critical contribution made by the fisheries sector to the realization of the right to food and to food security and the contribution of small-scale fishers to the local food security of coastal communities;

18. *Also recognizes* that 70 per cent of hungry people live in rural areas, where nearly half a billion family farmers are located, and that these people are especially vulnerable to food insecurity, given the increasing cost of inputs and the fall in farm incomes; that access to land, water, seeds and other natural resources is an increasing challenge for poor producers; that sustainable and gender-sensitive agricultural policies are important tools for promoting land and agrarian reform, rural credit and insurance, technical assistance and other associated measures to achieve food security and rural development; and that support by States for small farmers, fishing communities and local enterprises, including through the facilitation of access for their products to national and international markets and empowerment of small producers, particularly women, in value chains, is a key element for food security and the provision of the right to food;

19. *Stresses* the importance of fighting hunger in rural areas, including through national efforts supported by international partnerships to stop desertification and land degradation and through investments and public policies that are specifically appropriate to the risk of drylands, and in this regard calls for the full implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;<sup>458</sup>

20. *Urges* States that have not yet done so to favourably consider becoming parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity<sup>459</sup> and to consider becoming parties to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture<sup>460</sup> as a matter of priority;

21. *Recognizes* the important role of Indigenous Peoples and their traditional knowledge and seed supply systems, as well as the important role of new technologies, in the conservation of biodiversity and in aiming to ensure food security and improved nutrition;

22. *Recalls* the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,<sup>461</sup> acknowledges that many Indigenous organizations and representatives of Indigenous Peoples have expressed in different forums their deep concerns over the obstacles and challenges they face in achieving the full enjoyment of the right to food, and calls upon States to take special actions to combat the root causes of the disproportionately high level of hunger and malnutrition among Indigenous Peoples and the continuous discrimination against them;

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<sup>457</sup> [A/HRC/27/31](#); see also Human Rights Council resolution [33/11](#) (see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 53A* and corrigendum ([A/71/53/Add.1](#) and [A/71/53/Add.1/Corr.1](#)), chap. II).

<sup>458</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

<sup>459</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

<sup>460</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2400, No. 43345.

<sup>461</sup> Resolution [61/295](#), annex.

23. *Also recalls* the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, held on 22 and 23 September 2014,<sup>462</sup> and the commitment to developing, in conjunction with the Indigenous Peoples concerned and where appropriate, policies, programmes and resources to support Indigenous Peoples' occupations, traditional subsistence activities, economies, livelihoods, food security and nutrition;

24. *Notes* the need to further examine various concepts, such as "food sovereignty", and their relation to food security and the right to food, bearing in mind the need to avoid any negative impact on the enjoyment of the right to food for all people at all times;

25. *Requests* all States and private actors, as well as international organizations, within their respective mandates, to take fully into account the need to promote the effective realization of the right to food for all;

26. *Recognizes* the need to strengthen national commitment, as well as international assistance, upon the request of and in cooperation with the affected countries, towards the full realization and protection of the right to food, and in particular to develop national protection mechanisms for people forced to leave their homes and land because of hunger or humanitarian emergencies affecting their enjoyment of the right to food;

27. *Takes note with appreciation* of the growing movement, in different regions of the world, towards the adoption of framework laws, national strategies and measures in support of the full realization of the right to food for all;

28. *Stresses* the need to make efforts to mobilize and optimize the allocation and utilization of technical and financial resources from all sources, including external debt relief for developing countries, and to reinforce national actions to implement sustainable food security policies;

29. *Calls for* a successful, development-oriented outcome of the trade negotiations of the World Trade Organization, in particular on the remaining issues of the Doha Development Round, as a contribution to the creation of international conditions permitting the full realization of the right to food;

30. *Stresses* that all States should make all efforts to ensure that their international policies of a political and economic nature, including international trade agreements, do not have a negative impact on the right to food in other countries;

31. *Recalls* the importance of the New York Declaration on Action against Hunger and Poverty, and recommends the continuation of efforts aimed at identifying additional sources of financing for the fight against hunger and poverty, as well as non-communicable diseases;

32. *Recognizes* that the promises made at the World Food Summit in 1996 to halve the number of persons who are undernourished are not being fulfilled, while recognizing the efforts of Member States in this regard, and once again invites all international financial and development institutions, as well as the relevant United Nations agencies and funds, to give priority to and provide the funding necessary to realize the right to food, as set out in the Rome Declaration on World Food Security, and to achieve the aims of Goal 2 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other food and nutrition-related targets;

33. *Reaffirms* that integrating food and nutritional support, with the goal that all people at all times will have access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life, is part of a comprehensive effort to improve public health, alongside the response to the spread of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other communicable diseases;

34. *Urges* States to give priority in their development strategies and expenditures to the realization of the right to food;

35. *Stresses* the importance of international cooperation and development assistance as an effective contribution to the sustainable expansion and improvement of agriculture and, in particular, its environmental sustainability, food production, breeding projects on diversity of crops and livestock and institutional innovations such as community seed banks, farmer field schools and seed fairs, and to the provision of humanitarian food assistance in activities related to emergency situations for the realization of the right to food and the achievement of sustainable

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<sup>462</sup> Resolution 69/2.

food security, while recognizing that each country has the primary responsibility for ensuring the implementation of national programmes and strategies in this regard;

36. *Calls upon* Member States and relevant stakeholders to strengthen international cooperation, as well as their support for multilateral efforts and for the central role of the United Nations system, in order to mobilize a coordinated global response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its adverse social, economic and financial impact on all societies, including on the right to food, that contributes to the full realization of this right for all and leaves no one behind;

37. *Stresses* that States parties to the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights should consider implementing that agreement in a manner that is supportive of food security;

38. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders to support national efforts aimed at responding rapidly to the food crises currently occurring across different regions, and expresses its deep concern that funding shortfalls are forcing the World Food Programme to cut operations across different regions;

39. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations, humanitarian and development organizations and other relevant actors to urgently and effectively respond to, prevent and prepare for rising global food insecurity affecting millions of people, especially those who are facing famine or the immediate risk of famine, including by enhancing humanitarian and development cooperation and providing urgent funding to respond to the needs of the affected population, and calls upon Member States and parties to armed conflicts to respect international humanitarian law and ensure safe and unhindered humanitarian access;

40. *Calls upon* States to heed the urgent United Nations humanitarian appeal to assist countries facing drought, starvation and famine with emergency aid and urgent funding;

41. *Invites* all relevant international organizations, including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, to continue to promote policies and projects that have a positive impact on the right to food, to ensure that partners respect the right to food in the implementation of common projects, to support strategies of Member States aimed at the fulfilment of the right to food and to avoid any actions that could have a negative impact on its realization;

42. *Takes note with appreciation* of the interim report of the Special Rapporteur,<sup>463</sup> which is focused on emerging issues with regard to the realization of the right to food, in particular in the context of the response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic;

43. *Recognizes* the importance of giving due consideration to the adverse impacts of climate change and to the full realization of the right to food, recalls the Paris Agreement, adopted at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Paris from 30 November to 13 December 2015,<sup>464</sup> and also recalls the holding of the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties in Marrakech, Morocco, from 7 to 18 November 2016;

44. *Also recognizes* the impacts of climate change and of the El Niño phenomenon on agricultural production and food security around the world and the importance of designing and implementing actions to reduce its effects, in particular on vulnerable populations, such as rural women, bearing in mind the role that they play in supporting their households and communities in achieving food and nutrition security, generating income and improving rural livelihoods and overall well-being;

45. *Reiterates its support* for the realization of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur, and requests the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to provide all the human and financial resources necessary for its effective fulfilment;

46. *Welcomes* the work already done by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in promoting the right to adequate food, in particular its general comment No. 12 (1999) on the right to adequate food (article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights),<sup>465</sup> in which the Committee affirmed, inter alia,

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<sup>463</sup> [A/78/202](#).

<sup>464</sup> See [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21, annex.

<sup>465</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2000, Supplement No. 2* and corrigendum ([E/2000/22](#) and [E/2000/22/Corr.1](#)), annex V.

that the right to adequate food is indivisibly linked to the inherent dignity of the human person, indispensable for the fulfilment of other human rights enshrined in the International Bill of Human Rights and inseparable from social justice, requiring the adoption of appropriate economic, environmental and social policies, at both the national and the international levels, oriented to the eradication of poverty and the fulfilment of all human rights for all;

47. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work done by the Committee on World Food Security in order to contribute to achieving and guaranteeing global food security;

48. *Recalls* general comment No. 15 (2002) of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on the right to water (articles 11 and 12 of the Covenant),<sup>466</sup> in which the Committee noted, inter alia, the importance of ensuring sustainable access to water resources for human consumption and agriculture in realization of the right to adequate food;

49. *Reaffirms* that the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security, adopted by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in November 2004, represent a useful tool to promote the realization of the right to food for all, contribute to the achievement of food security and thus provide an additional instrument in the attainment of internationally agreed development goals and to support national Governments in the implementation of food security and nutrition policies, programmes and legal frameworks;

50. *Calls upon* all Governments to cooperate with and assist the Special Rapporteur in his task, to supply all necessary information requested by him and to give serious consideration to responding favourably to the requests of the Special Rapporteur to visit their countries to enable him to fulfil his mandate more effectively;

51. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session an interim report on the implementation of the present resolution and to continue his work, including by examining the emerging issues with regard to the realization of the right to food that are within his mandate, including in the context of the international financial architecture, while taking into consideration relevant legal frameworks;

52. *Invites* Governments, relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, treaty bodies, civil society actors and non-governmental organizations, as well as the private sector, to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur in the fulfilment of his mandate through, inter alia, the submission of comments and suggestions on ways and means of realizing the right to food;

53. *Decides* to continue the consideration of the question at its seventy-ninth session under the item entitled “Promotion and protection of human rights”.

## RESOLUTION 78/199

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/481/Add.2, para. 139)<sup>467</sup>

### 78/199. Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming its commitment* to promoting international cooperation, as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, in particular Article 1, paragraph 3, as well as relevant provisions of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,<sup>468</sup> for enhancing genuine cooperation among Member States in the field of human rights,

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<sup>466</sup> Ibid., 2003, Supplement No. 2 (E/2003/22), annex IV.

<sup>467</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Belarus, China, Cuba (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries), Democratic People's Republic of Korea, El Salvador, Russian Federation and Syrian Arab Republic.

<sup>468</sup> A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

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

*Recalling also* its adoption of the United Nations Millennium Declaration on 8 September 2000,<sup>469</sup> its resolution 77/213 of 15 December 2022, Human Rights Council resolution 53/11 of 12 July 2023<sup>470</sup> and the resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights on the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights,

*Recalling further* the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held in Durban, South Africa, from 31 August to 8 September 2001, the Durban Review Conference, held in Geneva from 20 to 24 April 2009, and the political declarations of the high-level meetings of the General Assembly to commemorate the tenth<sup>471</sup> and twentieth<sup>472</sup> anniversaries of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, and their role in the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights,

*Recognizing* that the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights is essential for the full achievement of the purposes of the United Nations, including the effective promotion and protection of all human rights,

*Recognizing also* that the promotion and protection of human rights should be based on the principle of cooperation and genuine dialogue and aimed at strengthening the capacity of Member States to comply with their human rights obligations for the benefit of all human beings,

*Underlining* that cooperation is not just a matter of relations of good-neighbourliness, coexistence or reciprocity, but rather of a willingness to look beyond mutual interests in order to advance the general interest,

*Stressing* the importance of international cooperation for improving the living conditions of all in every country, including, in particular, in developing countries,

*Reaffirming* that dialogue among religions, cultures and civilizations in the field of human rights could contribute greatly to the enhancement of international cooperation in this field,

*Reiterating* the important role that genuine human rights dialogue can play in the enhancement of cooperation in the field of human rights at the bilateral, regional and international levels,

*Recognizing* that the enhancement of international cooperation and genuine dialogue contributes to the effective functioning of the international human rights system,

*Emphasizing* that human rights dialogue should be constructive and based on the principles of universality, indivisibility, objectivity, non-selectivity, non-politicization, mutual respect and equal treatment, with the aim of facilitating mutual understanding and strengthening constructive cooperation, including through capacity-building and technical cooperation between States,

*Emphasizing also* the need for further progress in the promotion and encouragement of respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all through, inter alia, international cooperation,

*Underlining* the fact that mutual understanding, dialogue, cooperation, transparency and confidence-building are important elements in all activities for the promotion and protection of human rights,

*Recalling* the adoption of resolution 2000/22 of 18 August 2000, on the promotion of dialogue on human rights issues, by the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights at its fifty-second session,<sup>473</sup>

*Welcoming*, in this regard, the fact that 25 June 2023 marked the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action by the World Conference on Human Rights, and that 10 December

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<sup>469</sup> Resolution 55/2.

<sup>470</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/78/53)*, chap. VII, sect. A.

<sup>471</sup> Resolution 66/3.

<sup>472</sup> Resolution 76/1.

<sup>473</sup> See *E/CN.4/2001/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/2000/46*, chap. II, sect. A.

2023 will mark the seventy-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>474</sup> and stressing the need to further strengthen efforts towards their implementation,

1. *Reaffirms* that it is one of the purposes of the United Nations and the responsibility of all Member States to promote, protect and encourage respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all through, inter alia, international cooperation;

2. *Recognizes* that, in addition to their separate responsibilities to their individual societies, States have a collective responsibility to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity at the global level;

3. *Reaffirms* that dialogue among cultures and civilizations facilitates the promotion of a culture of peace, tolerance and respect for diversity, and welcomes in this regard the holding of conferences and meetings at the national, regional and international levels on dialogue among civilizations;

4. *Also reaffirms* the duty of States to cooperate with one another in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations in the promotion of universal respect for and observance of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including with respect to the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination and all forms of religious intolerance;

5. *Urges* all actors on the international scene to build an international order based on inclusion, justice, equality and equity, human dignity, mutual understanding and promotion of and respect for cultural diversity and universal human rights and to reject all doctrines of exclusion based on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

6. *Reaffirms* the importance of the enhancement of international cooperation for the promotion and protection of human rights and for the achievement of the objectives of the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

7. *Considers* that international cooperation in the field of human rights, in conformity with the purposes and principles set out in the Charter and international law, should make an effective and practical contribution to the urgent task of preventing violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

8. *Reaffirms* that the promotion, protection and full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all should be guided by the principles of universality, non-selectivity, cooperation and genuine dialogue, objectivity and transparency, in a manner consistent with the purposes and principles set out in the Charter;

9. *Emphasizes* the importance of the universal periodic review as a mechanism based on cooperation and constructive dialogue with the objective of, inter alia, improving the situation of human rights on the ground and promoting the fulfilment of the human rights obligations and commitments undertaken by States;

10. *Also emphasizes* the need for a cooperative and constructive approach on the part of all stakeholders to resolving human rights issues in international forums;

11. *Further emphasizes* the role of international cooperation in support of national efforts and in increasing the capacities of Member States in the field of human rights through, inter alia, the enhancement of their cooperation with human rights mechanisms, including through the provision of technical assistance, upon the request of and in accordance with the priorities set by the States concerned;

12. *Calls upon* Member States, the specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations to continue to carry out a constructive dialogue and consultations for the enhancement of understanding and the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, and encourages non-governmental organizations to contribute actively to this endeavour;

13. *Urges* States to take measures necessary to enhance bilateral, regional and international cooperation aimed at addressing the adverse impact of consecutive and compounded global crises, such as financial and economic crises, food crises, climate change and natural disasters, on the full enjoyment of human rights;

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<sup>474</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).



14. *Invites* States and relevant United Nations human rights mechanisms and procedures to continue to pay attention to the importance of mutual cooperation, understanding and dialogue in ensuring the promotion and protection of all human rights;

15. *Encourages* all Member States and the United Nations system to explore and foster complementarities among North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation aiming at the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, to consult States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on ways and means, as well as on obstacles and challenges and possible proposals to overcome them, for the enhancement of international cooperation and genuine dialogue in the United Nations human rights machinery, including the Human Rights Council;

17. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the question at its seventy-ninth session.

### RESOLUTION 78/200

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 131 to 53, with no abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/481/Add.2, para. 139)<sup>475</sup>

\* *In favour:* Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, 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, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against:* Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Abstaining:* None

#### **78/200. Promotion of equitable geographical distribution in the membership of the human rights treaty bodies**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its previous resolutions on this question,

*Reaffirming* the importance of the goal of universal ratification of the United Nations human rights instruments,

*Welcoming* the significant increase in the number of ratifications of United Nations human rights instruments and the movement of some treaties towards universal ratification,

*Reiterating* the importance of the effective functioning of the treaty bodies established pursuant to United Nations human rights instruments for the full and effective implementation of those instruments,

<sup>475</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: China, Cuba (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries) and Russian Federation.



*Recognizing* that the equitable geographical distribution of membership is an essential requirement for the effective functioning of the treaty bodies,

*Recalling* that, with regard to the election of the members of the human rights treaty bodies, the General Assembly and the former Commission on Human Rights recognized the importance of giving consideration in their membership to equitable geographical distribution, gender balance and representation of the principal legal systems and of bearing in mind that the members shall be elected and shall serve in their personal capacity, and shall be of high moral character, acknowledged impartiality and recognized competence in the field of human rights,

*Reaffirming* the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds, as well as of different political, economic and legal systems,

*Reaffirming also* the importance of ensuring the universality, objectivity and non-selectivity of the consideration of human rights issues, as affirmed in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,<sup>476</sup> and the elimination of double standards,

*Welcoming*, in this regard, that 25 June 2023 marked the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action by the World Conference on Human Rights and that 10 December 2023 marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>477</sup> and stressing the need to further strengthen efforts towards their implementation,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>478</sup>

*Recognizing* that the United Nations pursues multilingualism as a means of promoting, protecting and preserving diversity of languages and cultures globally and that genuine multilingualism promotes unity in diversity and international understanding,

*Recalling* that the General Assembly and the former Commission on Human Rights encouraged States parties to United Nations human rights treaties, individually and through meetings of States parties, to consider how to give better effect, inter alia, to the principle of equitable geographical distribution in the membership of treaty bodies,

*Expressing its concern* at the regional imbalance in the current composition of the membership of the human rights treaty bodies in favour in particular of representatives of members from Western European and other States, as indicated and highlighted in the report of the Secretary-General,

*Reaffirming* the importance of increasing efforts to address that imbalance,

*Convinced* that the goal of equitable geographical distribution in the membership of human rights treaty bodies is perfectly compatible and can be fully realized and achieved in harmony with the need to achieve gender balance and the representation of the principal legal systems in those bodies and the high moral character, acknowledged impartiality and recognized competence in the field of human rights of their members,

1. *Reiterates* that the States parties to the United Nations human rights instruments should take into account, in their nomination of members to the human rights treaty bodies, that these committees shall be composed of persons of high moral character and recognized competence in the field of human rights, consideration being given to the usefulness of the participation of persons having legal experience and to equal representation of women and men, and that members shall serve in their personal capacity, and also reiterates that, in the elections to the human rights treaty bodies, strong consideration shall be given to equitable geographical distribution of membership and to the representation of the different forms of civilization and of the principal legal systems;

2. *Urges* the States parties to the United Nations human rights instruments, including the bureau members, to include this matter in the agenda of each meeting and/or conference of States parties to those instruments in order to initiate a debate on ways and means to ensure equitable geographical distribution in the membership of the human rights treaty bodies, based on previous recommendations of the former Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council and the provisions of the present resolution;

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<sup>476</sup> A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

<sup>477</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>478</sup> A/78/311.

## V. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Third Committee

3. *Encourages* the States parties to the United Nations human rights instruments to consider and adopt concrete actions, inter alia, the possible establishment of quotas by geographical region for membership of the treaty bodies, thereby ensuring the paramount objective of equitable geographical distribution in the membership of those human rights bodies;

4. *Recommends*, when considering the possible allocation of seats on each treaty body on a regional basis, the introduction of flexible procedures that encompass the following criteria:

(a) Each of the five regional groups established by the General Assembly is allocated seats on each treaty body in equivalent proportion to the number of States parties to the instrument in that group;

(b) There must be provision for periodic revisions of the allocation of seats in order to reflect relative changes in the level of treaty ratification in each regional group;

(c) Automatic periodic revisions should be envisaged in order to avoid amending the text of the instrument when the quotas are revised;

5. *Stresses* that the process needed to achieve the goal of equitable geographical distribution in the membership of human rights treaty bodies can contribute to raising awareness of the importance of gender balance, the representation of the principal legal systems and the principle that the members of the treaty bodies shall be elected and shall serve in their personal capacity, and shall be of high moral character, acknowledged impartiality and recognized competence in the field of human rights;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, to submit to the General Assembly at its eightieth session a comprehensive updated report in this regard, including information on any steps taken by States parties at meetings or conferences of States parties to address the matter of equitable geographical distribution in the membership of the human rights treaty bodies, as well as concrete recommendations on the implementation of the present resolution;

7. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the question at its eightieth session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights".

### RESOLUTION 78/201

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 132 to 54, with 1 abstention,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/481/Add.2, para. 139)<sup>479</sup>

\* *In favour:* 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, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against:* Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Nauru, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Abstaining:* Democratic Republic of the Congo

<sup>479</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by China, and Cuba (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries).

**78/201. Human rights and cultural diversity**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>480</sup> the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights<sup>481</sup> and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>482</sup> as well as other pertinent human rights instruments,

*Recalling also* its resolutions [54/160](#) of 17 December 1999, [55/91](#) of 4 December 2000, [57/204](#) of 18 December 2002, [58/167](#) of 22 December 2003, [60/167](#) of 16 December 2005, [62/155](#) of 18 December 2007, [64/174](#) of 18 December 2009, [66/154](#) of 19 December 2011, [68/159](#) of 18 December 2013, [70/156](#) of 17 December 2015, [72/170](#) of 19 December 2017, [74/159](#) of 18 December 2019 and [76/162](#) of 16 December 2021, and recalling further its resolutions [54/113](#) of 10 December 1999, [55/23](#) of 13 November 2000 and [60/4](#) of 20 October 2005 concerning the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations,

*Noting* that numerous instruments within the United Nations system promote cultural diversity, as well as the conservation and development of culture, in particular the Declaration of the Principles of International Culture Cooperation proclaimed on 4 November 1966 by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its fourteenth session,<sup>483</sup>

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>484</sup>

*Recalling* that, as stated in the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, contained in the annex to its resolution [2625 \(XXV\)](#) of 24 October 1970, States have the duty to cooperate with one another, irrespective of the differences in their political, economic and social systems, in the various spheres of international relations, in the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, and in the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination and all forms of religious intolerance,

*Recalling also* the adoption, by its resolution [56/6](#) of 9 November 2001, of the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations,

*Recalling further* the contribution of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held in Durban, South Africa, from 31 August to 8 September 2001, the Durban Review Conference, held in Geneva from 20 to 24 April 2009, and the high-level meetings of the General Assembly to commemorate the tenth and twentieth anniversaries of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action,<sup>485</sup> held on 22 September 2011 and 2021, respectively, to the promotion of respect for cultural diversity,

*Recalling* the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,<sup>486</sup> together with its Action Plan,<sup>487</sup> adopted on 2 November 2001 by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its thirty-first session, in which member States invited the United Nations system and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned to cooperate with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the promotion of the principles set forth in the Declaration and its Action Plan, with a view to enhancing the synergy of actions in favour of cultural diversity,

*Recalling also* the Ministerial Meeting on Human Rights and Cultural Diversity of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Tehran on 3 and 4 September 2007,

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<sup>480</sup> Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

<sup>481</sup> See resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

<sup>482</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>483</sup> See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Fourteenth Session, Paris, 1966, Resolutions*.

<sup>484</sup> [A/78/242](#).

<sup>485</sup> See [A/CONF.189/12](#) and [A/CONF.189/12/Corr.1](#), chap. I.

<sup>486</sup> United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Thirty-first Session, Paris, 15 October–3 November 2001*, vol. 1 and corrigendum, *Resolutions*, sect. V, resolution 25, annex I.

<sup>487</sup> *Ibid.*, annex II.

*Reaffirming* that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and that the international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis, and that, while the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, it is the duty of States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all,

*Welcoming*, in this regard, that 25 June 2023 marked the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action<sup>488</sup> by the World Conference on Human Rights and that 10 December 2023 marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and stressing the need to further strengthen efforts towards their implementation,

*Expressing concern* over the adverse impacts of lack of respect for and recognition of cultural diversity on human rights, justice, friendship and the fundamental right to development,

*Recognizing* that cultural diversity and the pursuit of cultural development by all peoples and nations are a source of mutual enrichment for the cultural life of humankind,

*Recognizing also* the contribution that diverse cultures have been making to the development and promotion of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all,

*Taking into account* that a culture of peace actively fosters non-violence and respect for human rights and strengthens solidarity among peoples and nations and dialogue between cultures, and in that regard recalling its resolutions adopted under the agenda item entitled “Culture of peace”,

*Reaffirming* that discriminatory treatment against different cultures and religions is detrimental to the principle of the equality of human beings,

*Recognizing* that all cultures and civilizations share a common set of universal values,

*Recognizing also* that the promotion of the rights of Indigenous Peoples and their cultures and traditions contribute to the respect for and observance of cultural diversity among all peoples and nations,

*Considering* that tolerance of cultural, ethnic, religious and linguistic diversities, as well as dialogue among and within civilizations, is essential for peace, understanding and friendship among individuals and people of different cultures and nations of the world, while manifestations of cultural prejudice, intolerance and xenophobia towards different cultures and religions generate hatred, violence and extremism among peoples and nations throughout the world,

*Recognizing* in each culture a dignity and value that deserve recognition, respect and preservation, and convinced that, in their rich variety and diversity, and in the reciprocal influences that they exert on one another, all cultures form part of the common heritage belonging to all humankind,

*Convinced* that the promotion of cultural pluralism and tolerance towards and dialogue among various cultures and civilizations would contribute to the efforts of all peoples and nations to enrich their cultures and traditions by engaging in a mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and intellectual, moral and material achievements,

*Acknowledging* the diversity of the world, recognizing that all cultures and civilizations contribute to the enrichment of humankind, acknowledging the importance of respect and understanding for religious and cultural diversity throughout the world, and, in order to promote international peace and security, committing itself to advancing human welfare, freedom and progress everywhere, as well as to encouraging tolerance, respect, dialogue and cooperation among different cultures, civilizations and peoples,

1. *Affirms* the importance for all peoples and nations to hold, develop and preserve their cultural heritage and traditions in a national and international atmosphere of peace, tolerance and mutual respect;

2. *Emphasizes* the important contribution of culture to development and the achievement of national development objectives and internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals;

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<sup>488</sup> A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

3. *Recalls* that, as expressed in the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, no one may invoke cultural diversity to infringe upon human rights guaranteed by international law, or to limit their scope;
4. *Also recalls* the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>489</sup> in which Member States acknowledged the natural and cultural diversity of the world and recognized that all cultures and civilizations can contribute to, and are crucial enablers of, sustainable development;
5. *Recognizes* the importance given to cultural diversity in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including in Sustainable Development Goal 4, related to ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all;
6. *Also recognizes* the right of everyone to take part in cultural life and to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications;
7. *Affirms* that the international community should strive to respond to the challenges and opportunities posed by globalization in a manner that ensures respect for the cultural diversity of all;
8. *Expresses its determination* to prevent and mitigate cultural homogenization in the context of globalization, through increased intercultural exchange guided by the promotion and protection of cultural diversity;
9. *Affirms* that intercultural dialogue essentially enriches the common understanding of human rights and that the benefits to be derived from the encouragement and development of international contacts and cooperation in the cultural fields are important;
10. *Recalls* the recognition at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance of the necessity of respecting and maximizing the benefits of diversity within and among all nations in working together to build a harmonious and productive future by putting into practice and promoting values and principles such as justice, equality and non-discrimination, democracy, fairness and friendship, tolerance and respect within and among communities and nations, in particular through public information and educational programmes to raise awareness and understanding of the benefits of cultural diversity, including programmes in which the public authorities work in partnership with international and non-governmental organizations and other sectors of civil society;
11. *Emphasizes* that dialogue among religions, cultures and civilizations on the basis of equal dignity should be enhanced, through supporting efforts made at the international level towards reducing confrontation, suppressing xenophobia and promoting respect for diversity, and in that regard also emphasizes that States should oppose all attempts at uniculturalism or the imposition of particular models of social or cultural systems and promote dialogue among civilizations, a culture of peace, tolerance and interfaith dialogue, which will contribute towards peace, security and development;
12. *Welcomes* the activities of the Non-Aligned Movement Centre for Human Rights and Cultural Diversity in Tehran, and acknowledges the important role that the Centre plays in the promotion of the universality of all human rights, as well as their realization;
13. *Recognizes* that respect for cultural diversity and the cultural rights of all enhances cultural pluralism, contributing to a wider exchange of knowledge and understanding of cultural background, advancing the application and enjoyment of universally accepted human rights throughout the world and fostering stable, friendly relations among peoples and nations worldwide;
14. *Emphasizes* that the promotion of cultural pluralism and tolerance at the national, regional and international levels is important for enhancing respect for cultural rights and cultural diversity;
15. *Also emphasizes* that tolerance and respect for diversity facilitate the universal promotion and protection of human rights, including gender equality and the enjoyment of all human rights by all, and underlines the fact that tolerance and respect for cultural diversity and the universal promotion and protection of human rights are mutually supportive;

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<sup>489</sup> Resolution 70/1.

## V. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Third Committee

16. *Urges* all actors on the international scene to build an international order based on inclusion, justice, equality and equity, human dignity, mutual understanding and promotion of and respect for cultural diversity and universal human rights, and to reject all doctrines of exclusion based on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

17. *Calls upon* States, relevant international organizations and non-governmental organizations to support and embark on intercultural initiatives on human rights in order to promote all human rights, thereby enriching their universality;

18. *Urges* States to ensure that their political and legal systems reflect the multicultural diversity within their societies and, where necessary, to improve democratic institutions so that they are more fully participatory and avoid marginalization and exclusion of, and discrimination against, specific sectors of society;

19. *Calls upon* States, international organizations and United Nations agencies, and invites civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to recognize and promote respect for cultural diversity for the purpose of advancing the objectives of peace, development and universally accepted human rights;

20. *Stresses* the necessity of freely using the media and new information and communications technologies to create the conditions for a renewed dialogue among cultures and civilizations;

21. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to bear in mind fully the issues raised in the present resolution in the course of its activities for the promotion and protection of human rights;

22. *Also requests* the Office of the High Commissioner, and invites the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to support initiatives aimed at promoting intercultural dialogue on human rights;

23. *Urges* relevant international organizations to conduct studies on how respect for cultural diversity contributes to fostering international solidarity and cooperation among all nations;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including efforts undertaken at the national, regional and international levels regarding the recognition and importance of cultural diversity among all peoples and nations in the world and taking into account the views of Member States, relevant United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations, and to submit the report to the General Assembly at its eightieth session;

25. *Decides* to continue consideration of the question at its eightieth session under the sub-item entitled “Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms” of the item entitled “Promotion and protection of human rights”.

### RESOLUTION 78/202

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 131 to 53, with no abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/481/Add.2, para. 139)<sup>490</sup>

\* *In favour*: 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, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

<sup>490</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: China, Cuba (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries) and Russian Federation.



*Against:* Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Abstaining:* None

## 78/202. Human rights and unilateral coercive measures

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* all its previous resolutions on this subject, the most recent of which was resolution 77/214 of 15 December 2022, and Human Rights Council decision 18/120 of 30 September 2011<sup>491</sup> and resolutions 24/14 of 27 September 2013,<sup>492</sup> 27/21 of 26 September 2014,<sup>493</sup> 30/2 of 1 October 2015,<sup>494</sup> 36/10 of 28 September 2017,<sup>495</sup> 37/21 of 23 March 2018,<sup>496</sup> 40/3 of 21 March 2019,<sup>497</sup> 43/15 of 22 June 2020,<sup>498</sup> 46/5 of 23 March 2021,<sup>499</sup> 49/6 of 31 March 2022<sup>500</sup> and 52/13 of 3 April 2023,<sup>501</sup> as well as previous resolutions of the Council and the Commission on Human Rights,

*Reaffirming* the pertinent principles and provisions contained in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, in particular article 32 thereof, in which it declared that no State may use or encourage the use of economic, political or any other type of measures to coerce another State in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights,

*Recalling* the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 52/120 of 12 December 1997<sup>502</sup> and 55/110 of 4 December 2000,<sup>503</sup>

*Stressing* that unilateral coercive measures and legislation are contrary to international law, international humanitarian law, the Charter of the United Nations and the norms and principles governing peaceful relations among States,

*Recognizing* the universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated character of all human rights, and in this regard reaffirming the right to development as an integral part of all human rights,

*Recalling* the Final Document of the Sixteenth Ministerial Conference and Commemorative Meeting of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 23 to 27 May 2011,<sup>504</sup> the Final Document of the Eighteenth Summit of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Baku, Azerbaijan, on 25 and 26 October 2019,<sup>505</sup> and the documents adopted at previous summits and conferences, in which States members of the Movement agreed to oppose and condemn unilateral coercive measures and their continued application, persevere

<sup>491</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53A* and corrigendum (A/66/53/Add.1 and A/66/53/Add.1/Corr.1), chap. III.

<sup>492</sup> *Ibid.*, *Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53A* (A/68/53/Add.1), chap. III.

<sup>493</sup> *Ibid.*, *Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 53A* and corrigenda (A/69/53/Add.1, A/69/53/Add.1/Corr.1 and A/69/53/Add.1/Corr.2), chap. IV, sect. A.

<sup>494</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 53A* (A/70/53/Add.1), chap. III.

<sup>495</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 53A* (A/72/53/Add.1), chap. III.

<sup>496</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/73/53), chap. IV, sect. A.

<sup>497</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/74/53), chap. IV, sect. A.

<sup>498</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-fifth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/75/53), chap. IV, sect. A.

<sup>499</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/76/53), chap. V, sect. A.

<sup>500</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/77/53), chap. VI, sect. A.

<sup>501</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/78/53), chap. V, sect. A.

<sup>502</sup> A/53/293 and A/53/293/Add.1.

<sup>503</sup> A/56/207 and A/56/207/Add.1.

<sup>504</sup> A/65/896-S/2011/407, annex I.

<sup>505</sup> A/74/548, annex.



with efforts to effectively reverse them, urge other States to do likewise, as called for by the General Assembly and other organs of the United Nations, and request States applying those measures or laws to revoke them fully and immediately,

*Recalling also* that, at the World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, States were called upon to refrain from any unilateral measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter that creates obstacles to trade relations among States and impedes the full realization of all human rights<sup>506</sup> and also severely threatens the freedom of trade,

*Welcoming*, in this regard, that 25 June 2023 marked the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action<sup>507</sup> by the World Conference on Human Rights and that 10 December 2023 marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>508</sup> and stressing the need to further strengthen efforts towards their implementation,

*Bearing in mind* all the references to this question in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, adopted by the World Summit for Social Development on 12 March 1995,<sup>509</sup> the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women on 15 September 1995,<sup>510</sup> the Quito Declaration on Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements for All and the Quito implementation plan for the New Urban Agenda, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) on 20 October 2016,<sup>511</sup> and in the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which States are strongly urged to refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries,

*Expressing concern* about the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on international relations, trade, investment and cooperation,

*Recognizing* that unilateral coercive measures disproportionately affect people in vulnerable situations, and in this regard expressing grave concern that, in some countries, the situation of children is adversely affected by unilateral measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter that create obstacles to trade relations among States, impede the full realization of social and economic development and hinder the well-being of the population in the affected countries, with particular consequences for women, children, including adolescents, the elderly and persons with disabilities,

*Deeply concerned* that, despite the recommendations adopted on this question by the General Assembly, the Human Rights Council, the Commission on Human Rights and recent major United Nations conferences, and contrary to general international law and the Charter, unilateral coercive measures continue to be promulgated and implemented, with all their negative implications for the social humanitarian activities and economic and social development of developing countries, including their extraterritorial effects, thereby creating additional obstacles to the full enjoyment of all human rights by peoples and individuals under the jurisdiction of other States,

*Bearing in mind* all the extraterritorial effects of any unilateral legislative, administrative and economic measures, policies and practices of a coercive nature against the development process and the enhancement of human rights in developing countries, which create obstacles to the full realization of all human rights,

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<sup>506</sup> See A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

<sup>507</sup> Ibid.

<sup>508</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>509</sup> *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

<sup>510</sup> *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

<sup>511</sup> Resolution 71/256, annex.

*Reaffirming* that unilateral coercive measures are a major obstacle to the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development<sup>512</sup> and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

*Recognizing* that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic is one of the greatest global challenges in the history of the United Nations, and noting with deep concern its impact on health and the loss of life, mental health and well-being, as well as the negative impact on global humanitarian needs, the enjoyment of human rights and across all spheres of society, including on livelihoods, food security and nutrition, and education, the exacerbation of poverty and hunger, disruption to economies, trade, societies and environments, and the exacerbation of economic and social inequalities within and among countries,

*Recognizing also* that the poorest and those who may be vulnerable or in vulnerable situations, within and among countries, are the hardest hit by the pandemic and that the impact of the crisis has reversed hard-won development gains and hampered progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as progress with regard to the realization of the right to development,

*Deeply concerned* about the situation of States facing both unilateral coercive measures, which are not in accordance with international law or the Charter, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and recognizing that such States have to overcome additional obstacles derived from the application of unilateral coercive measures in order to respond to and recover from the pandemic,

*Recognizing* the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures, which are not in accordance with international law or the Charter, on global efforts to respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and on the capacities of targeted countries to have equal access to safe, quality, efficacious, effective, accessible and affordable vaccines and other means to respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic,

*Concerned* about the fact that the frequency, type, target and scope of application of unilateral coercive measures, which are not in accordance with international law or the Charter, have expanded enormously in the international arena,

*Recalling* article 1, paragraph 2, common to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights<sup>513</sup> and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>514</sup> which provides, inter alia, that in no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence,

*Noting* the continuing efforts of the open-ended Working Group on the Right to Development of the Human Rights Council, and reaffirming in particular its criteria, according to which unilateral coercive measures are one of the obstacles to the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development,

1. *Urges* all States to cease adopting or implementing any unilateral measures not in accordance with international law, international humanitarian law, the Charter of the United Nations and the norms and principles governing peaceful relations among States, in particular those of a coercive nature, with all their extraterritorial effects, which create obstacles to trade relations among States, thus impeding the full realization of the rights set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments, in particular the right of individuals and peoples to development;

2. *Strongly urges* States to refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter that impede the full achievement of sustainable economic and social development, particularly in developing countries;

3. *Condemns* the inclusion of Member States in unilateral lists under false pretexts, which are contrary to international law and the Charter, including false allegations of terrorism sponsorship, considering such lists as instruments for political or economic pressure against Member States, particularly developing countries;

4. *Urges* all States not to adopt any unilateral measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter that impede the full achievement of economic and social development by the population of the affected countries, in particular children and women, that hinder their well-being and that create obstacles to the full enjoyment

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<sup>512</sup> Resolution 41/128, annex.

<sup>513</sup> See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

<sup>514</sup> Ibid.

of their human rights, including the right of everyone to a standard of living adequate for his or her health and well-being and his or her right to food, medical care and education and the necessary social services, as well as to ensure that food and medicine are not used as tools for political pressure;

5. *Strongly objects* to the extraterritorial nature of those measures which, in addition, threaten the sovereignty of States, and in this context calls upon all Member States neither to recognize those measures nor to apply them, as well as to take administrative or legislative measures, as appropriate, to counteract the extraterritorial applications or effects of unilateral coercive measures;

6. *Condemns* the continuing unilateral application and enforcement by certain Powers of unilateral coercive measures, and rejects those measures, with all their extraterritorial effects, as being tools for political or economic pressure against any country, in particular against developing countries, adopted with a view to preventing those countries from exercising their right to decide, of their own free will, their own political, economic and social systems, and because of the negative effects of those measures on the realization of all the human rights of vast sectors of their populations, in particular children, women, the elderly and persons with disabilities;

7. *Expresses grave concern* that, in some countries, the situation of children is adversely affected by unilateral measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter that create obstacles to trade relations among States, impede the full realization of social and economic development and hinder the well-being of the population in the affected countries, with particular consequences for women, children, including adolescents, the elderly and persons with disabilities;

8. *Reaffirms* that essential goods such as food and medicines, including vaccines, should not be used as tools for political coercion, in particular in the context of global health challenges, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, and that under no circumstances should people be deprived of their own means of subsistence and development;

9. *Also reaffirms* its resolution [74/274](#) of 20 April 2020, in which it recognized the importance of international cooperation and effective multilateralism in helping to ensure that all States have in place effective national protective measures, access to and flow of vital medical supplies, medicines and vaccines, in order to minimize negative effects in all affected States and to avoid relapses of the COVID-19 pandemic;

10. *Recognizes* the role of extensive immunization against COVID-19 as a global public good for health in preventing, containing and stopping transmission in order to bring the pandemic to an end, through safe, quality, efficacious, effective, accessible and affordable vaccines for all, including countries affected by unilateral coercive measures, which are not in accordance with international law or the Charter;

11. *Recalls* the appeal made by the Secretary-General, on 26 March 2020, on the waiving of sanctions that undermine countries' capacity to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and the statement made by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, on 23 March 2020, on the need to ease or suspend sectoral sanctions in the light of their potentially debilitating impact on the health sector and human rights;

12. *Reaffirms* its commitment to international cooperation and multilateralism and its strong support for the central role of the United Nations system in the global response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic;

13. *Emphasizes* that the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the short- and long-term impacts of unilateral coercive measures, which are not in accordance with international law or the Charter, on the enjoyment of all categories of civil, economic, social and cultural rights;

14. *Calls upon* Member States that have initiated such measures to abide by the principles of international law, the Charter, the declarations of the United Nations and world conferences and relevant resolutions and to commit themselves to their obligations and responsibilities arising from the international human rights instruments to which they are parties by revoking such measures at the earliest possible time;

15. *Reaffirms*, in this context, the right of all peoples to self-determination, by virtue of which they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development;

16. *Recalls* that, according to the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution [2625 \(XXV\)](#) of 24 October 1970, and the relevant principles and provisions contained in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, proclaimed by the Assembly in its resolution [3281 \(XXIX\)](#), in particular article 32 thereof, no State may use or encourage the use of economic, political or any other type of

measures to coerce another State in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights and to secure from it advantages of any kind;

17. *Rejects* all attempts to introduce unilateral coercive measures, and urges the Human Rights Council to take fully into account the negative impact of those measures, including through the enactment and extraterritorial application of national laws that are not in conformity with international law, in its task concerning the implementation of the right to development;

18. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in discharging his functions relating to the promotion, realization and protection of the right to development and bearing in mind the continuing impact of unilateral coercive measures on the population of developing countries, to give priority to the present resolution in his annual report to the General Assembly;

19. *Underlines* the fact that unilateral coercive measures are one of the major obstacles to the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>515</sup> and in this regard calls upon all States to avoid the unilateral imposition of economic coercive measures and the extraterritorial application of national laws that run counter to the principles of free trade and hamper the development of developing countries, as recognized by the open-ended Working Group on the Right to Development of the Human Rights Council;

20. *Recognizes* that, in the Declaration of Principles adopted at the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, held in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003,<sup>516</sup> States were strongly urged to avoid and refrain from any unilateral measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations in building the information society;

21. *Reaffirms* paragraph 30 of the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which States are strongly urged to refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries;

22. *Recalls* the decision of the Human Rights Council, in its resolution 27/21, to appoint a Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights, and welcomes the work done in delivering her mandate;

23. *Takes note* of the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights;<sup>517</sup>

24. *Recalls* the decision taken by the Human Rights Council, in its resolution 54/15 of 11 October 2023,<sup>518</sup> to extend, for a period of three years, the mandate of the Special Rapporteur as set out in Council resolution 27/21;

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide all the human and financial resources necessary for the effective fulfilment of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur, and also requests them, in discharging their functions in relation to the promotion and protection of human rights, to pay due attention and to give urgent consideration to the present resolution;

26. *Recalls* that the Human Rights Council took note of the research-based progress report of its Advisory Committee containing recommendations on mechanisms to assess the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights and to promote accountability;<sup>519</sup>

27. *Also recalls* the contribution of the first biennial panel discussion on the issue of unilateral coercive measures and human rights organized by the Human Rights Council in 2015 to increase awareness of the negative

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<sup>515</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>516</sup> A/C.2/59/3, annex, chap. I, sect. A.

<sup>517</sup> A/78/196.

<sup>518</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/78/53/Add.1)*, chap. III, sect. A.

<sup>519</sup> A/HRC/28/74.

## V. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Third Committee

impact that unilateral coercive measures have on the enjoyment of human rights in the targeted and non-targeted countries, and invites the Council to follow up on the discussion at the fourth panel discussion, in 2021;

28. *Invites* the Human Rights Council and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue paying attention to and explore ways to address the negative impact of the application of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights;

29. *Reiterates its support* for the invitation of the Human Rights Council to all special rapporteurs and existing thematic mechanisms of the Council in the field of economic, social and cultural rights to pay due attention, within the scope of their respective mandates, to the negative impact and consequences of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights;

30. *Takes note with interest* of the proposals contained in the report of the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights, and requests the Special Rapporteur to include in her report to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session more information on the process regarding the discussions of her proposals at the Human Rights Council;

31. *Reaffirms* the request of the Human Rights Council that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights organize a workshop on the impact of the application of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights by the affected populations, including in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, in the States targeted;

32. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the full enjoyment of human rights, including in the context of the response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic;

33. *Invites* Governments to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur in the fulfilment of her mandate through, inter alia, the submission of comments and suggestions on the implications and negative effects of unilateral coercive measures on the full enjoyment of human rights;

34. *Decides* to examine the question on a priority basis at its seventy-ninth session under the sub-item entitled “Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms” of the item entitled “Promotion and protection of human rights”.

### RESOLUTION 78/203

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 133 to 26, with 27 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/481/Add.2, para. 139)<sup>520</sup>

\* *In favour:* Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, 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 Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against:* Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

<sup>520</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by China, and Cuba (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries).

*Abstaining:* Albania, Andorra, Australia, Canada, Chile, Cyprus, Georgia, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Norway, Palau, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Slovenia, Spain, Uruguay

### 78/203. The right to development

*The General Assembly,*

*Guided* by the Charter of the United Nations, which expresses, in particular, the determination to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom and, to that end, to employ international mechanisms for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

*Recalling* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>521</sup> as well as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights<sup>522</sup> and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>523</sup>

*Recalling also* the outcomes of all the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

*Recalling further* the Declaration on the Right to Development, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/128 of 4 December 1986, which confirmed that the right to development is an inalienable human right and that equality of opportunity for development is a prerogative both of nations and of individuals who make up nations, and that the individual is the central subject and beneficiary of development,

*Emphasizing* the urgent need to make the right to development a reality for everyone,

*Reaffirming* that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and that they must be treated globally, in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis,

*Stressing* the importance of the World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna in 1993, and that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action<sup>524</sup> reaffirmed the right to development as a universal and inalienable right and an integral part of fundamental human rights and the individual as the central subject and beneficiary of development,

*Welcoming*, in this regard, that 25 June 2023 marked the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, and that 10 December 2023 marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and stressing the need to further strengthen efforts towards their implementation,

*Reaffirming* the objective of making the right to development a reality for everyone, as set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by the General Assembly on 8 September 2000,<sup>525</sup>

*Recognizing* the importance of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>526</sup> reaffirming that the Declaration on the Right to Development informed the 2030 Agenda, along with other relevant international instruments, and underlining the fact that the Sustainable Development Goals can be realized only through a credible, effective and universal commitment to the means of implementation by all stakeholders,

*Recognizing also* the successful conclusion of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016, that recognizes that the New Urban Agenda<sup>527</sup> is grounded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, international human rights treaties, the Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome<sup>528</sup> and is informed by other instruments such as the Declaration on the Right to Development,

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<sup>521</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>522</sup> See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

<sup>523</sup> Ibid.

<sup>524</sup> A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

<sup>525</sup> Resolution 55/2.

<sup>526</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>527</sup> Resolution 71/256, annex.

<sup>528</sup> Resolution 60/1.



*Recalling* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,<sup>529</sup>

*Reaffirming* the universality, indivisibility, interrelatedness, interdependence and mutually reinforcing nature of all human rights, including civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, and the right to development, and that they must be treated globally, in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis, as recognized by the Vienna Declaration and Programme for Action,

*Recalling* the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and its outcome document,<sup>530</sup> as well as the convening of the twenty-second session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the first and second sessions of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent,

*Deeply concerned* that the majority of Indigenous Peoples in the world live in conditions of poverty, and recognizing the critical need to address the negative impact of poverty and inequity on Indigenous Peoples by ensuring their full and effective inclusion in development and poverty eradication programmes,

*Reaffirming* that democracy, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all are interdependent and mutually reinforcing and that democracy is based on the freely expressed will of the people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives, and in that context noting that the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms at the national and international levels should be universal and conducted without conditions attached and that the international community should support the strengthening and promotion of democracy, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all in the entire world,

*Recognizing* that inequality is a major obstacle to the realization of the right to development within and across countries,

*Taking note* of the commitment declared by a number of specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other international organizations to make the right to development a reality for all, and in this regard urging all relevant bodies of the United Nations system and other international organizations to mainstream the right to development into their objectives, policies, programmes and operational activities, as well as into development and development-related processes, including the follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,

*Recalling* the outcomes adopted at the Tenth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Nairobi from 15 to 19 December 2015,

*Calling for* a successful, development-oriented outcome of the trade negotiations of the World Trade Organization, in particular on the remaining issues of the Doha Development Round, as a contribution to the creation of international conditions permitting the full realization of the right to development,

*Recalling* the outcome of the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in Nairobi from 17 to 22 July 2016, on the theme “From decision to action: moving towards an inclusive and equitable global economic environment for trade and development”,<sup>531</sup>

*Recalling also* all its previous resolutions on the subject, the most recent of which was resolution 77/212 of 15 December 2022, as well as Human Rights Council resolutions and those of the Commission on Human Rights on the right to development, in particular Commission resolution 1998/72 of 22 April 1998<sup>532</sup> on the urgent need to make further progress towards the realization of the right to development,

*Recalling further* Human Rights Council resolution 35/21 of 22 June 2017 on the contribution of development to the enjoyment of all human rights,<sup>533</sup>

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<sup>529</sup> Resolution 66/288, annex.

<sup>530</sup> Resolution 69/2.

<sup>531</sup> See TD/519, TD/519/Add.1, TD/519/Add.2 and TD/519/Add.2/Corr.1.

<sup>532</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 3 (E/1998/23)*, chap. II, sect. A.

<sup>533</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/72/53)*, chap. V, sect. A.



*Recalling* the Eighteenth Summit of Heads of State and Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, on 25 and 26 October 2019, and the previous summits and conferences at which the States members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries stressed the need to operationalize the right to development as a priority, including through the elaboration of a convention on the right to development by the relevant machinery, taking into account the recommendations of relevant initiatives,

*Reiterating its continuing support* for the New Partnership for Africa's Development<sup>534</sup> as a development framework for Africa,

*Deeply concerned* about the negative impacts of the global economic and financial crises on the realization of the right to development,

*Recalling* in this regard the resolutions of the Human Rights Council on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights,

*Recognizing* that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic is one of the greatest global challenges in the history of the United Nations, and noting with deep concern its impact on health and the loss of life, mental health and well-being, as well as the negative impact on global humanitarian needs, the enjoyment of human rights and across all spheres of society, including on livelihoods, food security and nutrition, and education, the exacerbation of poverty and hunger, disruption to economies, trade, societies and environments, and the exacerbation of economic and social inequalities within and among countries,

*Recognizing also* that the poorest and most vulnerable are the hardest hit by the pandemic and that the impact of the crisis has reversed hard-won development and human rights gains and hampered progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as progress with regard to the right to development,

*Deeply concerned* about the uneven access of developing countries to safe, quality, efficacious, effective, accessible and affordable vaccines against COVID-19, and emphasizing that the realization of the right to development would enhance the capacities of developing countries to have equal access to vaccines and other means to respond to and recover from the pandemic, as well as the need to strengthen the support for national, bilateral, regional and multilateral initiatives that aim to accelerate the development and production of and equitable access to COVID-19 diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines,

*Recognizing* that, while development facilitates the enjoyment of all human rights, the lack of development may not be invoked to justify the abridgement of internationally recognized human rights,

*Recognizing also* that Member States should cooperate with one another in ensuring development and eliminating obstacles to development, that the international community should promote effective international cooperation, in particular to revitalize a global partnership for development, for the realization of the right to development and the elimination of obstacles to development and that lasting progress towards the implementation of the right to development requires effective development policies at the national level, as well as equitable economic relations and a favourable economic environment at the international level,

*Recognizing further* that poverty is an affront to human dignity,

*Recognizing* that extreme poverty and hunger are among the greatest global threats and require the collective commitment of the international community for their eradication, pursuant to Millennium Development Goal 1 and Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 2, and therefore calling upon the international community, including the Human Rights Council, to contribute towards achieving that goal,

*Recognizing also* that historical injustices, inter alia, have contributed to the poverty, underdevelopment, marginalization, social exclusion, economic disparity, instability and insecurity that affect many people in different parts of the world, in particular in developing countries,

*Recognizing further* that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is one of the critical elements in the promotion and realization of the right to development and is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, which requires a multifaceted and integrated

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<sup>534</sup> [A/57/304](#), annex.

approach, and committed to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner,

*Emphasizing* that all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated,

*Emphasizing also* that the right to development is vital for the full realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and should be central to its implementation,

*Encouraging* relevant bodies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, including the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, relevant international organizations, including the World Trade Organization, and relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations, to give due consideration to the right to development in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to cooperate with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the fulfilment of his mandate with regard to the implementation of the right to development,

1. *Takes note* of the consolidated report of the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights concerning the promotion and realization of the right to development;<sup>535</sup>

2. *Acknowledges* the need to strive for greater acceptance, operationalization and realization of the right to development at the international level while urging all States to undertake at the national level the necessary policy formulation and to institute the measures required for the implementation of the right to development as an integral part of all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

3. *Emphasizes* the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution [60/251](#) of 15 March 2006 establishing the Human Rights Council, and in this regard calls upon the Council to implement the agreement to continue to act to ensure that its agenda promotes and advances sustainable development, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which seeks to build on the Millennium Development Goals and complete what they did not achieve, and also in this regard to lead the raising of the right to development, as set out in paragraphs 5 and 10 of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, to the same level as and on a par with all other human rights and fundamental freedoms;

4. *Supports* the realization of the mandate of the Working Group on the Right to Development,<sup>536</sup> and recognizes the need for renewed efforts with a view to overcoming the existing political impasse within the Working Group and to fulfil at the earliest its mandate as established by the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 1998/72 and the Human Rights Council in its resolution 4/4 of 30 March 2007;<sup>537</sup>

5. *Stresses* the importance of the core principles contained in the conclusions of the Working Group at its third session<sup>538</sup> that are congruent with the purpose of international human rights instruments, such as equality, non-discrimination, accountability, participation and international cooperation, as critical to mainstreaming the right to development at the national and international levels, and underlines the importance of the principles of equity and transparency;

6. *Takes note* of the report of the Working Group on its twenty-second and twenty-third sessions;<sup>539</sup>

7. *Takes note*, in this regard, that through its resolution [54/18](#) of 12 October 2023,<sup>540</sup> the Human Rights Council submitted to the General Assembly the draft international covenant on the right to development for its consideration, negotiation and subsequent adoption;

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<sup>535</sup> [A/HRC/54/38](#).

<sup>536</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/63/53/Add.1)*, chap. I.

<sup>537</sup> *Ibid.*, *Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/62/53)*, chap. III, sect. A.

<sup>538</sup> See [E/CN.4/2002/28/Rev.1](#), sect. VIII.A.

<sup>539</sup> [A/HRC/51/38](#) and [A/HRC/51/39](#).

<sup>540</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/78/53/Add.1)*, chap. II.

8. *Notes* the presentation to the Working Group at its nineteenth session of the set of standards for the implementation of the right to development prepared by the Chair-Rapporteur,<sup>541</sup> which is a useful basis for further deliberations on the implementation and realization of the right to development;

9. *Calls upon* Member States to contribute to the efforts of the Working Group, including, inter alia, on the elaboration of a draft legally binding instrument on the right to development on the basis of the draft prepared by the Chair-Rapporteur, as decided by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 42/23 of 27 September 2019,<sup>542</sup> and in this regard notes the report of the Chair-Rapporteur entitled “Draft convention on the right to development”,<sup>543</sup> submitted to the Working Group at its twenty-first session;

10. *Stresses* that it is important that the Chair-Rapporteur and the Working Group, in the discharge of their mandates, take into account the need:

(a) To promote the democratization of the system of international governance in order to increase the effective participation of developing countries in international decision-making;

(b) To also promote effective partnerships such as the New Partnership for Africa’s Development and other similar initiatives with the developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, for the purpose of the realization of their right to development, including the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

(c) To strive for greater acceptance, operationalization and realization of the right to development at the international level, while urging all States to undertake at the national level the necessary policy formulation and to institute the measures required for the implementation of the right to development as an integral part of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and also while urging all States to expand and deepen mutually beneficial cooperation in ensuring development and eliminating obstacles to development in the context of promoting effective international cooperation for the realization of the right to development, bearing in mind that lasting progress towards the implementation of the right to development requires effective development policies at the national level and a favourable economic environment at the international level;

(d) To consider ways and means to continue to ensure the operationalization of the right to development as a priority, including in the context of the response to and the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, through equitable and fair access for all countries, particularly the most vulnerable countries and countries in special situations, to vaccines and medicines as global public goods, sharing the benefits of scientific progress, financial and technological support and debt relief;

(e) To mainstream the right to development into the policies and operational activities of the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as in the policies and strategies of the international financial and multilateral trading systems, bearing in mind in this regard that the core principles of the international economic, commercial and financial spheres, such as equity, non-discrimination, transparency, accountability, participation and international cooperation, including effective partnerships for development, are indispensable in achieving the right to development and preventing discriminatory treatment arising from political or other non-economic considerations in addressing the issues of concern to the developing countries;

11. *Encourages* the Human Rights Council to continue to consider how to ensure follow-up to the work of the former Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights on the right to development, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights and in compliance with decisions to be taken by the Council;

12. *Takes note* of the convening, in 2023, of the seventh and eighth sessions of the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development, established by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 42/23, and noting the annual report of the Expert Mechanism;<sup>544</sup>

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<sup>541</sup> [A/HRC/WG.2/17/2](#).

<sup>542</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/74/53/Add.1)*, chap. III.

<sup>543</sup> [A/HRC/WG.2/21/2](#).

<sup>544</sup> [A/HRC/54/41](#).

13. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the right to development,<sup>545</sup> in which the Special Rapporteur examines the role of business in realizing this right;
14. *Stresses* that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation and hence should not result in a reduction of North-South cooperation or hamper progress in fulfilling existing official development assistance commitments, and encourages Member States and other relevant stakeholders to incorporate the right to development into the design, financing and implementation of cooperation processes;
15. *Urges* Member States, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to provide the Special Rapporteur on the right to development with all the assistance and support necessary for the fulfilment of his mandate;
16. *Reaffirms* the commitment to implement the goals and targets set out in all the outcome documents of the major United Nations conferences and summits and their review processes, in particular those relating to the realization of the right to development, recognizing that the realization of the right to development is critical to achieving the objectives, goals and targets set out in those outcome documents;
17. *Also reaffirms* that the realization of the right to development is essential to the implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, which regards all human rights as universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, places the human person at the centre of development and recognizes that, while development facilitates the enjoyment of all human rights, a lack of development may not be invoked to justify the abridgement of internationally recognized human rights;
18. *Further reaffirms* that development contributes significantly to the enjoyment of all human rights by all, and calls upon all countries to realize people-centred development of the people, by the people and for the people;
19. *Calls upon* all States to spare no effort in promoting and protecting all human rights for all, including the right to development, in particular while implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and responding to and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, as it is conducive to the overall enjoyment of human rights;
20. *Stresses* that the primary responsibility for the promotion and protection of all human rights lies with the State, and reaffirms that States have the primary responsibility for their own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized;
21. *Reaffirms* the primary responsibility of States to create national and international conditions favourable to the realization of the right to development, as well as their commitment to cooperate with one another to that end;
22. *Also reaffirms* its commitment to international cooperation and multilateralism and its strong support for the central role of the United Nations system in the global response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic;
23. *Further reaffirms* its resolution 74/274 of 20 April 2020, in which it recognized the importance of international cooperation and effective multilateralism in helping to ensure that all States have in place effective national protective measures, access to and flow of vital medical supplies, therapeutics, medicines and vaccines, in order to minimize negative effects in all affected States and to avoid relapses of the COVID-19 pandemic;
24. *Calls upon* Member States and relevant stakeholders to strengthen international cooperation, as well as their support for multilateral efforts and for the central role of the United Nations system, in order to mobilize a coordinated global response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its adverse social, economic and financial impact on all societies that contributes to the realization of the right to development and leaves no one behind;
25. *Expresses concern* about the increasing cases of human rights violations and abuses by some transnational corporations and other business enterprises, underlines the need to ensure that appropriate protection, justice and remedies are provided to the victims of human rights violations and abuses resulting from their activities, and underscores the fact that these entities must contribute to the means of implementation for the realization of the right to development;

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<sup>545</sup> [A/78/160](#).

26. *Reaffirms* the need for an international environment that is conducive to the realization of the right to development;
27. *Emphasizes* the critical importance of identifying and analysing obstacles impeding the full realization of the right to development at both the national and international levels, including in the context of the response to and the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic;
28. *Reaffirms* that, while globalization offers both opportunities and challenges, the process of globalization remains deficient in achieving the objectives of integrating all countries into a globalized world, stresses the need for policies and measures at the national and global levels to respond to the challenges and opportunities of globalization if this process is to be made fully inclusive and equitable, and recognizes that globalization has brought disparities between and within countries and that issues such as trade and trade liberalization, the transfer of technology, infrastructure development and market access should be managed effectively in order to mitigate the challenges of poverty and underdevelopment and to make the right to development a reality for everyone;
29. *Recognizes* that, despite continuous efforts on the part of the international community, the gap between developed and developing countries remains unacceptably wide, that most of the developing countries continue to face difficulties in participating in the globalization process and that many risk being marginalized and effectively excluded from its benefits;
30. *Expresses its deep concern*, in this regard, about the negative impact on the realization of the right to development owing to the further aggravation of the economic and social situation, in particular of developing countries, as a result of the effects of international energy, food and financial crises, as well as the increasing challenges posed by global climate change and the loss of biodiversity, which have increased vulnerabilities and inequalities and have adversely affected development gains, in particular in developing countries;
31. *Encourages* Member States to give particular consideration to the right to development in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and emphasizes that the 2030 Agenda promotes respect for all human rights, including the right to development;
32. *Recalls* the commitment in the United Nations Millennium Declaration of halving the number of people living in poverty by 2015, notes with concern that some developing countries have failed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and in this regard invites Member States and the international community to take proactive measures aimed at creating a conducive environment to contribute to the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular increasing international cooperation, including partnership and commitment, between developed and developing countries towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;
33. *Urges* developed countries that have not yet done so to make concrete efforts towards meeting the targets of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.2 per cent of their gross national product to the least developed countries, and encourages developing countries to build on the progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance is used effectively to help to meet development goals and targets;
34. *Recognizes* the need to address market access for developing countries, including in the sectors of agriculture, services and non-agricultural products, in particular those of interest to developing countries;
35. *Calls once again for* the implementation of a desirable pace of meaningful trade liberalization, including in areas under negotiation in the World Trade Organization, the implementation of commitments on implementation-related issues and concerns, a review of special and differential treatment provisions, with a view to strengthening them and making them more precise, effective and operational, the avoidance of new forms of protectionism, and capacity-building and technical assistance for developing countries as important issues in making progress towards the effective implementation of the right to development;
36. *Recognizes* the important link between the international economic, commercial and financial spheres and the realization of the right to development, stresses in this regard the need for good governance and for broadening the base of decision-making at the international level on issues of development concern and the need to fill organizational gaps, as well as to strengthen the United Nations system and other multilateral institutions, and also stresses the need to broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in international economic decision-making and norm-setting;

37. *Also recognizes* that good governance and the rule of law at the national level assist all States in the promotion and protection of human rights, including the right to development, and agrees on the value of the ongoing efforts being made by States to identify and strengthen good governance practices, including transparent, responsible, accountable and participatory government, that are responsive and appropriate to their needs and aspirations, including in the context of agreed partnership approaches to development, capacity-building and technical assistance;

38. *Further recognizes* the important role and the rights of women and the application of a gender perspective as a cross-cutting issue in the process of realizing the right to development, and notes in particular the positive relationship between the education of women and their equal participation in the civil, cultural, economic, political and social activities of the community and the promotion of the right to development;

39. *Stresses* the need for the integration of the rights of children, girls and boys alike, in all policies and programmes and for ensuring the promotion and protection of those rights, especially in areas relating to health, education and the full development of their capacities;

40. *Recalls* the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Ending Inequalities and Getting on Track to End AIDS by 2030, adopted on 8 June 2021 at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on HIV and AIDS,<sup>546</sup> and underscores the importance of enhanced international cooperation to support the efforts of Member States to achieve health goals, including the target of ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030, implement universal access to health-care services and address health challenges;

41. *Also recalls* the political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases,<sup>547</sup> adopted on 10 October 2018, as well as the political declarations of the second high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the fight against tuberculosis<sup>548</sup> and the General Assembly high-level meeting on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response,<sup>549</sup> both adopted on 5 October 2023, with their particular focus on development and other challenges and social and economic determinants and impacts, particularly for developing countries;

42. *Further recalls* the political declaration of the second high-level meeting of the General Assembly on universal health coverage,<sup>550</sup> adopted on 5 October 2023, in which it was reaffirmed that health is a precondition for and an outcome and indicator of the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

43. *Recalls* the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,<sup>551</sup> which entered into force on 3 May 2008, and General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, and, while recognizing persons with disabilities as agents and beneficiaries of development, stresses the need to take into consideration the rights of persons with disabilities and the importance of international cooperation in support of national efforts in the realization of the right to development;

44. *Stresses its commitment* to Indigenous Peoples in the process of the realization of the right to development, reaffirms the commitment to promote their rights in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security, in accordance with recognized international human rights obligations and taking into account, as appropriate, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 61/295 of 13 September 2007, and in this regard recalls the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, held in 2014;

45. *Recognizes* the need for strong partnerships with civil society organizations and the private sector in pursuit of poverty eradication and development, as well as for corporate social responsibility;

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<sup>546</sup> Resolution 75/284, annex.

<sup>547</sup> Resolution 73/2.

<sup>548</sup> Resolution 78/5, annex.

<sup>549</sup> Resolution 78/3, annex.

<sup>550</sup> Resolution 78/4, annex.

<sup>551</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.



46. *Emphasizes* the urgent need to take concrete and effective measures to prevent, combat and criminalize all forms of corruption at all levels, to prevent, detect and deter in a more effective manner international transfers of illicitly acquired assets and to strengthen international cooperation in asset recovery, consistent with the principles of the United Nations Convention against Corruption,<sup>552</sup> particularly chapter V thereof, stresses the importance of a genuine political commitment on the part of all Governments through a firm legal framework, and in this context urges States to sign and ratify the Convention as soon as possible and States parties to implement it effectively;

47. *Also emphasizes* the need to strengthen further the activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the promotion and realization of the right to development, including by ensuring the effective use of the financial and human resources necessary to fulfil its mandate, and calls upon the Secretary-General to provide the Office with the necessary resources;

48. *Reaffirms* the request to the High Commissioner, in mainstreaming the right to development, to effectively undertake activities aimed at strengthening the global partnership for development among Member States, development agencies and the international development, financial and trade institutions and to reflect those activities in detail in his next report to the Human Rights Council;

49. *Calls upon* the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to mainstream the right to development into their operational programmes and objectives, and stresses the need for the international financial and multilateral trading systems to mainstream the right to development into their policies and objectives;

50. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of Member States, United Nations organs and bodies, the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, international development and financial institutions, in particular the Bretton Woods institutions, and non-governmental organizations;

51. *Encourages* relevant bodies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, including the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, relevant international organizations, including the World Trade Organization, and relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations, to give due consideration to the right to development in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to contribute further to the work of the Working Group on the Right to Development and the Special Rapporteur on the right to development and to cooperate with the High Commissioner in the fulfilment of his mandate with regard to the implementation of the right to development;

52. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session and an interim report to the Human Rights Council on the implementation of the present resolution, including on efforts undertaken at the national, regional and international levels in the promotion and realization of the right to development, taking into account the context of the response to and the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the reform of the international financial architecture, and invites the Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group and the Special Rapporteur to present an oral report with a similar scope and to engage in an interactive dialogue with the Assembly at its seventy-ninth session.

#### RESOLUTION 78/204

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/481/Add.2, para. 139)<sup>553</sup>

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<sup>552</sup> Ibid., vol. 2349, No. 42146.

<sup>553</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uruguay.



**78/204. National human rights institutions**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* all its relevant resolutions, as well as those of the Human Rights Council and the Commission on Human Rights on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, including most recently Council resolution [51/31](#) of 7 October 2022<sup>554</sup> and General Assembly resolution [76/170](#) of 16 December 2021, as well as the previous resolutions on the role of the Ombudsman, mediator institutions and other national human rights institutions<sup>555</sup> in the promotion and protection of human rights,

*Recalling also* the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles),<sup>556</sup> welcoming the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Paris Principles in 2023, and recalling with appreciation the establishment of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions,

*Recalling further* the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,<sup>557</sup> which reaffirmed the important and constructive role played by national human rights institutions, in particular in their advisory capacity to the competent authorities and their role in preventing and remedying human rights violations, in disseminating information on human rights and in education in human rights,

*Acknowledging* that the promotion and protection of human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>558</sup> are interrelated and mutually reinforcing, and recognizing that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development contains a pledge to leave no one behind and envisages universal respect and promotion of human rights and human dignity, the rule of law, justice, equality and non-discrimination,

*Recognizing* the importance of the independent contributions of national human rights institutions in promoting and protecting all human rights, including, in accordance with their mandates, economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights, particularly in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which seeks, among other tasks, to realize the human rights of all without discrimination on any grounds,

*Reaffirming* the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change<sup>559</sup> and the Paris Agreement,<sup>560</sup> and emphasizing that parties should, in all climate change-related actions, fully respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights,

*Reaffirming also* the importance of, and welcoming the rapidly growing interest throughout the world in, establishing and strengthening independent and pluralistic national human rights institutions in accordance with the Paris Principles,

*Recalling* that the existence of independent national human rights institutions established in line with the Paris Principles is a global indicator of progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, recognizing that national human rights institutions in all regions have made important contributions towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals,<sup>561</sup>

*Noting* that, when in compliance with the Paris Principles, national human rights institutions can help States to fast-track vital protection and other services to those left behind, and that the pace of progress in establishing national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles must be increased,

*Conscious* that change in the Earth's climate and the ensuing adverse effects have led to economic, social, cultural and environmental consequences and have negative implications, both direct and indirect, for the enjoyment of human rights and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

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<sup>554</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/77/53/Add.1)*, chap. III, sect. A.

<sup>555</sup> "National human rights institutions" and "national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights" are used synonymously.

<sup>556</sup> Resolution [48/134](#), annex.

<sup>557</sup> [A/CONF.157/24 \(Part I\)](#), chap. III.

<sup>558</sup> Resolution [70/1](#).

<sup>559</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

<sup>560</sup> Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.

<sup>561</sup> [A/78/80-E/2023/64](#).

*Recognizing* the important role of national human rights institutions in monitoring, reporting to and advising government bodies and other stakeholders in relation to climate mitigation and adaptation, in accordance with their respective mandates and in order to promote the implementation of international human rights obligations and the principles of non-discrimination, participation, access to justice and accountability,

*Acknowledging* the contribution that many national human rights institutions have made and continue to make in promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms in the context of climate action, and noting the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions Caucus on Human Rights and Climate Change,

*Reaffirming* the important role that national human rights institutions play, and will continue to play, in promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, strengthening participation, in particular of civil society organizations, promoting the rule of law, developing and enhancing public awareness of those rights and fundamental freedoms and contributing to the prevention of human rights violations and abuses,

*Encouraging* greater efforts to investigate and respond to increasing reports of cases of reprisal or intimidation against national human rights institutions, their members and staff and those who cooperate or seek to cooperate with them,

*Recognizing* the important role that national human rights institutions can play in preventing and addressing cases of reprisal or intimidation as part of supporting the cooperation between States and the United Nations in the promotion of human rights, including by contributing to follow-up actions, as appropriate, to recommendations made by international human rights mechanisms,

*Taking note* of the Belgrade principles on the relationship between national human rights institutions and parliaments,<sup>562</sup>

*Recognizing* the important role of the United Nations, in particular the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in assisting the development of independent and effective national human rights institutions, guided by the Paris Principles, and recognizing also in this regard the potential for strengthened and complementary cooperation among the United Nations, the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions and its regional coordinating networks and those national institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights,

*Recalling* the programme of action adopted by national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights at their meeting held in Vienna in June 1993 during the World Conference on Human Rights, in which it was recommended that United Nations activities and programmes should be reinforced to meet the requests for assistance from States wishing to establish or strengthen their national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights,

*Taking note with appreciation* of the reports of the Secretary-General on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights<sup>563</sup> and on the activities of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions in accrediting national institutions in compliance with the principles relating to the status of institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles),<sup>564</sup>

*Welcoming* efforts to strengthen United Nations system-wide coordination in support of national human rights institutions and their networks, including the establishment of the tripartite partnership between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Development Programme and the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, and recognizing the potential for further cooperation in this regard between the United Nations mechanisms and processes and with national human rights institutions,

*Commending* the strengthening in all regions of regional cooperation among national human rights institutions, and welcoming further the continuing work of the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions, the Network of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Americas, the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions and the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions,

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<sup>562</sup> A/HRC/20/9, annex.

<sup>563</sup> A/78/182.

<sup>564</sup> A/HRC/51/52.

*Welcoming* the contribution of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions to the strengthening of cooperation among existing national human rights institutions in all regions and the enhancement of the engagement of national human rights institutions compliant with the Paris Principles with relevant United Nations mechanisms and processes,

*Welcoming also* the progress made to date by Member States and all other stakeholders, including the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions and its regional coordinating networks and relevant United Nations mechanisms and processes, in the implementation of resolution [76/170](#),

*Welcoming further* that the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing is implementing its decision 7/1 of 12 December 2016, entitled “Modalities of participation of national human rights institutions in the work of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing”,<sup>565</sup> and that it invites national human rights institutions fully compliant with the Paris Principles to participate in its work in their own capacity,

*Noting with appreciation* the opportunities afforded to national human rights institutions to contribute to the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and to the Commission on the Status of Women, and noting in this regard the efforts to further enhance the participation of national human rights institutions compliant with the Paris Principles at the sessions of the Commission, in compliance with the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council,

*Welcoming* in this regard the decision of the Commission on the Status of Women to encourage the secretariat to continue its consideration of how to enhance the participation, including at the sixty-fourth session of the Commission, of national human rights institutions that are fully compliant with the Paris Principles, where they exist, in compliance with the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council,<sup>566</sup>

*Recalling* the invitation to national human rights institutions compliant with the Paris Principles to register with the Secretariat in order to participate in the international migration review forums, including the informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearings, and inviting the institutions, as well as the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions and its regional networks, to submit inputs prior to the forums,

*Welcoming* the continued contribution of national human rights institutions to the work of the United Nations human rights treaty bodies, as well as the efforts of the treaty bodies, within their respective mandates and in accordance with the treaties establishing these mechanisms, to promote the effective and enhanced participation by national human rights institutions compliant with the Paris Principles at all relevant stages of their work, and noting with appreciation the ongoing efforts of the treaty bodies, including by the continued consideration of a common treaty body approach to the engagement of the treaty bodies with national human rights institutions at all relevant stages of their work,

*Taking note* of the Marrakech Declaration adopted at the thirteenth International Conference of National Human Rights Institutions,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>567</sup> and welcomes the further inclusion of examples of good practices from national human rights institutions;

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of the development of effective, independent and pluralistic national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles);

3. *Recognizes* the role of independent national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights in working together with Governments to ensure full respect for human rights at the national level, including by contributing to follow-up actions, as appropriate, to the recommendations resulting from the international human rights mechanisms;

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<sup>565</sup> See [A/AC.278/2016/2](#), para. 10.

<sup>566</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2019, Supplement No. 7 (E/2019/27)*, chap. I, sect. A.

<sup>567</sup> [A/78/182](#).

4. *Acknowledges* that, in the performance of their key functions, in accordance with their mandates and in line with the Paris Principles, national human rights institutions are contributing to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including on taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts;

5. *Welcomes* the increasingly important role of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights in supporting cooperation between their Governments and the United Nations in the promotion and protection of human rights;

6. *Underlines* the value of national human rights institutions, established and operating in accordance with the Paris Principles, in the continued monitoring of existing legislation and in consistently informing the State about the impact of such legislation on the activities of human rights defenders, including by making relevant and concrete recommendations;

7. *Recognizes* the role that national human rights institutions can play in preventing and addressing cases of reprisal or intimidation as part of supporting the cooperation between their Governments and the United Nations in the promotion of human rights, including by contributing to follow-up actions, as appropriate, to recommendations made by international human rights mechanisms, and in that regard takes note of the Marrakech Declaration adopted at the thirteenth International Conference of National Human Rights Institutions;

8. *Also recognizes* that, in accordance with the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, it is the right of each State to choose the framework for national institutions that is best suited to its particular needs at the national level, with due consideration of the Paris Principles, in order to promote human rights in accordance with international human rights standards;

9. *Encourages* all Member States to establish effective, independent, pluralistic and adequately resourced national institutions or, where they already exist, to strengthen them, in line with the Paris Principles, for the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, as outlined in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, and welcomes the growing number of States establishing national human rights institutions in line with the Paris Principles, including as one of the means for accelerating and guaranteeing progress for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to seek technical cooperation and assistance from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

10. *Encourages* national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights established by Member States to continue to play an active role in preventing and combating all violations of human rights as enumerated in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and relevant international human rights instruments;

11. *Stresses* that national human rights institutions and their respective members and staff should not face any form of reprisal or intimidation, including political pressure, physical intimidation, harassment or unjustifiable budgetary limitations, as a result of activities undertaken in accordance with their respective mandates, including when taking up individual cases or when reporting on serious or systematic violations in their countries, and calls upon States to promptly and thoroughly investigate cases of alleged reprisal or intimidation against members or staff of national human rights institutions or against individuals who cooperate or seek to cooperate with them and to bring perpetrators to justice;

12. *Recognizes* the role played by national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Human Rights Council, including its universal periodic review mechanism, in both preparation and follow-up, and the special procedures, in accordance with Council resolutions 5/1 and 5/2 of 18 June 2007<sup>568</sup> and Commission on Human Rights resolution 2005/74 of 20 April 2005,<sup>569</sup> and in the human rights treaty bodies, as well as the strengthening of opportunities for such participation stipulated in the outcome of the review of the work and functioning of the Council annexed to Council resolution 16/21 of 25 March 2011<sup>570</sup> and adopted in General Assembly resolution 65/281 of 17 June 2011;

13. *Welcomes* the contribution of national human rights institutions compliant with the Paris Principles to the work of the United Nations, including of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Conference of States Parties

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<sup>568</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/62/53)*, chap. IV, sect. A.

<sup>569</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 3 and corrigenda (E/2005/23, E/2005/23/Corr.1 and E/2005/23/Corr.2)*, chap. II, sect. A.

<sup>570</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/66/53)*, chap. II, sect. A.

to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing and the intergovernmental process of the General Assembly on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system;

14. *Encourages* national human rights institutions compliant with the Paris Principles to continue to participate in and to contribute to deliberations in all relevant United Nations mechanisms and processes in accordance with their respective mandates, including the discussions on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

15. *Encourages* all relevant United Nations mechanisms and processes, in accordance with their respective mandates, including the Economic and Social Council, including the Commission on the Status of Women, and the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the high-level political forum on sustainable development and related global and regional processes, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals Summit, to further enhance the participation of national human rights institutions compliant with the Paris Principles and to allow for their contribution to these United Nations mechanisms and processes, bearing in mind the relevant provisions dealing with their participation contained in General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1, 5/2 and 16/21 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 2005/74;

16. *Encourages* all other relevant United Nations forums and meetings, in accordance with their respective mandates, existing rules of procedure and modalities, to provide for the engagement of national human rights institutions compliant with the Paris Principles and to allow for their contribution to these forums and meetings;

17. *Invites* the human rights treaty bodies, within their respective mandates and in accordance with the treaties establishing these mechanisms, to provide for ways to ensure the effective and enhanced participation by national human rights institutions compliant with the Paris Principles at all relevant stages of their work;

18. *Encourages* all United Nations human rights mechanisms and relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to work, within their respective mandates, with Member States and national institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights with respect to, inter alia, projects in the area of good governance and the rule of law, welcomes in this regard the efforts made by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to develop partnerships in support of national institutions, including the tripartite partnership between the Office of the High Commissioner, the United Nations Development Programme and the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, and in this respect encourages all United Nations human rights mechanisms and relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to enhance their interaction with national human rights institutions, including by facilitating their access to relevant information and documentation;

19. *Stresses* the importance of the financial and administrative independence and stability of national human rights institutions, notes with satisfaction the efforts of those States that have provided their national institutions with more autonomy and independence, including by giving them an investigative role or enhancing such a role, and encourages other Governments to consider taking similar steps;

20. *Underlines* the importance of the autonomy and independence of ombudsman institutions, encourages increased cooperation between national human rights institutions and regional and international associations of ombudsmen, and encourages ombudsman institutions to actively draw on the standards enumerated in international instruments and the Paris Principles to strengthen their independence and increase their capacity to act as national human rights protection mechanisms;

21. *Commends* the high priority given by the Office of the High Commissioner to work on national human rights institutions, encourages the High Commissioner, in view of the expanded activities relating to national institutions, including the work of the Subcommittee on Accreditation of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, which meets under the auspices of the Office of the High Commissioner, to ensure that appropriate arrangements are made and budgetary resources provided to continue and further extend activities in support of national institutions, and invites States to contribute additional voluntary funds to that end;

22. *Welcomes* the important role played by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, in close cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner, in assisting, when requested, in the establishment of, and in strengthening the compliance of, national human rights institutions with the Paris Principles, in assessing the conformity of national human rights institutions with the Paris Principles and in providing technical assistance to strengthen national human rights institutions, upon request, with a view to enhancing the compliance of national



human rights institutions with the Paris Principles, and calls upon Member States and other stakeholders, including United Nations agencies, to follow up on the recommendations of the Subcommittee on Accreditation of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, with a view to enabling national human rights institutions to fully comply with the Paris Principles in both law and practice;

23. *Encourages* national institutions, including ombudsman and mediator institutions, to seek accreditation status through the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions;

24. *Encourages* all Member States to take appropriate steps to promote the exchange of information and experience concerning the establishment and effective operation of national human rights institutions and to support the work of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions and its regional coordinating networks in this regard, including through support for the relevant technical assistance programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner;

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide support to national human rights institutions compliant with the Paris Principles, as they engage with relevant United Nations mechanisms and processes, with full respect for their respective mandates, and with a view to enabling their most effective contributions, in order to further the implementation of international human rights obligations and commitments;

26. *Urges* the Secretary-General to continue to give high priority to requests from Member States for assistance in the establishment and strengthening of national human rights institutions in line with the Paris Principles, including as one of the means of accelerating and guaranteeing progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and encourages the Secretary-General to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions in this regard;

27. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to continue to encourage national human rights institutions to interact with and advocate independent participation in all relevant United Nations mechanisms and processes, in accordance with their respective mandates, existing rules of procedure and modalities;

28. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the assistance necessary for holding international and regional meetings of national institutions, including meetings of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner;

29. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States and national human rights institutions, to report to the General Assembly at its eightieth session on the implementation of the present resolution, including on best practices among national human rights institutions.

## RESOLUTION 78/205

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/481/Add.2, para. 139)<sup>571</sup>

### 78/205. Protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons

*The General Assembly,*

*Guided* by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

*Recalling* that internally displaced persons are persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects

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<sup>571</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Malta, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uruguay.

of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border;<sup>572</sup>

*Deeply disturbed* by the alarmingly high numbers of internally displaced persons throughout the world, for reasons including violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, armed conflict, persecution, violence and other reasons, including terrorism, as well as natural and human-made disasters, who receive inadequate protection and assistance, and conscious of the serious challenges that this is creating for host communities, national and local authorities and the international community,

*Recalling* the very large number of people who are displaced within national borders and the potential for such persons to seek protection and assistance in other countries as refugees or migrants, and noting the need for reflection on effective strategies to ensure adequate protection and assistance for internally displaced persons in this regard, including the need for comprehensive and disaggregated data and other measures aimed at preventing and reducing such displacements,

*Reaffirming* General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 and the guiding principles contained in the annex thereto, other relevant General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions and agreed conclusions of the Council, reaffirming also the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence in the provision of humanitarian assistance, and reaffirming further the need for all actors engaged in the provision of humanitarian assistance in situations of complex emergencies and natural disasters to promote and fully respect these principles,

*Emphasizing* that States have the primary responsibility to provide protection and assistance to internally displaced persons within their jurisdiction, without discrimination, as well as to address the root causes of the displacement problem and to support all durable solutions in appropriate cooperation with those displaced, their hosts, civil society, local authorities, development actors, the private sector and the international community,

*Expressing particular concern* at the increased level of discrimination experienced by internally displaced persons, including those who may be in particularly vulnerable situations, including women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples and persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, and emphasizing the need to ensure that their specific needs are met through the provision of adequate protection and access to assistance,

*Expressing gravest concerns* about the high levels of global food insecurity and malnutrition and rising risks of famine, loss of livelihoods, and the impacts and risks for displacement, and recognizing that additional efforts, including international support, are urgently needed to address this,

*Noting* the need to address the root causes of displacement and for increased awareness within the international community of the issue of internal displacement worldwide, including the situation of millions living in protracted situations of displacement, many of them outside camp settings and in urban areas, and the urgency of providing adequate humanitarian assistance and protection to internally displaced persons, as well as advancing durable solutions, including through developing locally sustainable solutions,

*Recognizing* that violations of international humanitarian law can cause displacement, and recalling that displacement could be reduced if international humanitarian law was respected by all parties to armed conflict, in particular the fundamental principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution, as well as the prohibition of forced displacement of the civilian population, unless the security of the civilians involved or imperative military reasons so demand,<sup>573</sup>

*Expressing deep concern* at the threat posed by landmines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices to internally displaced persons fleeing conflict, impeding, in certain instances, their voluntary return, local integration and resettlement and the safe delivery of humanitarian assistance, and noting the urgency of providing protection from landmines and other explosive remnants of war and supporting host communities and local organizations,

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<sup>572</sup> See Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex), introduction, para. 2.

<sup>573</sup> Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II) (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1125, No. 17513), arts. 13 and 17.



*Expressing particular concern* that many internally displaced children, in particular girls, lack access to education in all phases of displacement owing to attacks against schools, damaged or destroyed school buildings, insecurity, the prevalence of violence, including gender-based violence, in and around schools, loss of documentation, language barriers and discrimination,

*Expressing particular concern also* that many internally displaced persons, including women, men, girls and boys, do not receive the health care they require in all phases of displacement, including mental health care and psychosocial support,

*Recognizing* the increase in the number, scale and frequency of disasters, including those related to the adverse effects of climate change, which in certain instances may contribute to displacement and additional pressure on host communities, encouraging the United Nations and all relevant actors to strengthen efforts in cooperation with national Governments aimed at addressing the needs of persons displaced internally by natural disasters, including those exacerbated by climate change, and noting in this regard the importance of sharing best practices to prevent and prepare for such displacements,

*Expressing concern* that many millions of people are displaced each year by sudden- and slow-onset disasters, recognizing that building resilience of nations and communities, including through preparedness, prevention, disaster risk reduction and climate-change adaptation measures can reduce disaster displacement risk, including through integrating disaster risk reduction strategies into national, regional and global development policies and programmes, and in this regard recognizing also the important role of sustainable development in averting and reducing the risk of loss and damage,

*Recognizing* that the vulnerability of internally displaced persons may increase when their host communities are affected by disasters,

*Expressing gravest concerns* about the humanitarian impact of and risks posed by the ongoing consequences and long-term effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, including on the already significant levels of humanitarian and development needs and suffering of internally displaced persons and host communities, recognizing the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on displaced women, children and people in vulnerable situations, and profoundly concerned by rising humanitarian assistance and protection needs including due to the increase in violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and abuse, trafficking in persons in all its forms, forced recruitment and abduction, and violence against displaced children, and the significant impact on education, especially for girls, as well as high levels of food insecurity and malnutrition and rising risks of famine, loss of livelihoods, and all the negative impacts on health, including mental health and communicable and non-communicable diseases, which are also exacerbated by weakened health systems, and the impacts and risks for displacement; and recognizing the compounded risks and impacts due to armed conflict, poverty, disasters caused by natural hazards, violence, the adverse effects of climate change, and other environmental challenges; and further recognizing the efforts and measures proposed by the Secretary-General concerning the response to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and taking note of the political declarations on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response<sup>574</sup> and on universal health coverage<sup>575</sup> adopted at the General Assembly high-level meetings held in New York on 20 and 21 September 2023, respectively,

*Conscious* of the human rights, humanitarian and development dimensions, as well as the possible peacebuilding and transitional justice dimensions, of internal displacement, including in protracted and repeated temporary displacement situations, and the responsibilities of States, with the support of the international community, to ensure the provision of protection and assistance, including by respecting and protecting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all internally displaced persons, with a view to finding durable solutions,

*Recognizing* the important contributions made by national and local authorities and host communities to protect and assist internally displaced persons, acknowledging that the hosting of large groups of internally displaced persons can put pressure on those authorities and communities, and recognizing also the importance of adequately supporting host communities, as well as local capacities, by addressing their needs,

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<sup>574</sup> Resolution 78/3, annex.

<sup>575</sup> Resolution 78/4, annex.

*Recalling* the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,<sup>576</sup> regarding the need to develop global strategies to address the problem of internal displacement, and recalling also all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution 76/167 of 16 December 2021 and Human Rights Council resolution 50/6 of 7 July 2022,<sup>577</sup>

*Recognizing* that internally displaced persons are to enjoy, in full equality and without discrimination, the same rights and freedoms under international and domestic law as do other persons in their country, including the right to freedom of movement and residence, and should be protected against arbitrary displacement,

*Recalling* the relevant norms of international law, which includes international human rights law, inter alia, the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>578</sup> as well as international refugee law and international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions of 1949<sup>579</sup> and the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977,<sup>580</sup> as applicable, as a vital legal framework for the protection of and assistance to civilians in armed conflict and under foreign occupation, including internally displaced persons,

*Recognizing* that internally displaced persons, including women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities, without identity documents, may be at risk of human rights violations and abuses, and may face difficulties in the realization of their rights and in accessing services,

*Recognizing also* that the protection of internally displaced persons has been strengthened by identifying, reaffirming and consolidating specific standards for their protection, in particular through the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement,<sup>581</sup>

*Welcoming* the increasing dissemination, promotion, application and integration into domestic laws and policies of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement when dealing with situations of internal displacement,

*Noting with appreciation* the important role of national human rights institutions, during all phases of displacement, in ensuring that all human rights issues of internally displaced persons are appropriately addressed,

*Deploring* practices of forced displacement and their negative consequences for the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by large groups of populations, and recalling the relevant provisions of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court<sup>582</sup> that define the deportation or forcible transfer of population as a crime against humanity and the unlawful deportation, transfer or ordering of the displacement of the civilian population as war crimes,

*Recognizing* the importance of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention),<sup>583</sup> which builds on the Protocol on the Protection of and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons and the Protocol on the Property Rights of Returning Persons, adopted by the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, and which marks a significant step towards strengthening the national and regional normative framework for the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons in Africa, and welcoming the holding of the first Conference of States Parties to the Convention in April 2017,

*Noting* the Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee,<sup>584</sup> and taking note of the decision of the Policy Committee of the Secretary-General of 4 October 2011 endorsing the preliminary framework on ending displacement in the aftermath of conflict,

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<sup>576</sup> [A/CONF.157/24 \(Part I\)](#), chap. III.

<sup>577</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/77/53)*, chap. VIII, sect. A.

<sup>578</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>579</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 75, Nos. 970–973.

<sup>580</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

<sup>581</sup> [E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2](#), annex.

<sup>582</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2187, No. 38544.

<sup>583</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 3014, No. 52375.

<sup>584</sup> [A/HRC/13/21/Add.4](#).

*Underlining* the necessity of safe and unhindered humanitarian access for the relevant United Nations agencies and humanitarian organizations to internally displaced persons, including those residing in conflict areas, in accordance with international law,

*Recognizing* that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>585</sup> seeks to address the needs of the most vulnerable, including internally displaced persons, and that addressing the needs of internally displaced persons can help countries to achieve their overall development goals,

*Noting* the increasing number of internally displaced persons outside camps and in urban areas and the need to meet their immediate and their long-term needs, and the needs of host families, and recognizing the importance of the New Urban Agenda adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III),<sup>586</sup>

*Taking note* of the first World Humanitarian Summit, held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 23 and 24 May 2016, and taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General on the outcome of the World Humanitarian Summit,<sup>587</sup> which contains, inter alia, recommendations to strengthen partnerships between Member States and humanitarian and development actors to address the urgent and long-term needs of internally displaced persons,

*Noting* the need for finding durable solutions for internally displaced persons in their countries and addressing possible obstacles in this regard, and recognizing that durable solutions include voluntary and sustainable return in safety and with dignity, as well as voluntary local integration in the areas to which persons have been displaced or voluntary settlement in another part of the country, without prejudice to the right of internally displaced persons to leave their country or to seek asylum,

*Emphasizing* that all durable solutions for internally displaced persons should be approached from a humanitarian and development perspective, involving the timely engagement of internally displaced persons and host communities,

*Mindful* of the significant humanitarian and development assistance required to meet the needs of people in protracted situations of internal displacement and of the large gap between needs and resources,

*Recognizing* the need for increased coverage, quality and availability of information on internal displacement and to collect reliable, timely, longitudinal and disaggregated data, including data disaggregated by sex, age, disability and location, on internally displaced persons and the impact of new and protracted displacement on host communities in order to improve policy and programming, preventive measures on and response to internal displacement and to promote the achievement of durable solutions, including, in this respect, the relevance of the Global Internal Displacement Database maintained by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre and the technical support available from the inter-agency Joint Internal Displacement Profiling Service and the Expert Group on Refugee, Internally Displaced Persons and Statelessness Statistics, and noting the adoption by the Statistical Commission of the International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics,

*Expressing its appreciation* to those Governments and intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations that have supported and facilitated the work of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons, and of her predecessors, the former representatives of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons, and have helped, according to their roles and responsibilities, to provide protection and assistance to internally displaced persons,

*Welcoming* the continuing cooperation between the Special Rapporteur and national Governments and the relevant offices and agencies of the United Nations as well as with other international and regional organizations, and encouraging further strengthening of this collaboration in order to promote better strategies for, protection of, assistance to and durable solutions for internally displaced persons,

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<sup>585</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>586</sup> Resolution 71/256, annex.

<sup>587</sup> A/71/353.

## V. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Third Committee

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*Acknowledging with appreciation* the important and independent contribution of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and other humanitarian agencies in protecting and assisting internally displaced persons, in cooperation with national Governments and relevant international bodies,

*Taking note with appreciation* of the four thematic priorities set by the Special Rapporteur as contained in the report to the Human Rights Council at its fifty-third session<sup>588</sup> and the two strategic objectives of supporting Governments in developing national instruments and institutions on internal displacement and facilitating viable, durable solutions for internally displaced persons, including through the engagement of development actors,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the main report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons<sup>589</sup> and the conclusions contained therein;

2. *Commends* the Special Rapporteur for the activities undertaken so far, for the catalytic role that she plays in raising the level of awareness about the plight of internally displaced persons and for her ongoing efforts to address their development and other specific needs, including through the mainstreaming of the human rights of internally displaced persons into all relevant parts of the United Nations system;

3. *Encourages* the Special Rapporteur, through continuous dialogue with Governments and all intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, to continue her analysis of the reasons for internal displacement and to remain apprised of the needs and human rights of those who are displaced, including the needs of those who may be in particularly vulnerable situations, including women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities, the level of emergency preparedness and ways to strengthen protection and assistance, including by enhancing the role of national human rights institutions, where appropriate, and the protection of internally displaced persons, as well as durable solutions for internally displaced persons, including by addressing possible obstacles to the exercise of housing, land and property rights for internally displaced persons, also encourages the Special Rapporteur, with regard to the latter, to use, in her activities, the Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, and further encourages the Special Rapporteur to continue to advocate the needs of host communities and promote comprehensive strategies, taking into account the primary responsibility of States for the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons within their jurisdiction;

4. *Welcomes* the initiatives undertaken by regional organizations, such as the African Union, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, the Organization of American States and the Council of Europe, to address the protection, assistance and development needs of internally displaced persons and to find durable solutions for them, and encourages regional organizations to strengthen their activities and their cooperation with the Special Rapporteur;

5. *Urges* all Governments to continue to facilitate the activities of the Special Rapporteur, in particular Governments with situations of internal displacement, and to respond favourably to requests from the Special Rapporteur to enable her to continue and enhance dialogue with Governments in addressing situations of internal displacement, and thanks those Governments that have already done so;

6. *Invites* Governments to give serious consideration, in dialogue with the Special Rapporteur, to the recommendations and suggestions addressed to them, in accordance with her mandate, and to inform her of measures taken thereon;

7. *Welcomes* the use of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement by the Special Rapporteur in her dialogue with Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant actors, and requests her to continue her efforts to further their dissemination, promotion, application and integration into domestic laws and policies and to provide support for efforts to promote capacity-building and the use of the Guiding Principles, as well as the development of domestic legislation and policies;

8. *Recognizes* that Member States have the primary responsibility to promote durable solutions for their internally displaced persons, as well as to respect, protect and fulfil their human rights, thus contributing to their national, economic and social development processes, and encourages the international community, the United

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<sup>588</sup> [A/HRC/53/35](#).

<sup>589</sup> [A/HRC/53/35](#).

Nations system, the Special Rapporteur, relevant international and regional organizations and donor countries to continue to support international, regional and national efforts to meet the needs and fulfil the human rights of internally displaced persons, including children, on the basis of solidarity, the principles of international cooperation and the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and to ensure that humanitarian assistance, early recovery and development assistance efforts are appropriately funded;

9. *Requests* Member States to strengthen their efforts to ensure the protection of and better assistance to internally displaced persons, in particular to address the challenges of protracted displacement, by adopting and implementing gender-sensitive policies and strategies, in accordance with national and regional frameworks, while recognizing the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement as an important international framework for the protection of internally displaced persons, encourages all relevant actors, in accordance with their mandates, to make use of the Guiding Principles when dealing with situations of internal displacement, and in this regard recognizes the central role of national and local authorities and institutions in addressing the specific needs of internally displaced persons and in finding solutions to displacement through, inter alia, continued and enhanced international support, upon request, for the capacity-building of States;

10. *Encourages* States to ensure that internally displaced persons, including children, have access to a process to obtain appropriate identification documents;

11. *Notes* the implementation of the multi-stakeholder Plan of Action for Advancing Prevention, Protection and Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons 2018–2020 (GP20) to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, and its follow-up initiative, (GP2.0);

12. *Notes with appreciation* the report of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Internal Displacement and the follow-up Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, acknowledges that increased efforts on addressing the root causes as well as prevention, protection and improved assistance to internally displaced persons and durable solutions for internal displacement are critically important, and encourages the Secretary-General to work with Member States, the United Nations system and other relevant actors, as appropriate, including international financial institutions, non-governmental organizations, and displacement-affected communities on taking forward these efforts, including through regular and enhanced follow-up and collaboration, and further appreciates the efforts of the United Nations system, including the temporary Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement;

13. *Expresses its appreciation* for the fact that an increasing number of States have adopted domestic legislation and policies dealing with all stages of displacement, encourages States to continue to do so in an inclusive and non-discriminatory way, consistent with the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, urges States to increase their efforts to implement such domestic laws and policies, including through the identification of national focal points within Governments for issues of internal displacement, in particular for setting national targets and indicators for policy and programmes and for the allocation of budget resources, and encourages the international community and national actors to provide financial support and cooperation to Governments, upon request, in this regard;

14. *Calls upon* Governments to provide protection and assistance, including reintegration and development assistance, to internally displaced persons and to facilitate the efforts of the relevant United Nations agencies and humanitarian organizations in this regard by allowing and facilitating safe and unhindered access for humanitarian personnel and the delivery of supplies and equipment to internally displaced persons, in accordance with international law, by maintaining the civilian and humanitarian character of camps and settlements for internally displaced persons, where they exist, and by taking the steps necessary to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian personnel so that they may efficiently perform their task of assisting internally displaced persons;

15. *Expresses particular concern* about the full range of threats, violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law experienced by many internally displaced persons, including women and children, who are particularly vulnerable or specifically targeted especially for sexual and gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse, trafficking in persons in all its forms,<sup>590</sup> forced recruitment and abduction, encourages the continued commitment of the Special Rapporteur to promote action to address their particular assistance and protection needs, and calls upon States, in cooperation with international agencies and other stakeholders, to provide

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<sup>590</sup> As defined in article 3 of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2237, No. 39574).

protection and assistance to internally displaced persons who are victims of the above-mentioned threats, violations and abuses, as well as other groups of internally displaced persons with special needs, such as severely traumatized individuals, older persons and persons with disabilities, taking into account all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council;

16. *Encourages* the international community to provide technical cooperation to States affected by displacement, upon their request, including for the training of staff members of institutions in charge of registration and development of national laws and policies on internal displacement and issues related to land and property restitution and compensation;

17. *Emphasizes* the central role of the Emergency Relief Coordinator in the coordination of the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, inter alia, through the inter-agency cluster system, welcomes continued initiatives to ensure better protection, assistance and development strategies for internally displaced persons, as well as better coordination of activities regarding them, and emphasizes the need to strengthen the capacities of national and local authorities, host communities, local organizations, United Nations organizations and other relevant actors to meet the immense humanitarian challenges of internal displacement;

18. *Notes with appreciation* the increased attention paid to the issue of internally displaced persons in humanitarian response plans, and encourages further efforts in this regard;

19. *Emphasizes* the importance of communication and consultation with internally displaced persons and host communities by Governments and other relevant actors, in accordance with their specific mandates, during all phases of displacement, as well as the participation of internally displaced persons, where appropriate, in policies, programmes and activities pertaining to them, taking into account the primary responsibility of States for the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons within their jurisdiction;

20. *Calls upon* States, in cooperation with international agencies and other stakeholders, to provide for and support, in particular, the full and meaningful participation of internally displaced women at all levels of decision-making processes and in all activities that have a direct impact on their lives, in all aspects of internal displacement, including the promotion and protection of human rights, the prevention of human rights violations and the design and implementation of durable solutions, peace processes, peacebuilding, transitional justice, post-conflict reconstruction and development;

21. *Encourages* all relevant United Nations organizations and humanitarian assistance, human rights and development organizations to enhance their collaboration and coordination through the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and United Nations country teams in countries with situations of internal displacement and to provide all possible assistance and support to the Special Rapporteur, and requests the continued participation of the Special Rapporteur in the work of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and its subsidiary bodies;

22. *Encourages* the Inter-Agency Standing Committee to enhance coordination, effectiveness, efficiency and predictability in preventing, responding to and finding solutions to internal displacement;

23. *Expresses deep concern* at the insufficient funding levels of humanitarian appeals, and in this respect urges all relevant actors to provide the relevant United Nations agencies and humanitarian organizations with sufficient and predictable resources to ensure adequate support for those who are forcibly displaced;

24. *Calls upon* all parties to armed conflict to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law, and international human rights law, as applicable, with a view to preventing forced displacement and promoting the protection of civilians, and calls upon Governments to take measures to respect and protect the human rights of all internally displaced persons, without distinction of any kind, in accordance with their applicable obligations under international law;

25. *Calls upon* States, in cooperation with all other relevant actors, including humanitarian and development agencies and donors, to ensure the right to a quality education, including primary and secondary education, for internally displaced children, without discrimination of any kind, as well as to support existing schools to enable them to include internally displaced persons, calls upon all parties to armed conflict to respect the civilian character of schools and other educational institutions and to refrain from undertaking actions that could adversely affect the protection of these buildings against direct attacks, and strongly condemns all attacks, as well as threats of attack, against schools, in contravention of international humanitarian law;

26. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations, humanitarian and development organizations and other relevant actors to urgently and effectively respond to, prevent and prepare for rising global food insecurity affecting millions of people, including internally displaced persons, especially those who are facing famine or the immediate risk of famine, including by enhancing humanitarian and development cooperation and providing urgent funding to respond to the needs of the affected population, including internally displaced persons, and calls upon Member States and parties to armed conflicts to respect international humanitarian law and ensure safe and unhindered humanitarian access;

27. *Recognizes* that equitable and timely access for all to safe, quality, effective and affordable medical countermeasures, including vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics and other health products, is an essential part of global pandemic prevention, preparedness and response based on equity, unity, global solidarity, reinvigorated multilateral cooperation and the principle of leaving no one behind;

28. *Highlights* the need for States, with the support of relevant partners, including humanitarian and development agencies and donors, as appropriate, to address the physical and mental health needs of internally displaced persons, which may include assistance, health care and psychosocial and other counselling services;

29. *Stresses* the obligation, in accordance with international humanitarian law and national laws and regulations, as applicable, to respect and protect medical personnel, as well as humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities, in all circumstances, in this regard notes the role of domestic legal frameworks and other appropriate measures in promoting the safety and protection of such personnel, urges States and all parties to armed conflict to develop and integrate effective measures to prevent and address violence against such personnel, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities, and strongly urges States to conduct full, prompt, impartial and effective investigations within their jurisdiction of violations of international humanitarian law related to the protection of the wounded and sick, including internally displaced persons, medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities in armed conflict, and, where appropriate, to take action against those responsible in accordance with domestic and international law, with a view to reinforcing preventive measures, ensuring accountability and addressing the grievances of victims, including internally displaced persons;

30. *Recognizes* the adverse effects of climate change as contributors to environmental degradation and extreme weather events, which may, among other factors, contribute to human displacement, and in this regard recalls the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030<sup>591</sup> and the political declaration of its midterm review,<sup>592</sup> the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in December 2015<sup>593</sup> and relevant initiatives related to internal displacement, such as the Nansen Initiative, and their follow-up processes, and encourages the Special Rapporteur, in close collaboration with States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to continue to explore the human rights implications and dimensions of disaster-induced internal displacement, with a view to supporting Member States in their efforts to build local resilience and capacity to prevent and prepare for displacement or to provide assistance through well-planned recovery programmes that support internally displaced persons and their hosts and provide protection to those who are forced to flee;

31. *Affirms* the need for the effective implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 to reduce the risk of displacement in the context of disasters, including by addressing the underlying risk factors and causes of such displacement, preparing for the adverse consequences and supporting durable solutions to disaster-related displacement, and to integrate, as appropriate, post-disaster reconstruction and recovery, including the principle of “build back better”, into the economic and social sustainable development of affected areas, as well as temporary settlements where displaced persons live, to promote periodic disaster preparedness and response exercises in recovery and resettlement efforts, with a view to ensuring a rapid and effective response to disasters and related displacement, and to promote transboundary cooperation to build resilience and reduce disaster risk, including displacement risk, including by establishing or improving multi-hazard early warning systems, including heatwave

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<sup>591</sup> Resolution 69/283, annex II.

<sup>592</sup> Resolution 77/289, annex.

<sup>593</sup> See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.



early warning, connected to longer-term risk management systems and supported by public awareness campaigns, recognizing that early action following quality forecasts can reduce the impact of extreme weather events;

32. *Recognizes* that internal displacement is not only a humanitarian but also a development challenge, and in some cases can also be a peacebuilding challenge, and calls upon States to provide durable solutions and address possible obstacles in this regard and to include the needs, vulnerabilities and capacities of internally displaced persons and host communities in their national development plans;

33. *Encourages* closer cooperation between development and humanitarian actors, in accordance with their respective mandates, towards collective results over multiple years, with the aim of reducing the needs and vulnerabilities of internally displaced persons, in support of national priorities, while fully respecting the importance of humanitarian principles for humanitarian action;

34. *Also encourages* strengthened international cooperation, in particular between humanitarian and development actors, including through the provision of resources, coherent multi-year planning that addresses protracted displacement and expertise to assist affected countries, in particular developing countries, in their national efforts and policies related to assistance, protection, resilience-building and rehabilitation for internally displaced persons and host communities, as appropriate, and the integration of the human rights and needs of internally displaced persons into both rural and urban development strategies, as well as the participation of both internally displaced persons and host communities in the design and implementation of those strategies;

35. *Calls upon* the United Nations to work closely with Member States and other relevant actors, including local governments, civil society and the private sector, in furtherance of the New Urban Agenda in order to promote more effective emergency preparedness and response in urban areas, and notes the importance of addressing, as appropriate, the particular needs and vulnerabilities of internally displaced persons in urban settings and of supporting host cities, in the spirit of international cooperation, including by ensuring equal access to income-earning opportunities and preventing arbitrary forced evictions;

36. *Encourages* Member States, humanitarian agencies, donors, development actors and other providers of development assistance to continue to work together, in close cooperation with the Special Rapporteur, to provide a more predictable response to the needs of internally displaced persons, including long-term development assistance for the implementation of durable solutions, with a view to reducing internal displacement;

37. *Encourages* Governments, United Nations agencies and other stakeholders to promote an inclusive approach to durable solutions that addresses the needs of internally displaced persons and their host communities, including the promotion of opportunities to fully harness the human potential of the displaced populations by promoting self-sufficiency through income-generating activities and sustainable livelihood opportunities;

38. *Urges* all countries to integrate the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into their respective national policies and development frameworks, as appropriate, and recalls that the 2030 Agenda seeks to address the needs of the most vulnerable, including internally displaced persons, and in this regard underlines the importance of actions to reduce displacement risks, facilitate durable solutions, promote sustainable development and ensure that no one is left behind;

39. *Notes* the importance of taking the human rights and the specific protection and assistance needs of internally displaced persons into consideration, when appropriate, in peace processes, and emphasizes that durable solutions for internally displaced persons, including through voluntary return, sustainable reintegration, rehabilitation and reconciliation processes and their active participation, as appropriate, in the peace process are necessary elements of effective peacebuilding;

40. *Welcomes* the role of the Peacebuilding Commission in this regard, and continues to urge the Commission to intensify its efforts, within its mandate, in cooperation with national and transitional Governments and in consultation with the relevant United Nations entities, to incorporate the rights and the specific needs of internally displaced persons, including their voluntary return in safety and with dignity, reintegration and rehabilitation, as well as related land and property issues, when advising on or proposing country-specific peacebuilding strategies for post-conflict situations in cases under consideration;

41. *Recalls* the dedication by the African Union of 2019 to, inter alia, mark the tenth anniversary of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention), welcomes progress in the number of African States having signed and ratified the Convention, encourages further

progress in this regard, and encourages other regional mechanisms to develop their own regional normative frameworks for the protection of internally displaced persons;

42. *Encourages* Member States, members of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, United Nations humanitarian coordinators and country teams to contribute to the provision of reliable data on internal displacement situations, with the cooperation of the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre and the technical support and assistance of the Joint Internal Displacement Profiling Service, and to provide financial resources, as appropriate, in these respects, and encourages States to take into account the International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics through their national statistics offices, where applicable;

43. *Recalls* the need to reflect on effective strategies to ensure adequate protection and assistance for internally displaced persons and to prevent and reduce such displacement, and in this regard encourages the Secretary-General to work with Member States and the United Nations system to explore ways to better address the long-term needs of internally displaced persons, support communities that host them and improve the lives of the many millions of internally displaced persons;

44. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Special Rapporteur, from within existing resources, with all assistance necessary to strengthen and carry out her mandate effectively, and encourages the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in close cooperation with the Emergency Relief Coordinator, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration and all other relevant United Nations offices and agencies and related organizations, to continue to support and cooperate with the Special Rapporteur;

45. *Encourages* the Special Rapporteur to continue to seek the contributions of States, relevant organizations and institutions in order to create a more stable basis for her work;

46. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth and eightieth sessions a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

47. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the question of protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons at its eightieth session.

## RESOLUTION 78/206

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/481/Add.2, para. 139)<sup>594</sup>

### 78/206. The human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation

*The General Assembly,*

*Guided by* the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

*Recalling* its resolutions 64/292 of 28 July 2010, in which it recognized the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights, and 76/153 of 16 December 2021, entitled “The human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation”,

*Reaffirming* all previous resolutions of the Human Rights Council regarding the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, inter alia, Council resolution 51/19 of 6 October 2022,<sup>595</sup>

<sup>594</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Kiribati, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay.

<sup>595</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/77/53/Add.1)*, chap. III, sect. A.

*Recalling* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>596</sup> the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>597</sup> the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>598</sup> the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,<sup>599</sup> the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,<sup>600</sup> the Convention on the Rights of the Child<sup>601</sup> and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,<sup>602</sup>

*Recalling also* that the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation are derived from the right to an adequate standard of living and are inextricably related to the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, as well as to the right to life and human dignity,

*Reaffirming* that States have the primary responsibility to ensure the full realization of all human rights and to take steps, individually and through international assistance and cooperation, especially economic and technical cooperation, to the maximum of their available resources, to progressively achieve the full realization of the rights to safe drinking water and sanitation by all appropriate means, including, in particular, the adoption of legislative measures for the implementation of their human rights obligations,

*Noting* general comment No. 15 (2002) of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on the right to water (articles 11 and 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights)<sup>603</sup> and the statement on the right to sanitation of the Committee of 19 November 2010,<sup>604</sup> and taking note of the reports of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation,

*Taking note of The United Nations World Water Development Report 2022: Groundwater – Making the Invisible Visible and Blueprint for Acceleration: Sustainable Development Goal 6 Synthesis Report on Water and Sanitation 2023,*

*Reaffirming* the responsibility of States to ensure the promotion and protection of and respect for all human rights, which are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, and must be treated globally, in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis,

*Recalling* the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development<sup>605</sup> and outcome documents of review conferences, reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,<sup>606</sup> the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly<sup>607</sup> and the declarations adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women on the occasion of the tenth, fifteenth, twentieth and twenty-fifth anniversaries of the Fourth World Conference on Women,<sup>608</sup> and taking note of the agreed conclusions of the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women,<sup>609</sup>

*Reaffirming* its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, for the achievement of sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social

<sup>596</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>597</sup> See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

<sup>598</sup> Ibid.

<sup>599</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 660, No. 9464.

<sup>600</sup> Ibid., vol. 1249, No. 20378.

<sup>601</sup> Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>602</sup> Ibid., vol. 2515, No. 44910.

<sup>603</sup> *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 2 (E/2003/22)*, annex IV.

<sup>604</sup> Ibid., 2011, *Supplement No. 2 (E/2011/22)*, annex VI.

<sup>605</sup> *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

<sup>606</sup> *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

<sup>607</sup> Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

<sup>608</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2005/27 and E/2005/27/Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A; *ibid.*, 2010, *Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2010/27 and E/2010/27/Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A; *ibid.*, 2015, *Supplement No. 7 (E/2015/27)*, chap. I, sect. C, resolution 59/1, annex; and *ibid.*, 2020, *Supplement No. 7 (E/2020/27)*, chap. I, sect. A.

<sup>609</sup> *Ibid.*, 2022, *Supplement No. 7 (E/2022/27)*, chap. I, sect. A.

and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, ensuring that no one is left behind, and stressing the importance of monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Recalling* its resolution [71/222](#) of 21 December 2016, by which it proclaimed the period 2018–2028 the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, and its resolution [77/334](#) of 1 September 2023, entitled “Follow-up to the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, ‘Water for Sustainable Development’, 2018–2028”, in which it decided to convene the 2026 United Nations Water Conference to Accelerate the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 6 and, in 2028, the United Nations Conference on the Final Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028,

*Welcoming* the convening of the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028, from 22 to 24 March 2023,

*Stressing* the importance of monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the internationally agreed Sustainable Development Goals and targets, including the Goal on ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, in particular since, as shown in the Summary Progress Update 2021 on Sustainable Development Goal 6, the world is off track to ensure by 2030 sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, which also serves as a crucial enabler for achieving other Sustainable Development Goals,

*Recalling* the designation, pursuant to General Assembly resolutions [47/193](#) of 22 December 1992 and [67/291](#) of 24 July 2013, of 22 March as World Water Day and 19 November as World Toilet Day, which are important opportunities to promote, among other issues, awareness of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation and of the remaining challenges in this regard,

*Recalling also* the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development of June 1992<sup>610</sup> and its resolution [66/288](#) of 27 July 2012, entitled “The future we want”, and emphasizing the critical importance of water and sanitation within the three dimensions of sustainable development,

*Recalling further* its resolution [76/300](#) of 28 July 2022, entitled “The human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment”,

*Noting* the relevant commitments and initiatives promoting the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation made at recent regional and subregional conferences and meetings,

*Affirming* the importance of continually improving the availability of high-quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data on progress related to safe drinking water and sanitation services in households, educational settings, health-care facilities, workplaces and other settings, including public places, as an indispensable means for States to plan for, implement and monitor the progressive realization of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation for all without discrimination,

*Welcoming* the fact that, globally, from 2015 to 2022, according to *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2023*, the percentage of the world’s population using safely managed drinking water increased from 69 to 73 per cent, the percentage using safely managed sanitation services increased from 49 to 57 per cent, the percentage with access to basic hygiene services increased from 67 to 75 per cent, and the number of people practising open defecation decreased from 715 million to 419 million during this period,

*Deeply concerned* that, more than 10 years after the adoption of resolution [64/292](#), 2.2 billion people lack safely managed drinking water, including 703 million people without basic water service, 3.5 billion people lack safely managed sanitation, including 1.5 billion people without basic sanitation services, and 2 billion people lack a basic handwashing facility with soap and water at home, and that achieving universal coverage by 2030 will require a substantial increase in current global rates of progress,

*Deeply concerned also* that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic exacerbated existing inequalities, and that those disproportionately at risk are women, girls and persons in vulnerable situations, recognizing the need

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<sup>610</sup> *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.

to expand as a matter of utmost urgency access to adequate water and sanitation services, including for menstrual health and hygiene management, and to ensure continued access to existing services in this regard, including sexual and reproductive health-care services, and gravely concerned that 2 billion people worldwide lack basic hand-washing facilities at home, which is urgently needed to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases,

*Deeply concerned further* about the lack of access to adequate water and sanitation services and its dramatic consequences for the overall health situation in humanitarian emergencies and crises, including in times of conflict and natural disaster, and acknowledging that people living in countries affected by armed conflict and natural disasters and in countries particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, as well as people living in refugee camps, including in refugee host countries, are more likely to lack access to basic drinking water and to basic sanitation than people living in unaffected countries, while acknowledging the efforts of refugee host countries in improving the situation of people living in refugee camps,

*Deeply concerned* that achieving universal and equitable access to safe water and sanitation services by 2030 will require a fourfold increase in current rates of progress,

*Deeply alarmed* by indiscriminate attacks and attacks deliberately targeting civilian objects in armed conflict, which may injure personnel and damage civilian infrastructure that are critical to the delivery of essential services to the civilian population,

*Deeply concerned* that women and girls often face, especially in humanitarian emergencies and crises, including in times of armed conflict or natural disaster, particular barriers in accessing water and sanitation and hygiene services, as well as menstrual health and hygiene management, and that they shoulder the main burden of collecting household water and of care responsibilities, including those arising from waterborne diseases, in many parts of the world, restricting their time for other activities, such as education and leisure, or, for women, for earning a livelihood,

*Deeply alarmed* that water, sanitation and hygiene-related diseases hit children the hardest, while noting that child diarrhoea remains a leading cause of death in children under 5 years of age, and underscoring that progress on reducing child mortality, morbidity and stunting is linked to children's and women's universal and equitable access to safe drinking water and sanitation and that, in humanitarian emergencies and crises, including in times of armed conflict or natural disaster, children suffer the most from interruptions in water and sanitation services,

*Deeply concerned* that persons with disabilities, especially children, often lack universal and equitable access to safe and sustainably managed drinking water and sanitation and face barriers in accessing water and sanitation facilities that are accessible and appropriate to their needs, which has an impact on their ability to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life, including education and employment, which is particularly concerning in situations of homelessness and humanitarian emergencies and crises,

*Deeply concerned also* that widespread silence and stigma surrounding menstruation and menstrual health and hygiene mean that women and girls often lack basic information and education thereon, whether in school or out of school, and are excluded and stigmatized, that the enjoyment of their human rights, including the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, can be negatively affected and that they are thus prevented from realizing their full potential,

*Deeply concerned further* that the lack of access to adequate water and sanitation services, including for menstrual health and hygiene management, especially in schools and other educational settings, workplaces, health centres and public facilities and at home, negatively affects gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls and their enjoyment of human rights, including the right to education and the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and recognizing the specific hygiene needs of women and girls during menstruation, and that women have specific hygiene needs during pregnancy, childbearing and rearing and throughout the life course,

*Deeply concerned* that women and girls are particularly at risk of and exposed to attacks, sexual and gender-based violence, harassment and other threats to their safety while collecting household water and when accessing sanitation facilities outside their homes or, when lacking adequate sanitation facilities, practising open defecation and urination, limiting their ability to move freely and safely in the public sphere,

*Deeply concerned also* that non-existent or inadequate sanitation facilities and serious deficiencies in water management and wastewater treatment can negatively affect water provision and sustainable access to safe drinking

water and that, according to the *United Nations World Water Development Report 2021*, an estimated 80 per cent of the world's wastewater is released into the environment without treatment,

*Affirming* the importance of regional and international cooperation, where appropriate, as a means to promote the progressive realization of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, with the understanding that it has no bearing on the issues of international water law, including international watercourse law,

*Expressing concern* that climate change increases the frequency and intensity of both sudden-onset natural disasters and slow-onset events, and that these events have adverse effects on the full enjoyment of all human rights, including the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, and recalling the need to accelerate action on mitigation, enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change, including through resilient water and sanitation systems,

*Noting* that adequate responses to the adverse impacts of climate change and the progressive realization of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation are linked to the health and sustainability of ecosystems, including aquatic ecosystems,

*Recalling* the commitment to step up efforts on all fronts to tackle desertification, land degradation, erosion and drought, biodiversity loss and water scarcity, which are seen as major environmental, economic and social challenges for global sustainable development and for the realization of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation,

*Recognizing* that, while the implications of climate change-related impacts and environmental damage for the enjoyment of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation affect individuals and communities around the world, the consequences are felt most acutely by those segments of the population that are already in vulnerable situations, such as people living in informal settlements, people living in small island States and rural and local communities, and recognizing also that Indigenous Peoples, because of their specific situation and nature, may be among the first to face the direct consequences of climate change owing to their dependence upon and close relationship with the environment and its resources,

1. *Reaffirms* that the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, as components of the right to an adequate standard of living, are essential for the full enjoyment of the right to life and all human rights;

2. *Also reaffirms* that the human right to safe drinking water entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use, and that the human right to sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity, while reaffirming that both rights are components of the right to an adequate standard of living;

3. *Welcomes* the work of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, and invites him to work, within his mandate,<sup>611</sup> to collaborate and engage with Member States and other stakeholders, including civil society, in achieving the internationally agreed water-related goals and targets;

4. *Calls upon* States:

(a) To ensure the progressive realization of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation for all in a non-discriminatory manner while eliminating inequalities in access, including for individuals belonging to groups at risk and those who are marginalized on the grounds of race, gender, age, disability, ethnicity, culture, religion and national or social origin or on any other grounds;

(b) To prioritize as a matter of urgency the provision of safe drinking water and sanitation services that are accessible to all, including persons in vulnerable situations, especially in densely populated, impoverished and rural areas, as a means of enhancing pandemic preparedness and preventing the spread of infectious diseases;

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<sup>611</sup> Human Rights Council resolution 51/19.

(c) To protect and restore water-related ecosystems and prioritize, as appropriate, in their water management policies, the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation for all, in particular those affected by lack of access to safe and adequate water and sanitation due to poverty or water scarcity;

(d) To implement the internationally agreed Sustainable Development Goals and targets,<sup>612</sup> including the Goal on ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, consistent with their obligations under international law;

(e) To take into consideration the New Urban Agenda,<sup>613</sup> which envisages cities and human settlements that fulfil their social function, the full realization of the right to adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, without discrimination, and universal access to safe and affordable drinking water and sanitation;

(f) To ensure access to safe and affordable drinking water and adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all women and girls, as well as for menstrual hygiene management, including for hygiene facilities and services in public and private spaces;

(g) To take measures to empower all women and girls for preparedness in humanitarian emergencies and crises, including in times of armed conflict or natural disaster, by ensuring access to water and sanitation services and implementing gender-responsive policies, plans and programmes that address, inter alia, effective menstrual health and hygiene management and adequate disposal options for menstrual products, without compromising their rights, safety and dignity;

(h) To address the widespread stigma and shame surrounding menstruation and menstrual hygiene by promoting educational and health practices in and out of schools in order to foster a culture in which menstruation is recognized as healthy and natural and by ensuring access to factual information thereon, including for men and boys, addressing the negative social norms around the issue, as well as ensuring universal access to hygienic products and gender-sensitive facilities, including disposal and waste management options for menstrual products, while recognizing that women's and girls' attendance at school, university or, for women, work can be affected by negative perceptions of menstruation and lack of means to maintain personal hygiene, such as safe water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in schools, public places and, for women, the workplace;

(i) To promote both women's leadership and their full, effective and equal participation in decision-making on water and sanitation management and to ensure that a gender-based approach is adopted in relation to water and sanitation programmes;

(j) To reduce the time spent by women and girls in collecting household water, in order to address the negative impact of inadequate water and sanitation services on girls' access to education and the full enjoyment of their right to education, including through improved public services and infrastructure;

(k) To promote safe public spaces and improve the security and safety of women and girls through gender-responsive rural and urban planning and infrastructure when accessing sanitation facilities outside their homes or practising open defecation and urination;

(l) To protect women and girls from being physically threatened or assaulted, including from sexual violence, while collecting household water and when accessing sanitation facilities outside their home or when practising open defecation and urination, including through promoting safe public spaces and improving the security and safety of women and girls through gender-responsive rural and urban planning and infrastructure;

(m) To take steps to ensure that water and sanitation facilities and services are accessible for persons with disabilities and apply the principles of universal design in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to meet the needs of persons with disabilities, especially children with disabilities;

(n) To progressively eliminate open defecation by adopting policies to increase access to sanitation, including for individuals who are vulnerable or marginalized;

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<sup>612</sup> See resolution 70/1.

<sup>613</sup> Resolution 71/256, annex.



(o) To raise international awareness of the issue of waterborne diseases, in particular cholera and child diarrhoea, which can be prevented through safe drinking water and adequate sanitation and hygiene and engaging in partnerships with relevant stakeholders to implement projects aimed at scaling up access to safe water and sanitation in developing countries;

(p) To apply broad and inclusive participatory approaches, consulting and coordinating with local communities and other stakeholders, including organizations of women, girls, persons with disabilities and broader civil society, and the private sector, on adequate solutions to ensure sustainable, equitable and non-discriminatory access to safe drinking water and sanitation;

(q) To enhance efforts to substantially reduce the share of untreated wastewater released into the environment and to ensure that plans and programmes for improving sanitation services take into account the need for appropriate systems for the treatment of wastewater produced, including disposal of infant faeces, with the aim of reducing the risks to human health, drinking water resources and the environment, acknowledging the potential of wastewater reuse;

(r) To identify patterns of failure to respect, protect or fulfil the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation for all persons without discrimination and to address their structural causes in policymaking and budgeting within a broader framework, while undertaking holistic planning aimed at achieving sustainable universal access, including in instances where the private sector, donors and non-governmental organizations are involved in service provision;

(s) To provide for effective accountability mechanisms for all water and sanitation service providers, including private sector providers, to ensure that they respect human rights and do not cause or contribute to human rights violations or abuses;

(t) To ensure, as appropriate, that their development efforts in the areas of water, sanitation and hygiene are aligned with their human rights obligations under international law;

5. *Calls upon* States and international organizations to provide financial resources and support capacity-building and technology transfer to help countries, at their request, in particular developing countries, to provide safe, clean, accessible and affordable drinking water and sanitation for all;

6. *Calls upon* non-State actors, including business enterprises, both transnational and others, to comply with their responsibility to respect human rights, including the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, including by cooperating with State investigations into allegations of abuses of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation and by progressively engaging with States to detect and remedy abuses of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation;

7. *Stresses* the important role of the international cooperation and technical assistance provided by States, specialized agencies of the United Nations system and international and development partners, as well as by donor agencies, urges development partners to adopt a human rights-based approach when designing and implementing development programmes in support of national initiatives and plans of action related to the rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, and invites regional and international organizations to complement efforts by States to progressively realize the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation in accordance with their respective mandates;

8. *Calls upon* Member States, in order to effectively respond to and achieve sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery from health crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic and their consequences, to urgently, inter alia, enhance efforts to realize the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, as well as ensure access to hand-washing and hygiene, and, by 2030, implement integrated water resources management, at all levels, including through collaborative approaches, in order to ensure a sustainable supply of water for life, agriculture and food production and other ecosystem services and other benefits;

9. *Also calls upon* Member States to expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including sustainable water harvesting, environmentally sustainable desalination technologies, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies;

10. *Further calls upon* Member States to enhance global partnerships for sustainable development as a means to achieve and sustain the Goals and the targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and highlights that the 2030 Agenda marks a paradigm shift towards a more balanced and integrated plan of action for achieving sustainable development that reflects the universality, indivisibility and interdependence of all human rights;

11. *Reaffirms* that the high-level political forum on sustainable development, under the auspices of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council, has the central role in overseeing follow-up and review at the global level of the Sustainable Development Goals, and encourages Member States to share their experiences and best practices;

12. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the question at its eightieth session.

## RESOLUTION 78/207

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/481/Add.2, para. 139)<sup>614</sup>

### 78/207. International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* its resolution 61/177 of 20 December 2006, by which it adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance,<sup>615</sup>

*Recalling* its resolution 47/133 of 18 December 1992, by which it adopted the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance as a body of principles for all States,

*Recalling also* the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and taking note of the related report of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, which highlights the contribution of the Declaration to the progress of international law on enforced disappearance,<sup>616</sup>

*Recalling further* all its other resolutions on the matter, including resolutions 70/160 of 17 December 2015, 72/183 of 19 December 2017, 74/161 of 18 December 2019 and 76/158 of 16 December 2021, as well as relevant resolutions adopted by the Human Rights Council, including resolutions 36/6 of 28 September 2017,<sup>617</sup> 45/3 of 6 October 2020<sup>618</sup> and 54/14 of 11 October 2023,<sup>619</sup>

*Recalling* its resolution 68/165 of 18 December 2013 on the right to the truth, as well as Human Rights Council resolutions 36/7 of 28 September 2017,<sup>620</sup> 45/10 of 6 October 2020<sup>621</sup> and 54/8 of 11 October 2023<sup>622</sup> on the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence,

<sup>614</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Serbia, Seychelles, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay.

<sup>615</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2716, No. 48088.

<sup>616</sup> A/HRC/51/31/Add.3.

<sup>617</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/72/53/Add.1)*, chap. III.

<sup>618</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-fifth Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/75/53/Add.1)*, chap. III.

<sup>619</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/78/53/Add.1)*, chap. III, sect. A.

<sup>620</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/72/53/Add.1)*, chap. III.

<sup>621</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-fifth Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/75/53/Add.1)*, chap. III.

<sup>622</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/78/53/Add.1)*, chap. III, sect. A.

*Recalling also* its resolutions [73/162](#) of 17 December 2018, [75/174](#) of 16 December 2020 and [77/210](#) of 15 December 2022 on the human rights treaty body system,

*Recalling further* that no one shall be subjected to enforced disappearance,

*Recalling* that no one shall be subjected to enforced disappearance and that no exceptional circumstance whatsoever, whether a state of war or a threat of war, internal political instability or any public emergency, may be invoked as a justification for enforced disappearance,

*Recalling also* that no one shall be held in secret detention,

*Deeply concerned*, in particular, by the increase in enforced or involuntary disappearances in various regions of the world, including arrest, detention and abduction, when these are part of or amount to enforced disappearances, and by the growing number of reports concerning harassment, ill-treatment and intimidation of witnesses of disappearance or relatives of persons who have disappeared, including by the misuse of information and communications technologies,

*Recalling* that the Convention sets out the right of victims to know the truth regarding the circumstances of the enforced disappearance, the progress and results of the investigation and the fate of the disappeared person, and sets forth State party obligations to take appropriate measures in this regard,

*Recalling also* that the Convention defines the victim of enforced disappearance as the disappeared person and any individual who has suffered harm as the direct result of an enforced disappearance,

*Acknowledging* that the widespread or systematic practice of enforced disappearance is recognized in the Convention as a crime against humanity, as defined in applicable international law,

*Stressing* the importance of the work of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances,

*Taking note* of the recommendation made by the Working Group that more assistance should be provided to family members and members of civil society in order to enable them to report alleged cases of enforced disappearance to the Working Group, given that, in a large number of cases, the underreporting of cases of enforced disappearance remains a major problem owing to various reasons, including, inter alia, fear of reprisal, weak administration of justice, poverty and illiteracy,

*Recognizing* that the use of new technologies can prove instrumental in offering better protection against enforced disappearance, by advancing the search for disappeared persons, while also expressing concern that the use of new technologies can facilitate or conceal the commission of enforced disappearance,

*Calling upon* States that have not provided substantive replies concerning claims of enforced disappearances in their countries to do so, and to give due consideration to relevant recommendations concerning this issue made by the Working Group in its reports,

*Encouraging* the Working Group, in accordance with its working methods, to continue to provide the States concerned with relevant and detailed information concerning allegations of enforced disappearances in order to facilitate a prompt and substantive response to such communications without prejudice to the need for the States concerned to cooperate with the Working Group,

*Recalling* the high-level meeting of the General Assembly held on 17 February 2017 to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention, which provided an opportunity to review the positive impact of the Convention and to discuss ways and best practices to prevent enforced disappearances and to combat impunity by, inter alia, promoting the universal ratification of the Convention,

*Recalling with appreciation* the launch by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights of an international campaign for the universal ratification of the Convention,

*Recalling with appreciation also* the decision of the General Assembly to declare 30 August International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances,

*Recalling with appreciation further* the decision of the General Assembly in its resolution [65/196](#) of 21 December 2010 to proclaim, pursuant to the recommendation made by the Human Rights Council in its resolution

14/7 of 17 June 2010,<sup>623</sup> 24 March as the International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims,

*Taking note* of the project to organize a world congress to promote the ratification of the Convention as discussed by the Committee on Enforced Disappearances during its twenty-fifth session,

*Acknowledging* the valuable work of the International Committee of the Red Cross in promoting compliance with international humanitarian law in this field,

*Deeply concerned* that situations of health emergencies and pandemics, such as the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, have created new contexts where enforced disappearances may occur, and that, in this regard, measures related to fighting these extraordinary health situations may impact the capacity of many actors to take the necessary action to search for disappeared persons and to investigate their alleged enforced disappearance,

*Urging* Member States to address gender-based violence, including as related to cases of enforced disappearance, and recalling that such violence can never be justified and that Member States should not limit measures taken to prevent and address enforced disappearances, including those involving gender-based violence, especially against women and girls,

1. *Recognizes* the importance of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the ratification and the implementation of which is a significant contribution to ending impunity and to promoting and protecting all human rights for all;

2. *Welcomes* the fact that 98 States have signed the Convention and 72 have ratified or acceded to it, calls upon States that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the Convention as a matter of priority, as well as to consider the option provided for in articles 31 and 32 of the Convention regarding the Committee on Enforced Disappearances, and in that endeavour encourages all Member States to participate to the upcoming world congress to promote the ratification of the Convention, to be held in 2024;

3. *Also welcomes* the most recent reports of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention;<sup>624</sup>

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to increase their intensive efforts to assist States in becoming parties to the Convention, including by supporting the actions of States to ratify the Convention, providing technical and capacity-building assistance to States and civil society and raising awareness about the Convention, with a view to achieving universal adherence;

5. *Requests* United Nations agencies and organizations and invites intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances to continue to make efforts to disseminate information on the Convention, to promote understanding of it and to assist States parties in implementing their obligations under this instrument;

6. *Recalls with appreciation* the first Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, held in Geneva on 19 December 2016, and convened in accordance with article 27 of the Convention, and the decision adopted by consensus that the Committee would continue to monitor the Convention in accordance with its mandate;<sup>625</sup>

7. *Takes note with appreciation* of the seventh meeting of the States parties to the Convention, held in New York on 12 June 2023, and its discussion of substantive matters related to the Convention, and encourages all States parties to the Convention to continue to include such a discussion in the agenda of the meeting of the States parties;

8. *Welcomes* the work achieved by the Committee, and encourages all States parties to the Convention to submit their reports, to support and promote the work of the Committee and to implement its recommendations;

9. *Calls upon* all States parties to further cooperate with the Committee, including by responding favourably to its requests for visits;

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<sup>623</sup> Ibid., *Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 53* and corrigendum (A/65/53 and A/65/53/Corr.1), chap. III, sect. A.

<sup>624</sup> A/74/213, A/76/315, and A/78/347.

<sup>625</sup> See CED/CSP/2016/4.

## V. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Third Committee

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10. *Takes note* of the guiding principles for the search for disappeared persons adopted by the Committee at its sixteenth session and developed in dialogue and broad consultations with Member States and other relevant stakeholders;<sup>626</sup>

11. *Recognizes* the importance of the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance<sup>627</sup> as a body of principles for all States that is designed to punish enforced disappearances, to prevent their commission and to help victims of such acts and their families to seek fair, prompt and adequate reparation;

12. *Welcomes* the cooperation established between the Working Group and the Committee, within the framework of their respective mandates, as well as with other relevant special procedures and treaty bodies, within the framework of their respective mandates, and encourages them to continue their cooperation in the future;

13. *Takes note with interest* of all the general comments of the Working Group, including the comments on children<sup>628</sup> and women<sup>629</sup> affected by enforced disappearances, and recognizes in this regard that enforced disappearances have special consequences for women and vulnerable groups, especially children, as they most often bear the serious economic hardships that usually accompany such disappearances and, when subjected to enforced disappearances themselves, may become particularly vulnerable to sexual and other forms of violence;

14. *Takes note* of the need to document cases concerning enforced or involuntary disappearances allegedly perpetrated by non-State actors, as decided by the Working Group;

15. *Also takes note* of the recommendation made by the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances that Member States adopt all necessary measures, including through new technologies, to preserve and facilitate access to archives that may contain relevant information on enforced disappearance;

16. *Takes note with appreciation* of the recommendation made by the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances that encourages Member States to cooperate with each other and provide mutual assistance in the use of new technologies to facilitate the search for disappeared persons and regarding legal assistance in connection with criminal proceedings brought in respect of an enforced disappearance, including the gathering and supply of all evidence at their disposal that is necessary for the proceedings;

17. *Welcomes* the fact that the Committee held its annual meeting with the Working Group, as an opportunity to take stock of the activities of the two parallel organs, which are complementary and reinforce each other within the framework of their respective mandates;

18. *Takes note with appreciation* of the guidelines to prevent and address intimidation and reprisals against individuals and groups cooperating with the Committee adopted by the Committee at its twentieth session;<sup>630</sup>

19. *Recognizes* that enforced disappearance is prohibited in all circumstances and calls upon States to continue to respect their obligations under international law in this regard;

20. *Takes note* of general comment No. 1 on enforced disappearance in the context of migration adopted by the Committee on Enforced Disappearances on 18 September 2023, which highlights the growing trends of enforced disappearance of migrants, and in this regard calls upon States parties to take urgent measures to prevent and respond to this phenomenon;

21. *Invites* the Chair of the Committee and the Chair of the Working Group to address and engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth and eightieth sessions under the item entitled “Promotion and protection of human rights”;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its eightieth session a report on the status of the Convention and the implementation of the present resolution;

23. *Decides* to give its full consideration to the subject matter at its eightieth session.

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<sup>626</sup> CED/C/7, annex.

<sup>627</sup> Resolution 47/133.

<sup>628</sup> A/HRC/WGEID/98/1 and A/HRC/WGEID/98/1/Corr.1.

<sup>629</sup> A/HRC/WGEID/98/2.

<sup>630</sup> CED/C/8.

RESOLUTION 78/208

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 155 to none, with 25 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/481/Add.2, para. 139)<sup>631</sup>

\* *In favour:* Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Niger, North Macedonia, Norway, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against:* None

*Abstaining:* Bahrain, Burundi, Cameroon, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, Eritrea, Guinea-Bissau, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kuwait, Mali, Mauritania, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Tonga, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan

**78/208. Strengthening the role of the United Nations in the promotion of democratization and enhancing periodic and genuine elections**

*The General Assembly,*

*Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,*

*Reaffirming* that democracy is a universal value based on the freely expressed will of the people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives,

*Reaffirming also* that, while democracies share common features, there is no single model of democracy and that democracy does not belong to any country or region, and reaffirming further the necessity of due respect for sovereignty and the right to self-determination,

*Stressing* that democracy, development, rule of law and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing,

*Acknowledging also* that respecting human rights, protecting democratic institutions and principles and promoting the rule of law creates an environment in which countries can promote development, protect individuals from discrimination and ensure equal access to justice for all by involving Governments, parliaments, the United Nations system and other international organizations, local authorities, national human rights institutions, indigenous peoples, persons belonging to minorities, human rights defenders, civil society, businesses and the private sector, the scientific and academic communities, and all other interested stakeholders,

*Reaffirming* that Member States are responsible for organizing, conducting and ensuring transparent, free and fair electoral processes inclusive of all citizens, including those who are marginalized and underrepresented, as well as those belonging to minorities, and that Member States, in the exercise of their sovereignty, may request international

<sup>631</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.



organizations to provide advisory services or assistance for strengthening and developing their electoral institutions and processes, including sending preliminary missions for that purpose,

*Recognizing* the importance of fair, periodic, inclusive and genuine elections, including in nascent democracies and countries undergoing democratization, in order to empower citizens to express their will and to promote a successful transition to long-term sustainable democracies,

*Recognizing also* that Member States are responsible for ensuring transparent, free and fair elections, free of intimidation, coercion and tampering with vote counts, and that all such acts are sanctioned accordingly,

*Reaffirming* the importance of protecting the integrity of electoral processes as a means to promote democracy and good governance and reinforce trust in public institutions, including through providing public and technical support, upon request and in line with the purposes and principles of the Charter, to help to ensure periodic, free and fair elections through an inclusive and genuine process,

*Highlighting* the importance of including women in all their diversity on an equal basis in election processes that are free from discrimination and allow for their full, equal and meaningful participation, allowing for gender-responsive political institutions and the creation of more inclusive societies,

*Emphasizing* that Member States are responsible for respecting the will of the voters as expressed through genuine, periodic, free and fair elections, which shall be by universal and equal suffrage, and in this respect expressing serious concern about the unconstitutional or unlawful disruption of representative governance and democratic institutions and the unlawful removal of any democratically elected officials, whether by States or non-State actors,

*Recalling* its previous resolutions on the subject, in particular resolution 76/176 of 16 December 2021,

*Recalling also* all relevant Human Rights Council resolutions on the topic, including resolutions 19/11 of 22 March 2012,<sup>632</sup> 31/14 of 23 March 2016,<sup>633</sup> 31/37 of 24 March 2016,<sup>634</sup> 33/22 of 30 September 2016,<sup>635</sup> 34/41 of 24 March 2017,<sup>636</sup> 39/11 of 28 September 2018,<sup>637</sup> 48/2 of 7 October 2021,<sup>638</sup> 51/5 of 6 October 2022,<sup>639</sup> 50/21 of 8 July 2022,<sup>640</sup> 52/22 of 3 April 2023<sup>641</sup> and 50/17 of 8 July 2022,<sup>642</sup>

*Reaffirming* that United Nations electoral assistance and support for the promotion of democratization are provided only at the specific request of the Member State concerned,

*Noting with satisfaction* that an increasing number of Member States are using elections as a peaceful means of discerning the will of the people, which builds confidence in representational governance and contributes to greater national peace and stability, and which may contribute to regional peace and stability,

*Recalling* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted on 10 December 1948,<sup>643</sup> in particular the principle that the will of the people, as expressed through periodic and genuine elections, shall be the basis of government authority, as well as the right of everyone to freely choose representatives through periodic and genuine elections, which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures,

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<sup>632</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53* and corrigendum (A/67/53 and A/67/53/Corr.1), chap. III, sect. A.

<sup>633</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/71/53), chap. IV, sect. A.

<sup>634</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>635</sup> *Ibid.*, *Supplement No. 53A* and corrigendum (A/71/53/Add.1 and A/71/53/Add.1/Corr.1), chap. II.

<sup>636</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/72/53), chap. IV, sect. A.

<sup>637</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 53A* (A/73/53/Add.1), chap. III.

<sup>638</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53A* (A/76/53/Add.1), chap. IV, sect. A.

<sup>639</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53A* (A/77/53/Add.1), chap. VIII, sect. A.

<sup>640</sup> *Ibid.*, *Supplement No. 53* (A/77/53), chap. III, sect. A.

<sup>641</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/78/53), chap. V, sect. A.

<sup>642</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/77/53), chap. VIII, sect. A.

<sup>643</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).

*Reaffirming* the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>644</sup> the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,<sup>645</sup> the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination<sup>646</sup> and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,<sup>647</sup> and reaffirming also that no distinctions are permitted among citizens on any grounds, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, or on the basis of disability, in the enjoyment of the right to participate, directly or through freely chosen representatives, and to vote and to be elected in genuine periodic elections, which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret ballot, guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the electors,

*Reaffirming also* that the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms at the national and international levels should be universal and conducted without conditions attached and that the international community should support the strengthening and promotion of democracy, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and the principles of the rule of law in the entire world,<sup>648</sup>

*Underscoring* the important role that regional and subregional organizations play, in accordance with the Charter, in the areas of peace and security, development and human rights,<sup>649</sup> and recalling their commitments to supporting the principles of free and fair elections,

*Reaffirming* that the full, equal and meaningful participation and representation of all women, on equal terms with men, at all levels of decision-making is essential to the achievement of gender equality, social inclusion, sustainable development, peace and democracy, as well as for the realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

*Recognizing* that unpaid care and domestic work remains invisible, undervalued and unaccounted for in national statistics, and neglected in economic and social policymaking, and that women and girls, including adolescent girls, undertake a disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work from one generation to the next, and that these disproportionate impacts compound existing obstacles to women's full, effective, equal and meaningful participation and decision-making in public life,

*Mindful* that women continue to account for only one quarter of national legislators worldwide, and highlighting the importance of all women's full, equal and meaningful participation, including women with disabilities, and representation in parliaments, including in leadership positions, and the importance for parliaments to mainstream a gender perspective in their work,

*Emphasizing* the role of all women in decision-making and leadership positions through broad political engagement and full, effective, equal and meaningful participation and representation across all political, economic and public dimensions of a society is essential to a strong democracy,

*Noting* such inclusion will further contribute to the prevention and resolution of armed conflict, the success of peace mediation, peacebuilding processes, post-conflict reconstruction and sustainable global security while simultaneously advancing Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and the women, peace and security agenda,

*Mindful* that the full, equal and meaningful participation of all women in political and public life may only be achieved when all acts of sexual and gender-based violence including conflict-related sexual violence, and sexual harassment both online and offline, are effectively combated,

*Underlining* the importance of primary birth registration for the enjoyment of all the rights to which individuals are entitled, including civil and political rights and with respect to political participation,

*Recognizing* that in order to equally participate in free and fair elections, all women need not only the legal right to vote but the ability to access polling stations and elections information freely, and that Member States should include

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<sup>644</sup> See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

<sup>645</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

<sup>646</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 660, No. 9464.

<sup>647</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

<sup>648</sup> A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III, para. 8.

<sup>649</sup> Resolution 69/277, para. 2.

the perspectives of women in diverse conditions and situations in designing, evaluating and reviewing policies and legislation on participation in political and public affairs,

*Noting* the importance of providing comprehensive, accessible and free civic education for all people, including all women and girls, as well as electoral information and voting papers, to all having the right to participate in elections, in a range of accessible formats and languages, as appropriate, empowering thus all citizens having the right to participate in elections,

*Stressing* the importance, generally and in the context of promoting free, fair and inclusive elections, of respect for the freedoms of peaceful assembly and association and expression, including the freedom to seek, receive and impart information, in accordance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and noting in particular the fundamental importance of access to information and media freedom, including through accessible and easy-to-understand formats for new information and communications technologies,

*Recognizing* the potential of online communication tools to promote freedom of expression and expand political participation, as well as to empower persons who belong to underrepresented groups and those who are marginalized, including but not limited to groups mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization,<sup>650</sup> and urging States to create and maintain, in law and in practice, a safe and enabling environment for journalists to perform their work independently and without undue interference,

*Recognizing also* that social media platforms are now well-established channels for the free expression of ideas and opinions and that they can be effective tools for participation and inclusion as part of the political process, and recognizing further that misinformation and disinformation disrupts the ability of the electorate to make informed decisions,

*Expressing deep concern* that the increasing prevalence and spread of disinformation by both internal and external actors on traditional and social media, as well as efforts to manipulate voting systems and the use of Internet and mass media shutdowns to intentionally and arbitrarily prevent or disrupt access to or dissemination of information online in the framework of elections, constitute an urgent problem for democracies around the world,

*Recognizing* that the spread of hate speech through online platforms is increasingly directed at political figures, disproportionately targeted at women and members of minority groups, causes serious harm to those affected and can have a damaging impact on electoral processes,

*Emphasizing* that democracy, transparent, responsible, accountable and participatory governance responsive to the needs and aspirations of the people, and respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law are essential for the effective prevention and elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

*Acknowledging* the linkage and complementarity of the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance with the long-term construction of a democratic, non-discriminatory and multicultural society based on the recognition, respect and promotion of cultural, ethnic and religious diversity,

*Noting* that some countries are beginning to use online technology for balloting purposes, and reaffirming the right to privacy, according to which no one shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with their privacy, family, home or correspondence, and the right to the protection of the law against such interference, as set out in article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and that the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online,

*Recognizing* the need to strengthen democratic processes, electoral institutions and national capacity-building in requesting countries, including the capacity to administer fair elections, promote voter education, the development of electoral expertise and technology and the full, equal and meaningful participation of all women on equal terms with men, take all appropriate measures to ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation of all persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others, increase citizen participation and provide civic education, including to youth,

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<sup>650</sup> [A/78/260](#).

in requesting countries in order to consolidate and regularize the achievements of previous elections and support subsequent elections,

*Noting* the importance of ensuring orderly, open, fair and transparent democratic processes that protect the rights to peaceful assembly, association and freedom of expression and opinion,

*Emphasizing* that free, independent and pluralistic media can play an indispensable role in informing people around the world, and stressing the important connections between free and fair elections, freedom of expression and a free and independent press that can operate without hindrance as cornerstones of democracy,

*Emphasizing also* that the right to freedom of expression, as set forth in article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, includes the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, both online and offline, and that access to information and the work of journalists and media workers are essential for the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

*Expressing concern* at the growing threats to freedom of expression and media freedom worldwide, including harassment, attacks and unlawful detention of journalists and media workers, while recognizing their crucial role in the context of elections, including informing the public about candidates, their platforms and ongoing debates, and expressing serious concerns that attacks against journalists increase during election periods,

*Noting* that the international community can contribute to the creation of conditions that could foster stability and security throughout the pre-election, election and post-election periods in transitional and post-conflict situations,

*Reiterating* that transparency is a fundamental basis for free and fair elections, which contribute to the accountability of Governments to their citizens, which, in turn, is an underpinning of democratic societies,

*Acknowledging*, in this regard, the importance of national and international observation of elections for the promotion of free and fair elections and its contribution to enhancing the integrity of election processes in requesting countries, to promoting public confidence and electoral participation and to mitigating the potential for election-related disturbances,

*Acknowledging also* that extending invitations regarding international electoral assistance and/or observation is the sovereign right of Member States, and welcoming the decisions of those States that have requested such assistance and/or observation,

*Recalling* its resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005, entitled “2005 World Summit Outcome”, in which it welcomed the establishment by the Secretary-General of the United Nations Democracy Fund,

*Welcoming* the support provided by Member States to the electoral assistance activities of the United Nations, inter alia, through the provision of electoral experts, including electoral commission staff, and observers, as well as through contributions to the United Nations trust fund for electoral assistance, the democratic governance thematic trust fund of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Democracy Fund,

*Recognizing* that electoral assistance, particularly through appropriate, sustainable, accessible and cost-effective electoral technology, can facilitate full access for persons with disabilities and supports the electoral processes of developing countries,

*Recognizing also* the coordination challenges posed by the multiplicity of actors involved in electoral assistance both within and outside the United Nations,

*Welcoming* the contributions made by international and regional organizations and also by non-governmental organizations to enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization, and stressing the importance of fostering enabling environments in which civil society organizations, human rights defenders, peacebuilders and journalists and media workers can operate freely and safely, both online and offline, thereby increasing the ability of individuals to take part in elections and election monitoring,

*Recognizing* the importance of the links between democracy, sustainable, social and economic development, the reduction of inequalities, peace, human rights, the rule of law, democracy and good governance, including the

holding of free and fair elections, and in this regard recalling the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>651</sup>

*Bearing in mind* that measures necessary to deal with situations of health emergencies and pandemics, such as the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, can have a considerable impact on public participation, including through restrictions on the rights to freedom of expression, to peaceful assembly and freedom of association, and on access to information, affecting particularly the work of the media and civil society, including women's rights organizations and organizations of persons with disabilities, and direct participation in decision-making and leading to restrictions in the context of electoral processes,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization;

2. *Commends* the electoral assistance provided upon request to Member States by the United Nations, and requests that such assistance continue on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the evolving needs and legislation of requesting countries to develop, improve and refine their electoral institutions and processes, including by ensuring full access to all stages of the electoral process for persons with disabilities, recognizing that the responsibility for organizing free and fair elections lies with Governments;

3. *Reaffirms* that the electoral assistance provided by the United Nations should continue to be carried out in an objective, impartial, neutral and independent manner;

4. *Requests* the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, in her role as United Nations focal point for electoral assistance matters, to continue to regularly inform Member States about the requests received and the nature of any assistance provided;

5. *Requests* the United Nations to continue its efforts to ensure, before undertaking to provide electoral assistance to a requesting State, that there is adequate time to organize and carry out an effective mission providing such assistance, including the provision of long-term technical cooperation, that conditions exist to allow a free and fair election and that the results of the mission will be reported comprehensively and consistently;

6. *Notes* the importance of adequate resources for the administration of efficient and transparent elections at the national and local levels, and recommends that Member States provide adequate resources for those elections, including by considering the possibility of establishing internal funding, where feasible;

7. *Reaffirms* the obligation of all States to take all appropriate measures to ensure that every citizen has the effective right and opportunity to participate in elections on an equal basis, and calls upon States to take measures to eliminate laws, regulations and practices that discriminate, directly or indirectly, against citizens in their right to participate in public affairs, including based on race, colour, ethnicity, national or social origin, sex, sexual orientation and gender identity, language, religion, political views or on the basis of disability;

8. *Strongly condemns* any manipulation of election processes, coercion and tampering with vote counts, particularly when done by States, as well as by other actors, and calls upon all Member States to respect the rule of law and the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons, including the right to vote and to be elected at genuine periodic elections, which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret ballot, guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the electors, thereby fostering conditions in which all citizens, regardless of how they voted, whom they supported or whether their candidates prevailed, have the motivation and incentive, as well as the right and opportunity, to continue to participate directly or through elected representatives in the conduct of public affairs and their Government;

9. *Reaffirms* the need for all Member States to respect and protect the right to freedom of expression, including through creating an environment where a free and independent press can flourish and where journalists and media workers can keep citizens informed at all stages of elections about candidates, parties and their political platforms, both online and offline, in order to promote transparency and information integrity, including by countering disinformation and misinformation, and to this end also strongly condemns any attempts to harass, intimidate, attack or arbitrarily detain journalists and media workers;

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<sup>651</sup> Resolution 70/1.

10. *Calls upon* all Member States to ensure that persons with disabilities can effectively and fully participate in political and public life on an equal basis with others, directly or through freely chosen representatives, including the right and opportunity for persons with disabilities to vote and to be elected;

11. *Also calls upon* all Member States to consider ways to increase the representation of all youth in decision-making at all levels in local, national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms, to promote the constructive political engagement of youth and to consider, explore and promote new avenues for the full, effective, structured and sustained participation of youth and youth-led organizations in relevant decision-making processes;

12. *Further calls upon* all Member States to enhance the political participation of all women, accelerate the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in all situations, including by taking measures to reduce and redistribute women's and girls' disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work, promote and protect the human rights of women with respect to voting in elections and public referendums and being eligible for election to publicly elected bodies on equal terms with men at all levels of government by further inclusion and by measures to prevent and respond to and condemn all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, both online and offline;

13. *Recommends* that, throughout the timespan of the entire electoral cycle, including before and after elections, as appropriate, on the basis of a needs assessment and in accordance with the evolving needs of requesting Member States, bearing in mind sustainability and cost-effectiveness, the United Nations continue to provide technical advice and other assistance to requesting States and electoral institutions in order to help to strengthen their democratic processes, also bearing in mind that the relevant office may provide additional assistance in the form of mediation and good offices, upon the request of Member States;

14. *Notes with appreciation* the additional efforts being made to enhance cooperation with other international, governmental and non-governmental organizations in order to facilitate more comprehensive and needs-specific responses to requests for electoral assistance, encourages those organizations to share knowledge and experience in order to promote best practices in the assistance that they provide and in their reporting on electoral processes, and expresses its appreciation to those Member States, regional organizations and non-governmental organizations that have provided observers or technical experts in support of United Nations electoral assistance efforts;

15. *Acknowledges* the aim of harmonizing the methods and standards of the many intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations engaged in observing elections, and in this regard expresses appreciation for the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation and the Code of Conduct for International Election Observers, which elaborate guidelines for international electoral observation;

16. *Recalls* the establishment by the Secretary-General of the United Nations trust fund for electoral assistance, and, bearing in mind that the fund is currently close to depletion, calls upon Member States to consider contributing to the fund;

17. *Encourages* the Secretary-General, through the United Nations focal point for electoral assistance matters and with the support of the Electoral Assistance Division of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs of the Secretariat, to continue to respond to the evolving nature of requests for assistance and the growing need for specific types of medium-term expert assistance aimed at supporting and strengthening the existing capacity of the requesting Government, in particular by enhancing the capacity of national electoral institutions;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Electoral Assistance Division with adequate human and financial resources to allow it to carry out its mandate, including to enhance the accessibility and diversity of the roster of electoral experts and the electoral institutional memory of the Organization, and to continue to ensure that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is able to respond, within its mandate and in close coordination with the Division, to the numerous and increasingly complex and comprehensive requests from Member States for advisory services;

19. *Reiterates* the need for ongoing comprehensive coordination, under the auspices of the United Nations focal point for electoral assistance matters, between the Electoral Assistance Division, the United Nations Development Programme, the Department of Peace Operations and the Department of Operational Support of the Secretariat and the Office of the High Commissioner to ensure coordination and coherence and avoid duplication of United Nations electoral assistance;



## V. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Third Committee

20. *Requests* the United Nations Development Programme to continue its democratic governance assistance programmes in cooperation with other relevant organizations, in particular those that promote the strengthening of democratic institutions and linkages between civil society and Governments;

21. *Reiterates* the role of civil society, human rights defenders, peacebuilders, as well as journalists and media workers, and the importance of their active engagement in the promotion of democratization, and invites Member States to facilitate the full, effective, equal and meaningful participation of civil society in electoral processes;

22. *Also reiterates* the importance of reinforced coordination within and outside the United Nations system, and reaffirms the clear leadership role within the United Nations system of the United Nations focal point for electoral assistance matters, including in ensuring system-wide coherence and consistency and in strengthening the institutional memory and the development, dissemination and issuance of United Nations electoral assistance policies;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its eightieth session on the implementation of the present resolution, in particular on the status of requests from Member States for electoral assistance, and on his efforts to enhance support by the Organization for the democratization process in Member States;

24. *Underlines* the importance of public participation, with an increasing number of channels for engagement moving online, posing obstacles for those segments of the population who have limited or no Internet access or who face other barriers to digital inclusion, such as the affordability of the Internet, and encourages States to ensure that all stakeholders, including women and girls, persons living in rural communities and persons with disabilities, have access to timely and accurate information and are fully involved in decisions that affect them.

### RESOLUTION 78/209

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 185 to none, with 2 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/481/Add.2, para. 139)<sup>652</sup>

\* *In favour:* Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, 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, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against:* None

*Abstaining:* Iran (Islamic Republic of), Syrian Arab Republic

<sup>652</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Comoros, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Guinea, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Yemen.

**78/209. United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region**

*The General Assembly,*

*Guided* by the fundamental and universal principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>653</sup>

*Recalling* the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of 1993,<sup>654</sup> which reiterated the need to consider the possibility of establishing regional and subregional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights where they do not already exist,

*Recalling also* its resolutions [32/127](#) of 16 December 1977 and [51/102](#) of 12 December 1996 and all its subsequent resolutions concerning regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights,

*Recalling further* its resolutions [60/153](#) of 16 December 2005, [67/162](#) of 20 December 2012, [68/241](#) of 27 December 2013, [69/171](#) of 18 December 2014, [70/171](#) of 17 December 2015, [72/166](#) of 19 December 2017, [74/163](#) of 18 December 2019 and 76/155 of 16 December 2021 on the United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region,

*Recalling* Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/51 of 9 March 1993<sup>655</sup> and all its subsequent resolutions concerning regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights,

*Reaffirming* that regional cooperation plays a fundamental role in promoting and protecting human rights and should reinforce universal human rights, as contained in international human rights instruments, and their protection,

*Recognizing* that the Centre has made noticeable progress in the promotion of human rights and advocacy in the region and will continue to strengthen its effectiveness and efficiency in responding to ongoing and emerging needs and will enhance its capacity-building and technical assistance, including in countries in conflict and post-conflict countries,

*Recognizing also* that the work of the Centre remains relevant to the needs of the region, which is demonstrated by the fact that it has been consistently solicited by numerous and diverse partners to provide support and to engage in cooperation,

*Mindful* of the vastness and the diversity of the needs in the field of human rights within South-West Asia and the Arab region, and taking into account the need for appropriate and sustainable funding of the Centre to fully realize its significant function and crucial role in the region,

*Recognizing* the unprecedented effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, including the severe disruption to societies and economies, as well as to global travel and commerce, and the devastating impact on the livelihood of people,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>656</sup>

2. *Notes with appreciation* the successful assistance that the United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region has provided through human rights capacity-building activities, technical assistance programmes and training programmes on human rights and media and human rights education, with an emphasis on young people, as well as support to national human rights institutions and civil society organizations on several human rights topics, and notes that the Centre also provided capacity-building activities in the areas of civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights, the countering of hate speech and incitement to discrimination, combating gender discrimination and the prevention of violent extremism;

3. *Also notes with appreciation* the Centre's adaptation of its methodology to the challenges linked to the COVID-19 pandemic, which enabled it to continue to implement its annual workplan, through the organization of a

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<sup>653</sup> Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

<sup>654</sup> [A/CONF.157/24 \(Part I\)](#), chap. III.

<sup>655</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1993, Supplement No. 3* and corrigenda ([E/1993/23](#), [E/1993/23/Corr.2](#), [E/1993/23/Corr.4](#) and [E/1993/23/Corr.5](#)), chap. II, sect. A.

<sup>656</sup> [A/78/518](#).

large number of online activities and by bringing together participants from the majority of countries covered by its mandate;

4. *Welcomes* the Centre's efforts to reinforce the documentation component of its mandate, notably the production and dissemination of human rights resource materials in Arabic and other languages that resulted in expanding its outreach to a growing number of beneficiaries, including women and young people;

5. *Also welcomes* the Centre's plan, for the coming two years, to strengthen its efforts to accommodate the needs of the 25 States under its coverage by developing the human rights education programme, with more emphasis on the youth sector, in line with the fourth phase (2020–2024) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education, and to further develop its training programmes for State institutions, national human rights institutions and civil society organizations, as well as knowledge management and documentation activities, and notes its call for additional voluntary resources in order to be able to do so;

6. *Further welcomes* the work undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to enhance the Centre's ability to carry out its mandate and respond to the growing needs from the region by further developing it into a centre for excellence in the area of human rights education and training, knowledge management and documentation for all relevant stakeholders in the region;

7. *Underlines* the Centre's role as a source for regional expertise and the need to meet an increasing number of requests in relation to human rights education and training, knowledge management and documentation, including in Arabic and other languages;

8. *Notes* that the increasing demand that has been placed on the Centre by Member States and other stakeholders reveals a growing recognition of its role in and impact on strengthening human rights capacities in the region;

9. *Encourages* the continued engagement of the Centre to work with other United Nations regional offices to strengthen its work;

10. *Encourages* Member States to provide voluntary contributions to support the Centre in carrying out its mandate;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its eightieth session a report, in accordance with existing rules and procedures, on the implementation of the present resolution.

## RESOLUTION 78/210

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/481/Add.2, para. 139)<sup>657</sup>

### 78/210. Terrorism and human rights

*The General Assembly,*

*Guided* by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>658</sup> the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights<sup>659</sup> and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights<sup>660</sup> and other relevant international human rights instruments,

*Recalling* all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council concerning human rights and terrorism, the most recent of which are Assembly

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<sup>657</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Nigeria, Panama, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

<sup>658</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>659</sup> See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

<sup>660</sup> Ibid.

resolutions [72/180](#) of 19 December 2017, [72/246](#) of 24 December 2017, [73/174](#) of 17 December 2018, [74/147](#) of 18 December 2019 and [76/169](#) of 16 December 2021, and Human Rights Council resolutions [34/8](#) of 23 March 2017,<sup>661</sup> [35/34](#) of 23 June 2017,<sup>662</sup> [37/27](#) of 23 March 2018,<sup>663</sup> [40/16](#) of 22 March 2019<sup>664</sup>, [42/18](#) of 26 September 2019,<sup>665</sup> [45/11](#) of 6 October 2020<sup>666</sup> and [51/24](#) of 7 October 2022,<sup>667</sup>

*Emphasizing* that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated,

*Reaffirming* the obligation of States to respect all human rights and fundamental freedoms and the fundamental importance of respecting the rule of law,

*Reaffirming also* its unequivocal condemnation of all acts, methods and practices of terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomsoever committed, regardless of their motivation, and of the financial, material or political support of terrorism as unjustifiable in accordance with applicable international law,

*Renewing its unwavering commitment* to strengthening international cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism in all their forms and manifestations, while stressing that terrorism can only be defeated by a sustained and comprehensive approach involving the active participation and collaboration of all States and international and regional organizations,

*Reaffirming* the primary responsibility of States to protect the population throughout their territory, and recalling in this regard that all parties to armed conflict must comply fully with obligations applicable to them under international humanitarian law related to the protection of civilians and medical personnel in armed conflict,

*Recognizing* that terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism have a detrimental effect on the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and impede the full enjoyment of political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights, and that they pose a threat to the territorial integrity and security of States, the stability of Governments, the rule of law and democracy and, ultimately, to the functioning of societies and international peace and security,

*Emphasizing* that terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group, and that tolerance, pluralism, inclusion and respect for diversity, dialogue among civilizations and the enhancement of interfaith and intercultural understanding and respect among people, including at the national, regional and global levels, while combating the escalation of hatred, are among the most important elements in the promotion of cooperation and success in preventing and combating terrorism, and welcoming the various initiatives to that end,

*Reaffirming* that States must ensure that any measure taken to counter terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism complies with international law, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law,

*Reaffirming also* its commitment to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its four pillars, as adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution [60/288](#) of 8 September 2006, which reaffirm, inter alia, respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as being the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism, and its eighth review, as taken note of in General Assembly resolution [77/298](#) of 22 June 2023,

*Reaffirming further* that the promotion and the protection of human rights for all and the rule of law are essential to the fight against terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, and recognizing that effective counter-terrorism measures and the protection of human rights are not conflicting goals but are complementary and mutually reinforcing,

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<sup>661</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/72/53)*, chap. IV, sect. A.

<sup>662</sup> *Ibid.*, chap. V, sect. A.

<sup>663</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/73/53)*, chap. IV, sect. A.

<sup>664</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/74/53)*, chap. IV, sect. A.

<sup>665</sup> *Ibid.*, *Supplement No. 53A (A/74/53/Add.1)*, chap. III.

<sup>666</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-fifth Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/75/53/Add.1)*, chap. III.

<sup>667</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/77/53/Add.1)*, chap. III, sect. A.

*Expressing its grave concern* at the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters and at the threat it poses to all States, including countries of origin, transit and destination, and encouraging all States to address this threat by enhancing their cooperation and developing relevant measures to tackle this phenomenon, in accordance with their obligations under international law, including international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law,

*Deploing* attacks on religious places and shrines and cultural sites that violate international law, in particular international human rights law and international humanitarian law, as applicable, including all deliberate destruction of relics, monuments or religious sites,

*Strongly condemning* the recruitment and use of children to perpetrate terrorist attacks and all violations and abuses committed by terrorist groups against children and women, including killing and maiming, abduction and rape and other forms of sexual violence, and noting that such violations and abuses may amount to war crimes or crimes against humanity,

*Deeply deploring* the suffering caused by terrorism to the victims and their families, and, while stressing the need to promote and protect the rights of victims of terrorism, in particular women and children, reaffirming its profound solidarity with them and stressing the importance of providing them with proper support and assistance while respecting, inter alia, considerations regarding remembrance, dignity, respect, accountability, truth and justice, in accordance with international law,

*Expressing deep concern* that acts of sexual and gender-based violence are known to be part of the strategic objectives and ideology of certain terrorist groups and are used as an instrument to increase their power through supporting financing and recruitment and through the destruction of communities,

*Recognizing* that countering terrorism requires a comprehensive approach and a multidimensional strategy to tackle the factors underlying terrorism,

*Recognizing also* the difficulties faced by the international community in addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and violent extremism, which can be conducive to terrorism, and urging Member States and the United Nations system to take measures, pursuant to international law and while ensuring national ownership, to address all drivers of violent extremism conducive to terrorism, both internal and external, in a balanced manner,

*Conscious* that there are a number of drivers underlying radicalization to terrorism, and that development based on the principles of social justice, inclusion and equal opportunities can contribute to the prevention of terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism and to the promotion of inclusive, open and resilient societies, notably through education, and affirming the determination of States to work towards conflict resolution, to confront oppression, to eradicate poverty, to promote sustained economic growth, sustainable development, global prosperity, good governance, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and the rule of law, to improve intercultural understanding and to promote respect for all,

1. *Strongly condemns* all terrorist acts as criminal and unjustifiable, and expresses grave concern at their detrimental effects on the enjoyment of all human rights;

2. *Reaffirms* that States must ensure that any measure taken to combat terrorism complies with their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law;

3. *Expresses concern* that terrorists and terrorist groups have targeted communities and individuals, as well as Governments, including on the basis of religion or belief and/or ethnicity;

4. *Stresses* the responsibility of States to protect persons in their territory against such acts, in full compliance with their obligations under international law, and in particular international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law;

5. *Expresses serious concern* at the violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms and of international refugee law and international humanitarian law in the context of countering terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism;

6. *Reaffirms* the obligation of States, in accordance with article 4 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to respect certain rights as non-derogable under any circumstances, recalls, in regard to all other

Covenant rights, that any measures derogating from the provisions of the Covenant must be in accordance with that article in all cases, underlines the exceptional and temporary nature of any such derogations, and in this regard calls upon States to raise awareness about the importance of these obligations among national authorities involved in combating terrorism;

7. *Reaffirms its commitment* to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and a balanced and integrated implementation of its four pillars, as adopted in its resolution [60/288](#), and at its eighth review, and recognizes the need to redouble efforts for even attention paid to and even implementation of all the pillars of the strategy;

8. *Reaffirms its profound solidarity* with the victims of terrorism and their families, acknowledges the importance of protecting their rights and providing them with proper support, assistance and rehabilitation while taking into account, when appropriate, considerations regarding remembrance, dignity, respect, justice and truth in such a way that promotes accountability and ends impunity, and encourages the enhancement of international cooperation and the exchange of expertise in that respect, in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations;

9. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring access to justice and accountability, and calls upon States to ensure that any person who alleges that his or her human rights or fundamental freedoms have been violated by measures taken or means employed to counter terrorism or violent extremism conducive to terrorism has access to justice, due process and an effective remedy, and that victims of human rights violations and abuses receive adequate, effective and prompt remedy and reparations, which should include, as appropriate, restitution, compensation, rehabilitation and guarantees of non-repetition as a fundamental basis of any strategy to counter terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism;

10. *Also stresses* the importance of developing and maintaining effective, fair, humane, transparent and accountable criminal justice systems in a manner that fully respects the rights to equality and non-discrimination in the administration of justice, to a fair and public hearing by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal, to a review of detention and to the presumption of innocence and other fundamental judicial guarantees, such as due process, in accordance with their obligations under international law, including international human rights law, international humanitarian law and international refugee law;

11. *Urges* States to fully comply with their obligations under international law while countering terrorism, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law, with regard to the absolute prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

12. *Also urges* States to take all steps necessary to ensure the right of anyone arrested or detained on a criminal charge to be brought promptly before a judge or other officer authorized by law to exercise judicial power and the entitlement to trial within a reasonable time or release;

13. *Further urges* States to safeguard the work of civil society by ensuring that counter-terrorism laws and measures are consistent with and are applied in a manner that fully respects human rights, particularly the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association;

14. *Urges* States to ensure that measures taken to counter terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism are not discriminatory, and not to resort to profiling based on stereotypes founded on ethnic, racial or religious grounds or any other ground of discrimination prohibited by international law;

15. *Also urges* States to ensure, in accordance with their obligations under international law and national regulations, and whenever international humanitarian law is applicable, that counter-terrorism legislation and measures do not impede humanitarian and medical activities or engagement with all relevant actors as foreseen by international humanitarian law;

16. *Recognizes* the important role of religious leaders and institutions, local communities and community leaders in promoting tolerance and in preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism;

17. *Also recognizes* the important role of women in preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, and requests States to consider, when appropriate, the impact of counter-terrorism



strategies on women's and children's human rights, and to seek consultations with their respective organizations when developing strategies to counter terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism;

18. *Urges* States to ensure that gender equality and non-discrimination are taken into account when shaping, reviewing and implementing all counter-terrorism measures and to promote the full and effective participation of women in these processes;

19. *Also urges* States to take measures to ensure that counter-terrorism laws and implementing measures are consistent with and are applied in a manner that fully respects the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the obligations of States under international human rights law, in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, with a view to ensuring respect for the principles of legal certainty and legality;

20. *Strongly condemns* terrorist acts and all acts of violence committed by terrorist groups, including trafficking in persons, kidnapping and hostage-taking with demands for ransom and/or political concessions, and the continued systematic and widespread abuses of human rights perpetrated by such groups, and calls upon all Member States to prevent terrorists from benefiting from ransom payment and political concessions and to secure the safe release of hostages, in accordance with applicable legal obligations, while noting the initiatives in this regard, including the Algiers Memorandum on Good Practices on Preventing and Denying the Benefits of Kidnapping for Ransom by Terrorists;

21. *Urges* States to do all they can, in accordance with their obligations under international law, to prevent any political, material or financial support from reaching terrorist groups, to deny terrorists safe haven, freedom of operation, movement and recruitment and to criminalize the wilful provision or collection by any means, directly or indirectly, of funds by their nationals or in their territories with the intention that the funds be used, or with the knowledge that they are to be used, by terrorist groups for any purpose, and to bring to justice or, where appropriate, extradite the perpetrators of terrorist acts or any person who supports, facilitates or participates, or attempts to participate, in the financing, planning or preparation of terrorist acts;

22. *Calls upon* States to refrain from providing support to entities or persons involved in terrorist acts, including support in establishing propaganda platforms advocating hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, including through the Internet and other media, and emphasizes in this regard the key importance of full respect for the right to freedom of opinion and expression as set out in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

23. *Urges* States to adopt rehabilitation and reintegration strategies for returning foreign terrorist fighters, in line with good practices, such as those set out in the Hague-Marrakech Memorandum on Good Practices for a More Effective Response to the Foreign Terrorist Fighter Phenomenon of the Global Counterterrorism Forum, and to adopt a comprehensive approach that includes, inter alia, the development of national centres for counsel and the prevention of radicalization to violence, which can play an important role together with criminal justice responses;

24. *Renews its commitment* to strengthening international cooperation to prevent and counter terrorism in accordance with international law, including the Charter, international human rights law and international humanitarian law, including through technical cooperation, capacity-building and the exchange of information and intelligence on countering terrorism, and in that regard calls upon States and relevant regional and subregional organizations, as appropriate, to continue to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its four pillars;

25. *Strongly encourages* relevant United Nations agencies, including those involved in supporting counter-terrorism efforts, to take into account in their technical assistance with regard to counter-terrorism efforts, whenever appropriate, the elements necessary for building national capacity in order to strengthen criminal justice systems and the rule of law and to continue to facilitate the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, due process and the rule of law, while countering terrorism;

26. *Requests* all Governments to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism in the performance of his mandated tasks and duties;

27. *Urges* States and the international community and encourages civil society to take measures, as appropriate, including through education, awareness-raising, the media and human rights education and training, to promote a culture of peace, justice and human development, ethnic, national and religious tolerance and respect for

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all religions, religious values, beliefs and cultures and to effectively address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and that make individuals and groups more vulnerable to the effects of terrorism and to recruitment by terrorists;

28. *Emphasizes* that mutual respect, tolerance, pluralism, inclusion and respect for diversity, dialogue among civilizations and the enhancement of interfaith and intercultural understanding, and combating intolerance, discrimination and hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence on the basis of religion or belief, or any other basis, including at the national, regional or global levels, are among the most important elements in promoting cooperation and success in preventing and combating terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, and welcomes the various initiatives to that end;

29. *Acknowledges* that the active participation of civil society organizations can strengthen ongoing governmental efforts to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism and to assess the impact of terrorism on the enjoyment of all human rights, and calls upon States to ensure that measures to counter terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism and to preserve national security do not hinder the work and safety of such organizations and are in compliance with the obligations of States under international law, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law;

30. *Urges* States to safeguard the right to privacy in accordance with international law, in particular international human rights law, and to take measures to ensure that interference with or restriction of that right are not arbitrary, are adequately regulated by law and are subject to effective oversight and appropriate redress, including through judicial review or other means;

31. *Calls upon* Member States to remain alert to the use of information and communications technology for terrorist purposes and to cooperate to prevent and counter violent extremist propaganda and incitement to violence on the Internet and social media, including by developing effective counter-narratives, and to prevent terrorists from recruiting and raising funds online for terrorist purposes, while respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, in compliance with their obligations under international law, and stresses the importance of cooperation with civil society and the private sector in this endeavour;

32. *Expresses its concern* at the increasing use, in a globalized society, by terrorists and their supporters, of information and communications technology, in particular the Internet and other media, to advocate, commit, incite, recruit for, fund or plan terrorist acts, urges States to take appropriate preventive measures in this regard while acting in full compliance with their obligations under international law, and reiterates that such technologies can be powerful tools in countering the spread of terrorism, including by promoting tolerance, dialogue among peoples and peace;

33. *Invites* all treaty bodies, special procedure mandate holders, international and regional human rights mechanisms and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, within their respective mandates, to pay due attention to the negative impact of terrorism on the enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and on alleged violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, and to report regularly to the Human Rights Council;

34. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism to continue to contribute to the work of the Office of Counter-Terrorism through, inter alia, participation in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact;

35. *Encourages* the Security Council, the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate to strengthen, within their mandates, the links, cooperation and dialogue with relevant human rights bodies, giving due regard to the promotion and protection of human rights and the rule of law in their ongoing work relating to counter-terrorism;

36. *Encourages* relevant United Nations bodies and entities, in particular those participating in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact and international, regional and subregional organizations, which provide technical assistance upon request, to step up their efforts to ensure respect for international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law, as well as the rule of law, as an element of technical assistance, including in the adoption and implementation of legislative and other measures by States;

37. *Calls upon* international, regional and subregional organizations to strengthen information-sharing, coordination and cooperation in promoting the protection of human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law while countering terrorism;

38. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Human Rights Council and to the General Assembly at its eightieth session.

#### RESOLUTION 78/211

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/481/Add.2, para. 139)<sup>668</sup>

#### **78/211. Effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 47/135 of 18 December 1992, by which it adopted the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities annexed to that resolution, and bearing in mind article 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights<sup>669</sup> as well as other relevant existing international and regional standards and national legislation,

*Noting with appreciation* that 2023 marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights<sup>670</sup> and the thirtieth anniversary of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,<sup>671</sup> and acknowledging the importance of these instruments for the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities,

*Recalling* the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities in 2022, which served as an important opportunity to reflect on the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, as well as on achievements, best practices and continuing challenges with regard to the implementation of the Declaration, and reaffirming the principles and commitments therein, and recognizing that, while progress has been made, the situation of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities is critical in many parts of the world and many challenges remain to ensure the full enjoyment of their rights,

*Taking note with appreciation* of the high-level meeting convened by the President of the General Assembly during the general debate of the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration, which served as an occasion for States to reflect on implementation gaps, exchange best practices and make voluntary pledges to enhance the implementation of the Declaration,

*Taking note* of other multilateral, regional, subregional and national initiatives to mark the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration and further its implementation,

*Recalling* its subsequent resolutions on the effective promotion of the Declaration and all relevant resolutions of the Human Rights Council,

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<sup>668</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uruguay.

<sup>669</sup> See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

<sup>670</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>671</sup> A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

*Recalling also* Human Rights Council resolutions [52/5](#) of 3 April 2023,<sup>672</sup> which extended the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on minority issues, as well as [49/14](#) of 31 March 2022,<sup>673</sup> in which the Council considered the recommendations of the Forum on Minority Issues at its fourteenth session, held in December 2021 on the theme “Conflict prevention and the protection of the human rights of minorities”,<sup>674</sup>

*Recalling further* its resolution [76/6](#) of 15 November 2021, which welcomed, as a basis for further consideration by Member States, the submission of the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Our Common Agenda”,<sup>675</sup> including its appeal for action to strengthen the inclusion of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities,

*Reaffirming* that the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and dialogue between these minorities and the rest of society, as well as the constructive and inclusive development of practices and institutional arrangements to accommodate diversity within societies, contribute to political and social stability and the prevention and peaceful resolution of conflicts involving the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities,

*Reaffirming also* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>676</sup> of which the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development<sup>677</sup> is an integral part, recalling that the Sustainable Development Goals and targets seek to realize the human rights of all, and stressing the need for Member States to integrate the 2030 Agenda into their respective national policies and development frameworks, as appropriate, to promote the effective implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda, in order to ensure that no one is left behind,

*Noting with concern* that disregard for the identity of, and discrimination against, persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, as well as their political and socioeconomic marginalization, hate speech and the denial of the enjoyment of their human rights often precede violence and should therefore serve as early warning signs of a risk of serious crimes and conflict,

*Expressing concern* at the frequency and severity of disputes and conflicts affecting persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities in many countries and their often tragic consequences, and that such persons, especially women and girls, often suffer disproportionately from the effects of conflicts resulting in the violation or abuse of their human rights, and are particularly vulnerable to forced displacement through, inter alia, population transfers, revocation of previously held identity documents, refugee flows and forced relocation,

*Recognizing* that developments in certain territories or regions linked to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities may trigger acts of violence and discrimination specifically targeting persons belonging to the same minorities elsewhere,

*Emphasizing* the importance of constitutional and legal frameworks, the rule of law and equal access to justice for all without any discrimination based on language, ethnicity, origin, religion or belief as the basis for the protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities,

*Reaffirming* that everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law,

*Emphasizing* the need for reinforced efforts to realize the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, including by addressing economic and social conditions and marginalization, as well as to end any type of discrimination against them, including by addressing multiple, aggravated and intersecting forms of discrimination,

*Taking note* in this regard of the publication entitled *Protecting Minority Rights: A Practical Guide to Developing Comprehensive Anti-Discrimination Legislation*,<sup>678</sup> and noting the publication of the Guidance Note on

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<sup>672</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/78/53)*, chap. V, sect. A.

<sup>673</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/77/53)*, chap. VI, sect. A.

<sup>674</sup> See [A/HRC/49/81](#).

<sup>675</sup> [A/75/982](#).

<sup>676</sup> Resolution [70/1](#).

<sup>677</sup> Resolution [69/313](#), annex.

<sup>678</sup> Available at [www.ohchr.org/en/minorities/minority-rights-equality-and-anti-discrimination-law](http://www.ohchr.org/en/minorities/minority-rights-equality-and-anti-discrimination-law).

Intersectionality, Racial Discrimination and Protection of Minorities prepared by the United Nations network on racial discrimination and protection of minorities,<sup>679</sup>

*Recognizing* that a vast majority of stateless persons are persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, and in this regard emphasizing the need for birth registration, civil registration and national identification documents to be provided without discrimination on any grounds, in particular race, ethnicity, religion and language, in line with the 2030 Agenda, especially the target aimed at providing a legal identity for all,

*Emphasizing further* the fundamental importance of human rights education, training and learning as well as of dialogue, including intercultural and interfaith dialogue, and interaction among all relevant stakeholders and members of society on the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities,

*Recognizing* the importance of realizing the right to education for all and, wherever possible, providing persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities with quality educational and other opportunities to learn their own language or to have instruction in their own language,

*Emphasizing* the important role that national institutions can play in the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, and acknowledging the role that the United Nations, its specialized agencies and other relevant organizations, and the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on minority issues, play in this regard by, inter alia, promoting the implementation of the Declaration,

*Expressing concern* about the increase of disinformation and misinformation, which may lead to the spread of hate speech, particularly on social media platforms, and, inter alia, through the use of artificial intelligence (AI), which can be designed, implemented and used in ways that spread discrimination, including racism, misogyny, xenophobia, negative stereotyping and stigmatization, particularly affecting persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities,

*Expressing concern also* that these developments can lead to or exacerbate human rights violations and abuses, including of the right to privacy and the right to freedom of expression, including the freedom to seek, receive and impart information, and can be used to incite violence, hatred, intolerance, discrimination and hostility against persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, and emphasizing the important contributions of journalists, civil society and academia in countering these trends,

1. *Reaffirms* the obligation of States to ensure that persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities may exercise fully and effectively all human rights and fundamental freedoms without any discrimination and in full equality before the law, as proclaimed in the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities,<sup>680</sup> and draws attention to the relevant provisions of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action,<sup>681</sup> including the provisions on forms of multiple discrimination;

2. *Urges* States and the international community to promote and protect the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, as set out in the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, including through the encouragement of conditions for the promotion of their identity, the provision of quality education and the facilitation of their participation in all aspects of the political, economic, social, religious and cultural life of society and in the economic progress and development of their country, without discrimination, and to apply a gender perspective while doing so;

3. *Encourages* States to take appropriate measures so that, wherever possible, persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities may have adequate opportunities to learn their own language or to have instruction in their own language;

4. *Urges* States to take all appropriate measures, inter alia, constitutional, legislative, administrative and other measures, for the promotion and implementation of the Declaration, and appeals to States to cooperate bilaterally and

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<sup>679</sup> Available at [www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/minorities/30th-anniversary/2022-09-22/GuidanceNoteonIntersectionality.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/minorities/30th-anniversary/2022-09-22/GuidanceNoteonIntersectionality.pdf).

<sup>680</sup> Resolution 47/135, annex.

<sup>681</sup> See A/CONF.189/12 and A/CONF.189/12/Corr.1, chap. I.

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multilaterally, in particular on the exchange of best practices and lessons learned, consistent with the Declaration, in order to promote and protect the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities;

5. *Encourages* States to work towards fulfilling their voluntary pledges made during the high-level meeting convened by the President of the General Assembly during the general debate of the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session on the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, to improve the implementation of the Declaration by implementing the good practices which were shared, and to further strengthen existing measures in this regard;

6. *Recommends* that States continue to reflect on current and emerging challenges facing persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, including the rise in persecution on religious and ethnic grounds, the prevalence of statelessness among national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, human rights violations in law enforcement and the justice sector and increasing levels of hate crimes and hate speech targeting, among others, persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities;

7. *Calls upon* States to undertake, as applicable, initiatives to ensure that persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities are aware of and able to exercise their rights, including, inter alia, the right of everyone to a nationality, as set out in article 15 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and complemented by the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities and in other international human rights law;

8. *Recommends* that States ensure that all measures taken with a view to implementing the Declaration are, to the fullest extent possible, developed, designed, implemented and reviewed with the full, effective and equal participation of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities;

9. *Calls upon* States to undertake effective efforts to prevent and combat acts of violence specifically targeting persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities;

10. *Also calls upon* States to take all appropriate measures to ensure the protection of children who belong to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, in accordance with the relevant obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child;<sup>682</sup>

11. *Further calls upon* States to take all appropriate measures to ensure the protection and promote the empowerment of all women and girls who belong to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and are exposed to multiple forms of discrimination as well as sexual and gender-based violence, and also to give special attention to the specific needs of older persons and persons with disabilities who belong to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities;

12. *Recommends* that States and other relevant actors ensure to the fullest extent possible that the Declaration is translated into all minority languages and disseminated widely;

13. *Expresses its appreciation* for the successful completion, in December 2022, of the fifteenth session of the Forum on Minority Issues, on the theme “Review, rethink, reform: thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities”, which, as part of its outcome, produced recommendations to highlight the need for States to comply with their human rights obligations in relation to addressing hate speech on social media,<sup>683</sup> and encourages States to take into consideration the relevant recommendations of the Forum, and notes the work of the United Nations network on racial discrimination and protection of minorities;

14. *Calls upon* States, while bearing in mind the theme of the fifteenth session of the Forum on Minority Issues, and the summary by the President of the General Assembly of the high-level meeting marking the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration in September 2022, and with a view to enhancing the implementation of the Declaration and ensuring the realization of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, to take appropriate measures by, inter alia:

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<sup>682</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>683</sup> See [A/HRC/52/71](#).



(a) Reviewing any legislation, including constitutional provisions as appropriate, policy or practice that has a discriminatory or disproportionately negative effect, both offline and in digital contexts, on persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, with a view to considering its amendment;

(b) Considering ratifying, acceding to and adhering to all relevant international instruments that protect and promote the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities with the aim of addressing and countering the spread of racism, xenophobia, negative stereotyping and stigmatization;

(c) Strongly condemning any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, and adopting and implementing measures to criminalize incitement to imminent violence based on nationality, race, religion or belief, both online and offline, while respecting all internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(d) Ensuring that persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities have equal access without any form of discrimination to justice and remedies for human rights violations, abuses and/or crimes, including crimes committed on the basis of national, racial or religious hatred;

(e) Adopting and implementing legislative anti-discrimination measures, where required, to protect and promote the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities;

(f) Strengthening international cooperation, including with international and regional organizations, and cooperation with the private sector, including technology companies, national human rights institutions and civil society in order to share expertise, knowledge and effective practices in addressing and countering hate speech and discrimination against persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, online and offline, while respecting and promoting human rights, including in the development and use of digital technologies, such as artificial intelligence (AI);

(g) Working with social media companies, as applicable, to protect persons belonging to minorities by taking active measures to counter hate speech and address its increasing spread, enable research into measures to reduce it and promote users' access to effective reporting channels, in a manner consistent with international human rights law;

15. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the effective promotion of the Declaration<sup>684</sup> and the reports of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on minority issues;

16. *Commends* the Special Rapporteur for the work and the important role played in raising the level of awareness of and in giving added visibility to the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities;

17. *Calls upon* all States to cooperate with and assist the Special Rapporteur in the performance of the tasks and duties mandated to him, to provide him with all the necessary information requested and to seriously consider responding promptly and favourably to the requests of the Special Rapporteur to visit their countries in order to enable him to fulfil his duties effectively;

18. *Encourages* the specialized agencies, regional organizations, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations to develop regular dialogue and cooperation with the Special Rapporteur, as well as to continue to contribute to the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities;

19. *Calls upon* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to promote, within his mandate, the implementation of the Declaration, and to engage in a dialogue with Governments for that purpose and to regularly update and disseminate widely the United Nations Guide for Minorities;

20. *Welcomes* the inter-agency cooperation among United Nations agencies, funds and programmes on minority issues, notes the activities of the United Nations network on racial discrimination and protection of minorities, and urges United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to further increase their coordination and cooperation by, inter alia, developing policies on the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to minorities, drawing also on relevant outcomes of the Forum on Minority Issues and taking into account the work of

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<sup>684</sup> [A/78/306](#).

relevant regional organizations, in particular in the light of the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities;

21. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to make available, at the request of Governments concerned, qualified expertise on minority issues, including in the context of efforts to address and counter hate speech while fully respecting the right to freedom of expression, and to assist in resolving existing or potential situations involving minorities;

22. *Invites* the human rights treaty bodies, as well as special procedures of the Human Rights Council, to continue to give attention, within their respective mandates, to situations and rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and in this regard to take into consideration relevant recommendations of the Forum on Minority Issues;

23. *Invites* the United Nations mechanisms and bodies, the specialized agencies and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, to continue to contribute to the protection and the prevention of violations of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, including by strengthening cooperation in respect of information-gathering and improving the information flow between themselves and with States;

24. *Encourages* regional intergovernmental bodies, within their respective regions, to promote greater attention to the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities by, inter alia, actively raising awareness of and promoting the Declaration in their work, encouraging its implementation at the national level and considering the creation of thematic and/or special mechanisms on this issue;

25. *Encourages* national human rights institutions to pay due attention to the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, including by monitoring situations of potential threats for persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, and by investigating and reporting, in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles)<sup>685</sup> and their respective mandates, episodes of targeted violence against persons belonging to minorities, including, when necessary, to regional and international bodies;

26. *Encourages* civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to promote awareness of the Declaration, and to review the extent to which it integrates the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and the Declaration into its work, as well as to inform persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities about their rights;

27. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to report annually to the General Assembly and include recommendations for effective strategies for the better implementation of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities;

28. *Invites* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations entities and Member States to support and collaborate in the organization of regional forums on minority issues initiated by the Special Rapporteur in accordance with his mandate, in order to complement and enrich the work and recommendations of the Forum on Minority Issues;

29. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its eightieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including information on activities undertaken by Member States, the Office of the High Commissioner, the Special Rapporteur, relevant United Nations entities and other relevant stakeholders to enhance the implementation of the Declaration and to ensure the realization of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities;

30. *Decides* to continue consideration of the question at its eightieth session under the item entitled “Promotion and protection of human rights”.

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<sup>685</sup> Resolution 48/134, annex.

RESOLUTION 78/212

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/481/Add.2, para. 139)<sup>686</sup>

**78/212. Freedom of religion or belief**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>687</sup> article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights<sup>688</sup> and other relevant human rights provisions,

*Recalling also* its resolution 36/55 of 25 November 1981, by which it proclaimed the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief,

*Recalling further* its previous resolutions on freedom of religion or belief and on the elimination of all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief, including its resolution 77/221 of 15 December 2022 and Human Rights Council resolution 52/6 of 3 April 2023,<sup>689</sup>

*Recognizing* the important work carried out by the Human Rights Committee in providing guidance with respect to the scope of freedom of religion or belief,

*Noting* the conclusions and recommendations of the expert workshops organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and contained in the Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, adopted in Rabat on 5 October 2012,<sup>690</sup>

*Considering* that religion or belief, for those who profess either, is one of the fundamental elements in their conception of life and that freedom of religion or belief, as a universal human right, should be fully respected and guaranteed,

*Seriously concerned* by continuing acts of intolerance and violence based on religion or belief against individuals, including against persons belonging to religious communities and religious minorities around the world, and by the increasing number and intensity of such incidents, which are often of a criminal nature and may have international characteristics,

*Deeply concerned* by the limited progress that has been made in the elimination of all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief, and believing that further intensified efforts are therefore required to promote and protect the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief and to eliminate all forms of hatred, intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief, as noted at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held in Durban, South Africa, from 31 August to 8 September 2001, as well as at the Durban Review Conference, held in Geneva from 20 to 24 April 2009,

*Recalling* that States have the primary responsibility to promote and protect human rights, including the human rights of persons belonging to religious minorities, including their right to exercise their religion or belief freely,

*Concerned* that State and non-State actors sometimes tolerate or encourage acts of violence, or credible threats of violence, against persons belonging to religious communities and religious minorities,

<sup>686</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malta, Marshall Islands, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), North Macedonia, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Türkiye, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uruguay.

<sup>687</sup> See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

<sup>688</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>689</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/78/53)*, chap. V, sect. A.

<sup>690</sup> A/HRC/22/17/Add.4, appendix.

*Concerned also* by the increasing number of laws and regulations that limit the freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief and by the implementation of existing laws in a discriminatory manner,

*Convinced* of the need to urgently address the rapid rise in various parts of the world of religious extremism that affects the human rights of individuals, in particular persons belonging to religious communities and religious minorities, the situations of violence and discrimination that affect many individuals, particularly women and children, on the basis of or in the name of religion or belief or in accordance with cultural and traditional practices, and the misuse of religion or belief for ends inconsistent with the principles set out in the Charter of the United Nations and in other relevant instruments of the United Nations,

*Seriously concerned* about all attacks on religious places, sites and shrines that violate international law, in particular international human rights law and international humanitarian law, including any deliberate destruction of relics and monuments, and including also those carried out in connection with incitement to national, racial or religious hatred,

*Emphasizing* that States, regional organizations, national human rights institutions, non-governmental organizations, religious bodies, the media and civil society as a whole have an important role to play in promoting tolerance and respect for religious and cultural diversity and in the universal promotion and protection of human rights, including freedom of religion or belief,

*Underlining* the importance of education, including human rights education, in the promotion of tolerance, which involves the acceptance by the public of and its respect for diversity, including with regard to religious expression, and underlining also the fact that education, in particular at school, should contribute in a meaningful way to promoting tolerance and the elimination of discrimination based on religion or belief,

1. *Stresses* that everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief, which includes the freedom to have or not to have, or to adopt, a religion or belief of one's own choice and the freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest one's religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance, including the right to change one's religion or belief;

2. *Emphasizes* that the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief applies equally to all persons, regardless of their religion or belief and without any discrimination as to their equal protection by the law;

3. *Strongly condemns* violations of freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief, as well as all forms of intolerance, discrimination and violence based on religion or belief;

4. *Recognizes with deep concern* the overall rise in instances of discrimination, intolerance and violence, regardless of the actors, directed against members of many religious and other communities in various parts of the world, including cases motivated by Islamophobia, antisemitism and Christianophobia and prejudices against persons of other religions or beliefs;

5. *Reaffirms* that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion or belief, as this may have adverse consequences for the enjoyment of the right to freedom of religion or belief of all members of the religious communities concerned;

6. *Strongly condemns* continuing violence and acts of terrorism targeting individuals, including persons belonging to religious minorities, on the basis of or in the name of religion or belief, and underlines the importance of a comprehensive and inclusive community-based preventive approach, involving a wide set of actors, including civil society and religious communities;

7. *Recalls* that States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish acts of violence, intimidation and harassment against a person or a group of persons belonging to a religious minority, regardless of the perpetrator, and that failure to do so may constitute a human rights violation;

8. *Emphasizes* that freedom of religion or belief, freedom of opinion and expression, the right to peaceful assembly and the right to freedom of association are interdependent, interrelated and mutually reinforcing, and stresses the role that these rights can play in the fight against all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief;

9. *Strongly condemns* any advocacy of hatred based on religion or belief that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, whether it involves the use of print, audiovisual or electronic media or any other means;

10. *Expresses concern* at the persistence of institutionalized social intolerance and discrimination practised against many on the grounds of religion or belief, and emphasizes that legal procedures pertaining to religious or belief-based groups and places of worship are not a prerequisite for the exercise of the right to manifest one's religion or belief and that such procedures, when legally required at the national or local level, should be non-discriminatory in order to contribute to the effective protection of the right of all persons to practise their religion or belief, either individually or in community with others and in public or private;

11. *Recognizes with concern* the challenges that persons in vulnerable situations, including persons deprived of their liberty, refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced persons, children, persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and migrants, as well as women, are facing as regards their ability to freely exercise their right to freedom of religion or belief;

12. *Emphasizes* that, as underlined by the Human Rights Committee, restrictions on the freedom to manifest one's religion or belief are permitted only if limitations are prescribed by law, are necessary to protect public safety, order, health or morals or the fundamental rights and freedoms of others, are non-discriminatory and are applied in a manner that does not vitiate the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief;

13. *Expresses deep concern* at continued obstacles to the enjoyment of the right to freedom of religion or belief, as well as the increasing number of instances of intolerance, discrimination and violence based on religion or belief, including:

(a) Acts of violence and intolerance directed against individuals based on their religion or belief, including religious persons and persons belonging to religious minorities and other communities in various parts of the world;

(b) The rise of religious extremism in various parts of the world that affects the human rights of individuals, including persons belonging to religious minorities;

(c) Incidents of hatred, discrimination, intolerance and violence based on religion or belief, which may be associated with or manifested by the derogatory stereotyping, negative profiling and stigmatization of persons based on their religion or belief;

(d) Attacks on or the destruction of religious places, sites and shrines that violate international law, in particular international human rights law and international humanitarian law, as they have more than material significance for the dignity and lives of persons holding spiritual or religious beliefs;

(e) Instances, both in law and practice, that constitute violations of the human right to freedom of religion or belief, including of the individual right to publicly express one's spiritual and religious beliefs, taking into account the relevant articles of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, as well as other international instruments;

(f) Constitutional and legislative systems that fail to provide adequate and effective guarantees of freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief to all without distinction;

14. *Urges* States to step up their efforts to protect and promote freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief, and to that end:

(a) To ensure that their constitutional and legislative systems provide adequate and effective guarantees of freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief to all without distinction by, inter alia, providing access to justice, including by facilitating legal assistance and effective remedies in cases where the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief or the right to freely choose and practise one's religion or belief is violated, paying particular attention to persons belonging to religious minorities;

(b) To implement all accepted universal periodic review recommendations related to the promotion and protection of freedom of religion or belief;

(c) To ensure that no one within their territory and subject to their jurisdiction is deprived of the right to life, liberty and security of person because of religion or belief, to provide adequate protection to persons at risk of violent attack on the grounds of their religion or belief, to ensure that no one is subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or

degrading treatment or punishment or arbitrary arrest or detention on that account and to bring to justice all perpetrators of violations of these rights;

(d) To end violations of the human rights of women and girls and to devote particular attention to appropriate measures modifying or abolishing existing laws, regulations, customs and practices that discriminate against them, including in the exercise of their right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief, and to foster practical ways to ensure gender equality;

(e) To ensure that existing legislation is not implemented in a discriminatory manner or does not result in discrimination based on religion or belief, that no one is discriminated against on the basis of his or her religion or belief when accessing, inter alia, education, medical care, employment, humanitarian assistance or social benefits, and that everyone has the right and the opportunity to have access, on general terms of equality, to public services in their country, without any discrimination based on religion or belief;

(f) To review, whenever relevant, existing registration practices in order to ensure that such practices do not limit the right of all persons to manifest their religion or belief, either alone or in community with others and in public or private;

(g) To ensure that no official documents are withheld from the individual on the grounds of religion or belief and that everyone has the right to refrain from disclosing information concerning their religious affiliation in such documents against their will;

(h) To ensure, in particular, the right of all persons to worship, assemble or teach in connection with a religion or belief, their right to establish and maintain places for these purposes and the right of all persons to seek, receive and impart information and ideas in these areas;

(i) To ensure that, in accordance with appropriate national legislation and in conformity with international human rights law, the freedom of all persons and members of groups to establish and maintain religious, charitable or humanitarian institutions is fully respected and protected;

(j) To ensure that all public officials and civil servants, including members of law enforcement bodies, and personnel of detention facilities, the military and educators, in the course of fulfilling their official duties, respect freedom of religion or belief and do not discriminate for reasons based on religion or belief, and that they receive all necessary and appropriate awareness-raising, education or training on respect for freedom of religion or belief;

(k) To take all necessary and appropriate action, in conformity with international standards of human rights, to combat hatred, discrimination, intolerance and acts of violence, intimidation and coercion motivated by intolerance based on religion or belief, as well as incitement to hostility and violence, with particular regard to persons belonging to religious minorities in all parts of the world;

(l) To promote, through education and other means, mutual understanding, tolerance, non-discrimination and respect in all matters relating to freedom of religion or belief by encouraging, in society at large, a wider knowledge of the diversity of religions and beliefs and of the history, traditions, languages and cultures of the various religious minorities existing within their jurisdiction;

(m) To prevent any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on religion or belief that impairs the recognition, enjoyment or exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis and to detect signs of intolerance that may lead to discrimination based on religion or belief;

15. *Welcomes and encourages* initiatives by the media to promote tolerance and respect for religious and cultural diversity and the universal promotion and protection of human rights, including freedom of religion or belief, and stresses the importance of unhindered participation in the media and in public discourse for all persons, regardless of their religion or belief;

16. *Stresses* the importance of a continued and strengthened dialogue in all its forms, including among and within religions or beliefs, and with broader participation, including of women, to promote greater tolerance, respect and mutual understanding, and welcomes different initiatives in this regard, including the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations initiative and the programmes led by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;



17. *Welcomes and encourages* the continuing efforts of all actors in society, including national human rights institutions, non-governmental organizations and bodies and groups based on religion or belief, to promote the implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief,<sup>691</sup> and further encourages their work in promoting freedom of religion or belief, in highlighting cases of religious intolerance, discrimination and persecution and in promoting religious tolerance;

18. *Recommends* that States, the United Nations and other actors, including national human rights institutions, non-governmental organizations and bodies and groups based on religion or belief, in their efforts to promote freedom of religion or belief, ensure the widest possible dissemination of the text of the Declaration in as many different languages as possible and promote its implementation;

19. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work and the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief;<sup>692</sup>

20. *Urges* all Governments to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur, to respond favourably to her requests to visit their countries and to provide all information and follow-up necessary for the effective fulfilment of her mandate;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the Special Rapporteur receives the resources necessary to fully discharge her mandate;

22. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session;

23. *Decides* to consider the question of the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance at its seventy-ninth session under the item entitled “Promotion and protection of human rights”.

### RESOLUTION 78/213

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/481/Add.2, para. 139)<sup>693</sup>

#### **78/213. Promotion and protection of human rights in the context of digital technologies**

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the human rights and fundamental freedoms enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights<sup>694</sup> and international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>695</sup> the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>696</sup> the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>697</sup> the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,<sup>698</sup> the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,<sup>699</sup> the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,<sup>700</sup> the Convention on the

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<sup>691</sup> Resolution 36/55.

<sup>692</sup> See A/78/207.

<sup>693</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Maldives, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), North Macedonia, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Ukraine, United States of America, Uruguay and Zambia.

<sup>694</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>695</sup> See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

<sup>696</sup> Ibid.

<sup>697</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>698</sup> Ibid., vol. 1465, No. 24841.

<sup>699</sup> Ibid., vol. 660, No. 9464.

<sup>700</sup> Ibid., vol. 2515, No. 44910.

Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,<sup>701</sup> as well as the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,<sup>702</sup>

*Recalling* all relevant General Assembly resolutions, all relevant Human Rights Council resolutions, as well as the agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-seventh session, on 17 March 2023,<sup>703</sup>

*Recalling also* the World Summit on the Information Society, as well as the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the Summit,<sup>704</sup> and noting the discussions taking place in the Internet Governance Forum,

*Taking note with appreciation* of the Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,<sup>705</sup>

*Taking note* of all the relevant reports of the Secretary-General, including the report entitled “Road map for digital cooperation: implementation of the recommendations of the High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation”,<sup>706</sup> as well as all relevant reports of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, including the report on human rights and technical standard-setting processes for new and emerging digital technologies,<sup>707</sup> and all relevant reports of the special procedure mandate holders,

*Recalling* that the obligation and the primary responsibility to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms lie with the State,

*Reiterating* that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing, and affirming that the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online,

*Recognizing* the global and open nature of the Internet and the rapid advancement in information and communications technologies as a driving force in accelerating progress towards development in its various forms, including in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals,<sup>708</sup>

*Noting* that the increasing use of digital technologies has impacts on the enjoyment of a wide range of human rights, and recognizing that digital technologies can work as enablers of human rights, but that, without appropriate safeguards, they can be used to seriously threaten the protection and full enjoyment of human rights,

*Recalling* that, in line with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights,<sup>709</sup> business enterprises must meet their responsibility to avoid causing or contributing to adverse human rights impacts through their own activities, and address such impacts as they occur, as well as for business enterprises to seek to prevent or mitigate adverse human rights impacts that are directly linked to their operations, products or services by their business relationships, even if they have not contributed to those impacts,

*Recognizing* the need to ensure that human rights are promoted, respected, protected and fulfilled through the entirety of digital technologies’ life cycle, including through their conception, design, development, deployment, use, evaluation and regulation, and to ensure that they are subject to adequate safeguards in order to promote a free, open, universal, interoperable, safe, secure, stable, accessible and affordable digital environment for all,

*Recognizing also* that certain applications of new and emerging digital technologies are not compatible with international human rights law, and noting that uses of new and emerging digital technologies that impact the enjoyment of human rights may lack adequate regulation and governance mechanisms, and recognizing the need for

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<sup>701</sup> Ibid., vol. 1249, No. 20378.

<sup>702</sup> [A/CONF.157/24 \(Part I\)](#), chap. III.

<sup>703</sup> *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2023, Supplement No. 7 (E/2023/27)*, chap. I, sect. A.

<sup>704</sup> Resolution [70/125](#).

<sup>705</sup> United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Forty-first Session, Paris, 9–24 November 2021*, vol. 1, *Resolutions*, annex VII.

<sup>706</sup> [A/74/821](#).

<sup>707</sup> [A/HRC/53/42](#).

<sup>708</sup> See resolution [70/1](#).

<sup>709</sup> [A/HRC/17/31](#), annex.

accountability and effective measures to prevent, mitigate and remedy potential and actual adverse human rights impacts of such technologies in line with obligations of States under international human rights law and responsibilities of business enterprises in line with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights,

*Recognizing further* that a lack of access to affordable, safe, quality and reliable technologies and services remains a critical challenge in many developing countries,

*Stressing* the importance for all Member States, and stakeholders as appropriate, to promote universal, free, open, interoperable, safe, reliable and secure use of and access to the Internet by facilitating international cooperation aimed at the development of media and information and communications facilities in all countries, by respecting and protecting human rights and by refraining from undue restrictions, such as Internet shutdowns, arbitrary or unlawful surveillance or online censorship,

*Stressing also* the need to close digital divides, both between and within countries, including the rural-urban, youth-older persons and gender digital divides, and to harness digital technologies for sustainable development and the promotion and protection of human rights, and recalling the need to emphasize quality of access to bridge digital and knowledge divides, using a multidimensional approach that includes speed, stability, affordability, safety, language, training, capacity-building, local content and accessibility, including for older persons and persons with disabilities,

*Underlining* that digital contexts provide opportunities for exercising human rights, including by improving access to information, and by seeking, receiving and imparting information and ideas of all kinds, and emphasizing that efforts to promote access to digital technologies, digital, media and information literacy, civic participation and online safety are important to bridge digital divides and ensure digital inclusion in its broader interpretation, which includes the development of digital skills,

*Recognizing* that the human right to privacy, according to which no one shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his or her privacy, family, home or correspondence, and the right to the protection of the law against such interference, is important for the enjoyment of other rights and can contribute to an individual's ability to enjoy political, economic, social and cultural rights, and noting with concern that violations or abuses of the right to privacy might affect the enjoyment of human rights, including the right to freedom of expression and to hold opinions without interference, and the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association,

*Emphasizing* that, in the digital age, technical solutions to secure and to protect the confidentiality of digital communications and transactions, including measures for strong encryption, pseudonymization and anonymity, are important to ensure the enjoyment of human rights, in particular the rights to privacy, to freedom of opinion and expression and to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, and recognizing that Member States should promote such measures and refrain from employing unlawful or arbitrary surveillance techniques, which may include forms of hacking,

*Noting with deep concern* the use of technological tools developed by the private surveillance industry and by private or public actors to undertake surveillance, hacking of devices and systems, interception and disruption of communications, and data collection, interfering with the professional and private lives of individuals, including those engaged in the promotion and defence of human rights and fundamental freedoms, journalists and other media workers, in violation or abuse of their human rights,

*Stressing* that, in times when physical assemblies are restricted, measures should be taken to ensure that access to the Internet and online information and ideas of all kinds extends to everyone, and that all restrictions are in line with international law, including with the principles of legality, necessity, proportionality and non-discrimination,

*Unequivocally condemning* the use of blanket Internet shutdowns and unlawful restrictions to intentionally prevent or disrupt access to, or the dissemination of, information online, and stressing the importance of a free, open, interoperable, reliable and secure Internet,

*Noting* that the use of algorithmic or automated decision-making processes can negatively affect the enjoyment of human rights, including by perpetuating stereotypes or by resulting in discrimination, in particular when the data used for the training of algorithms are non-representative, inaccurate or irrelevant,

*Noting also* that the use of data collection, data extraction and algorithms to target content towards online users may undermine user agency and access to information online, and noting further that the collection, processing, use,

storage and sharing of personal data, including for reuse, sale or multiple resale, risks infringing on the user's human rights,

*Noting further* that the use of artificial intelligence can contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights and has the potential to transform Governments and societies, economic sectors and the world of work,

*Noting with concern* that artificial intelligence or machine-learning technologies, without human rights safeguards, as well as proper technical, regulatory, legal and ethical safeguards, and without adequate and effective evaluation and feedback mechanisms, may pose the risk of reinforcing systemic, racial and gender-based discrimination and can lead to decisions that have the potential to affect the enjoyment of human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights, and affect non-discrimination, and recognizing the need to prevent racial and otherwise discriminatory outcomes and apply international human rights law and data-protection frameworks in the conception, design, development, deployment, use, evaluation and regulation of these technologies and practices,

*Recognizing* that persons in vulnerable situations, including children, may be particularly exposed to online risks, and that there is a need to take steps to ensure that the digital environment, including safety information, protective strategies, services and forums relating to it, is accessible, inclusive and safe,

*Stressing* the importance of all women's and girls' empowerment by enhancing their equal access to information and communications technology, promoting digital, media and information literacy and connectivity to enable the participation and leadership of women and girls in education and training, as well as in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, which is also essential to respecting and promoting all human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights, and ensuring that women can participate in and contribute to society at large on equal terms and without discrimination, particularly in the realms of economic and political participation, and reaffirming that the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and girls in the digital age is critical to achieving gender equality, sustainable development, peace and democracy,

*Recognizing* that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance have a deep negative impact on the enjoyment of human rights and therefore require a comprehensive response, both online and offline, which can contribute to the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence and harassment, including in digital contexts,

1. *Affirms* that human rights and fundamental freedoms must be protected, online and offline;
2. *Encourages* all Member States to promote an open, safe, secure, stable, free, interoperable, inclusive, accessible and peaceful digital technology environment in accordance with international law, including the obligations enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international human rights law;
3. *Calls upon* all Member States:
  - (a) To consider developing or maintaining and implementing adequate legislation, in consultation with all relevant stakeholders, including business enterprises, international organizations, civil society and technical and academic communities, with effective sanctions and appropriate remedies, that protects individuals against violations and abuses of their human rights in the digital context;
  - (b) To provide effective and up-to-date guidance to business enterprises on how to respect human rights by advising on appropriate methods, including human rights due diligence, and on how to consider effectively issues of vulnerability and accessibility;
  - (c) To ensure that victims of violations and abuses have effective and accessible remedy, that threats and acts of violence are investigated effectively, and that those responsible are brought to justice in order to combat impunity;
4. *Encourages* the private sector and all relevant stakeholders to meet their responsibility to respect human rights in line with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework and applicable domestic laws;
5. *Recognizes* the importance of combating all forms of violence in the context of digital technologies, including sexual exploitation and abuse, harassment, stalking, bullying, non-consensual sharing of personal sexually explicit content, threats and acts of sexual and gender-based violence, death threats, arbitrary or unlawful surveillance and tracking, trafficking in persons, extortion, censorship, illegal access to digital accounts, mobile telephones and other electronic devices, in line with international human rights law;

6. *Calls upon* the private sector and all relevant stakeholders to ensure that respect for human rights is incorporated into the conception, design, development, deployment, operation, use, evaluation and regulation of all new and emerging digital technologies and to provide for redress and effective remedy for the human rights abuses that they may cause, contribute to, or to which they may be directly linked;

7. *Encourages* online platforms, including social media companies, to review their business models and ensure that their design and development processes, their business operations, data-collection and data-processing practices are in line with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and emphasizes the importance of conducting human rights due diligence of their products, particularly of the role of algorithms and ranking systems in amplifying disinformation and hate speech, and calls upon them to adopt and make publicly available, after consultation with all relevant stakeholders, clear, transparent, narrowly defined content and advertising policies on countering disinformation and advocacy of hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence that are in line with international human rights law, and emphasizing the role of States to put in place safeguards so that companies, including technology companies, meet their responsibilities to respect human rights;

8. *Calls upon* Member States to work with relevant stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society, to take steps to close all digital divides, including through creating an enabling and inclusive regulatory environment for small and non-profit Internet operators, and to promote digital inclusion by addressing the challenges associated with access, affordability, safety, digital literacy and digital skills, ensuring that the benefits of new and emerging digital technologies are available to all without discrimination of any kind;

9. *Stresses* that many Member States all over the world, especially developing countries, need support in expanding infrastructure, cooperation in science, technology and innovation and capacity-building, including human and institutional capacity-building, to ensure the accessibility, affordability and availability of the Internet in order to bridge digital divides, to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to ensure the full enjoyment of human rights;

10. *Calls upon* Member States to encourage the inclusiveness of innovation, especially with regard to local communities, women, persons with disabilities, older persons and youth, and to ensure that the scaling and diffusion of new technologies are inclusive and do not create further divides;

11. *Also calls upon* Member States to adopt specific measures to close the gender digital divide and to ensure that particular attention is paid to access, affordability, digital literacy, privacy and online safety, to enhance the use of digital technologies and to mainstream a disability, gender and racial equality perspective in policy decisions and the frameworks that guide them;

12. *Affirms* the important role that the exercise of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and the full respect for the freedom to seek, receive and impart information plays in strengthening democracy, promoting pluralism and multiculturalism, enhancing transparency and press freedom and countering disinformation and hate speech;

13. *Also affirms* the responsibility of States to counter, as appropriate, and in accordance with international human rights law, the dissemination of disinformation, which can be designed and implemented so as to mislead, to violate and abuse human rights, and expressing concern that the dissemination of disinformation can violate and abuse human rights, including privacy and the freedom of individuals to seek, receive and impart information, and to incite all forms of violence, hatred, discrimination and hostility, inter alia, racism, xenophobia, negative stereotyping and stigmatization, and stresses that responses to the spread of disinformation and misinformation must be grounded in international human rights law, including the principles of legality, necessity, proportionality and non-discrimination and underlines the importance of free, independent, plural and diverse media and of providing and promoting access to independent, fact-based information to counter disinformation and misinformation;

14. *Calls upon* Member States to strengthen international cooperation, including with international and regional organizations, and cooperation with the private sector, including technology companies, national human rights institutions and civil society in order to share expertise, knowledge and effective practices in addressing disinformation and advocacy of hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, including in the development and use of digital technologies;

15. *Urges* Member States to refrain from interference with the use of technologies such as encryption and anonymity tools, and from employing unlawful or arbitrary surveillance techniques, including through hacking;

16. *Calls upon* Member States to ensure that targeted surveillance technologies are only used in accordance with the human rights principles of legality, necessity and proportionality, and that legal mechanisms of redress and effective remedies are available for victims of surveillance-related violations and abuses;

17. *Emphasizes* that, in the digital age, encryption and anonymity tools have become vital for many journalists and media workers to freely exercise their work and their enjoyment of human rights, in particular their rights to freedom of expression and to privacy, including to secure their communications and to protect the confidentiality of their sources, and calls upon States not to interfere with the use by journalists and media workers of such technologies and to ensure that any restrictions thereon comply with the obligations of States under international human rights law;

18. *Calls upon* Member States to refrain from imposing restrictions on the free flow of information and ideas that are inconsistent with relevant obligations under international law, including articles 19 and 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, through practices such as the use of Internet shutdowns and online censorship to intentionally prevent or disrupt access to or the dissemination of information, and from using digital technologies to silence, unlawfully or arbitrarily surveil or harass individuals or groups, including in the context of peaceful assemblies;

19. *Affirms* that human rights and fundamental freedoms must be respected, protected and promoted throughout the life cycle of artificial intelligence systems and that new and emerging digital technologies should provide new means to promote, protect and exercise human rights and not to infringe upon them;

20. *Calls upon* Member States and, where applicable, other stakeholders:

(a) To conduct human rights due diligence, including regular, comprehensive human rights impact assessments of digital technologies, including artificial intelligence, throughout their life cycle, including their conception, design, development, deployment, use, sale, procurement or operation, in order to prevent and mitigate their adverse human rights impacts, and ensuring effective remedies as well as human oversight, accountability and legal responsibility;

(b) To prevent harm to individuals caused by artificial intelligence systems and to refrain from or cease the use of artificial intelligence applications that are impossible to operate in compliance with international human rights law or that pose undue risks to the enjoyment of human rights, unless and until the adequate safeguards to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms are in place;

(c) To promote the transparency of artificial intelligence systems and adequate explainability of artificial intelligence-supported decisions, taking into account the various human rights risks arising from these technologies;

(d) To ensure that digital or biometric identity programmes are designed, implemented and operated after appropriate human rights safeguards, as well as technical, regulatory, legal and ethical safeguards, are in place, and in line with international human rights law;

21. *Encourages* Member States and business enterprises to ensure participation of all relevant stakeholders in decisions on the development, deployment and use of artificial intelligence;

22. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the question at its eightieth session.

## RESOLUTION 78/214

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/481/Add.2, para. 139)<sup>710</sup>

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<sup>710</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Australia, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Canada, Central African Republic, Egypt (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Eritrea, Japan, Peru, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).



**78/214. Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons, based on religion or belief**

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* the commitment made by all States under the Charter of the United Nations to promote and encourage universal respect for and observance of all human rights and fundamental freedoms without distinction as to, inter alia, religion or belief,

*Welcoming* Human Rights Council resolutions [16/18](#) of 24 March 2011,<sup>711</sup> [19/25](#) of 23 March 2012,<sup>712</sup> [22/31](#) of 22 March 2013,<sup>713</sup> [28/29](#) of 27 March 2015,<sup>714</sup> [31/26](#) of 24 March 2016,<sup>715</sup> [34/32](#) of 24 March 2017,<sup>716</sup> [37/38](#) of 23 March 2018,<sup>717</sup> [40/25](#) of 22 March 2019,<sup>718</sup> [43/34](#) of 22 June 2020,<sup>719</sup> [46/27](#) of 24 March 2021,<sup>720</sup> [49/31](#) of 1 April 2022<sup>721</sup> and [52/38](#) of 4 April 2023,<sup>722</sup> and General Assembly resolutions [67/178](#) of 20 December 2012, [68/169](#) of 18 December 2013, [69/174](#) of 18 December 2014, [70/157](#) of 17 December 2015, [71/195](#) of 19 December 2016, [72/176](#) of 19 December 2017, [73/164](#) of 17 December 2018, [74/164](#) of 18 December 2019, [75/187](#) of 16 December 2020, [76/157](#) of 16 December 2021 and [77/225](#) of 15 December 2022,

*Reaffirming* the obligation of States to prohibit discrimination and violence on the basis of religion or belief and to implement measures to guarantee the equal and effective protection of the law,

*Reaffirming also* that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated,

*Reaffirming further* that the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights<sup>723</sup> provides, inter alia, that everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief, which shall include freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of one's choice and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, and to manifest one's religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching,

*Reaffirming* the positive role that the exercise of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and full respect for the freedom to seek, receive and impart information can play in strengthening democracy and combating religious intolerance, and reaffirming further that the exercise of the right to freedom of expression carries with it special duties and responsibilities, in accordance with article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

*Expressing deep concern* at those acts that advocate religious hatred and thereby undermine the spirit of tolerance and respect for diversity,

*Reaffirming* that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group,

*Condemning* the criminal acts committed by terrorist and extremist groups and movements against persons based on their religion or belief, and deeply regretting attempts to link such acts to any one specific religion or belief,

*Reaffirming* that violence can never be an acceptable response to acts of intolerance on the basis of religion or belief,

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<sup>711</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/66/53)*, chap. II, sect. A.

<sup>712</sup> *Ibid.*, *Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53* and corrigendum ([A/67/53](#) and [A/67/53/Corr.1](#)), chap. III, sect. A.

<sup>713</sup> *Ibid.*, *Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/68/53)*, chap. IV, sect. A.

<sup>714</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/70/53)*, chap. III, sect. A.

<sup>715</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/71/53)*, chap. IV, sect. A.

<sup>716</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/72/53)*, chap. IV, sect. A.

<sup>717</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/73/53)*, chap. IV, sect. A.

<sup>718</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/74/53)*, chap. IV, sect. A.

<sup>719</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-fifth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/75/53)*, chap. IV, sect. A.

<sup>720</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/76/53)*, chap. V, sect. A.

<sup>721</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/77/53)*, chap. VI, sect. A.

<sup>722</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/78/53)*, chap. V, sect. A.

<sup>723</sup> See resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

*Recalling* its adoption of resolutions [69/140](#) of 15 December 2014, [70/19](#) of 3 December 2015, [71/249](#) of 22 December 2016, [72/136](#) of 11 December 2017, [73/129](#) of 12 December 2018, [74/23](#) of 12 December 2019, [75/26](#) of 2 December 2020 and [76/69](#) of 9 December 2021 on the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace, [69/312](#) of 6 July 2015 on the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and [67/104](#) of 17 December 2012, in which the General Assembly proclaimed the period 2013–2022 as the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures,

*Deeply concerned* about continuing incidents of intolerance, discrimination and violence against persons based on their religion or belief in all regions of the world,

*Deploring* any advocacy of discrimination or violence on the basis of religion or belief,

*Strongly deploring* all acts of violence against persons on the basis of their religion or belief, as well as any such acts directed against their homes, businesses, properties, schools, cultural centres or places of worship,

*Strongly deploring also* all attacks on and in religious places, sites and shrines, which are in violation of international law, in particular human rights law and international humanitarian law, including any deliberate destruction of relics and monuments,

*Deeply concerned* about the prevalence of impunity in some instances, and the lack of accountability in some cases, in addressing violence against persons on the basis of religion or belief in public and private spheres, and stressing the importance of making the necessary efforts to raise awareness to address the spread of hate speech against persons on the basis of religion or belief,

*Concerned* about actions that wilfully exploit tensions or target individuals on the basis of their religion or belief, in particular actions that seek to prevent their exercise and full enjoyment of freedom of religion or belief,

*Expressing deep concern* at the instances of intolerance and discrimination and acts of violence occurring in the world, including cases motivated by discrimination against persons belonging to religious minorities, in addition to the negative projection of the followers of religions and the enforcement of measures that specifically discriminate against persons on the basis of religion or belief,

*Expressing concern* at the growing manifestations of intolerance based on religion or belief, which can generate hatred and violence among individuals from and within different nations and which may have serious implications at the national, regional and international levels, and in this regard emphasizing the importance of respect for religious and cultural diversity, as well as interreligious, interfaith and intercultural dialogue aimed at promoting a culture of tolerance and respect among individuals, societies and nations,

*Recognizing* the valuable contribution of people of all religions or beliefs to humanity and the contribution that dialogue among religious groups can make towards an improved awareness and understanding of the common values shared by all humankind,

*Underlining* the fact that States, regional organizations, national human rights institutions, non-governmental organizations, religious bodies and the media have an important role to play in promoting tolerance and respect for religious and cultural diversity and in the universal promotion and protection of human rights, including freedom of religion or belief,

*Underlining also* the importance of raising awareness about different cultures and religions or beliefs and of education in the promotion of tolerance, which involves the acceptance by the public of and its respect for religious and cultural diversity, including with regard to religious expression, and underlining further the fact that education, in particular at school, should contribute in a meaningful way to promoting tolerance and the elimination of discrimination based on religion or belief,

*Underlining further* that educational measures, youth forums, strategic plans and public information and media campaigns, including online platforms, may contribute in a meaningful way to promoting tolerance and the elimination of negative stereotyping, stigmatization, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons, based on religion or belief,

*Recognizing* that working together to enhance the implementation of existing legal regimes that protect individuals against discrimination and hate crimes, increasing interreligious, interfaith and intercultural efforts and

expanding human rights education are important first steps in combating incidents of intolerance, discrimination and violence against individuals on the basis of religion or belief,

*Recalling* its resolution 72/241, entitled “A world against violence and violent extremism”, adopted by consensus on 20 December 2017, welcoming the leading role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in promoting intercultural dialogue, the work of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, the work of the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures in Alexandria, Egypt, and the work of the King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue in Vienna, and recalling also its resolution 65/5 of 20 October 2010 on World Interfaith Harmony Week, proposed by King Abdullah II of Jordan,

*Welcoming* in this regard all international, regional and national initiatives aimed at promoting interreligious, intercultural and interfaith harmony and combating discrimination against individuals on the basis of religion or belief, and recalling the initiative of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide on the role of religious leaders in preventing incitement that could lead to atrocity crimes and the declaration of its forum held in Fez, Morocco, on 23 and 24 April 2015, the Istanbul Process for Combating Intolerance, Discrimination and Incitement to Hatred and/or Violence on the Basis of Religion or Belief, the announcement on 6 October 2016 of the establishment by the United Arab Emirates of the International Institute for Tolerance for promoting the value of tolerance among nations, the Amman Declaration on Youth, Peace and Security adopted on 22 August 2015 and the seventh Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, held in Astana on 14 and 15 September 2022, as well as the initiative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and its outcome document, the Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, adopted in Rabat on 5 October 2012,<sup>724</sup>

*Taking note with appreciation* of the continuation of the organization of workshops and meetings within the framework of the Istanbul Process and the promotion of effective implementation of Human Rights Council resolution 16/18 to counter global violence, religious discrimination and intolerance, in particular the sixth implementation meeting of the Process, hosted by Singapore on 20 and 21 July 2016,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>725</sup>
2. *Expresses deep concern* at the continued serious instances of derogatory stereotyping, negative profiling and stigmatization of persons based on their religion or belief, as well as programmes and agendas pursued by extremist individuals, organizations and groups aimed at creating and perpetuating negative stereotypes about religious groups, in particular when condoned by Governments;
3. *Expresses concern* that the number of incidents of religious intolerance, discrimination and related violence, as well as of negative stereotyping of individuals on the basis of religion or belief, continues to rise around the world, which may have serious implications at the national, regional and international levels, condemns, in this context, any advocacy of religious hatred against individuals that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, and urges States to take effective measures, as set forth in the present resolution and consistent with their obligations under international human rights law, to address and combat such incidents;
4. *Condemns* any advocacy of religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, whether it involves the use of print, audiovisual or electronic media or any other means;
5. *Recognizes* that the open public debate of ideas, as well as interreligious, interfaith and intercultural dialogue, at the local, national and international levels, can be among the best protections against religious intolerance and can play a positive role in strengthening democracy and combating religious hatred, and expresses its conviction that a continuing dialogue on these issues can help to overcome existing misperceptions;
6. *Also recognizes* the strong need for global awareness about the possible serious implications of incitement to discrimination and violence, which may have serious implications at the national, regional and international levels, and urges all Member States to make renewed efforts to develop educational systems that promote all human rights

<sup>724</sup> A/HRC/22/17/Add.4, appendix.

<sup>725</sup> A/78/241.

## V. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Third Committee

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and fundamental freedoms that enhance tolerance for religious and cultural diversity, which is fundamental to promoting tolerant, peaceful and harmonious multicultural societies;

7. *Calls upon* all States to take the following actions, as called for by the Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, to foster a domestic environment of religious tolerance, peace and respect by:

(a) Encouraging the creation of collaborative networks to build mutual understanding, promoting dialogue and inspiring constructive action towards shared policy goals and the pursuit of tangible outcomes, such as servicing projects in the fields of education, health, conflict prevention, employment, integration and media education;

(b) Creating an appropriate mechanism within Governments to, inter alia, identify and address potential areas of tension between members of different religious communities and assisting with conflict prevention and mediation;

(c) Encouraging the training of government officials in effective outreach strategies;

(d) Encouraging the efforts of leaders to discuss within their communities the causes of discrimination and developing strategies to counter those causes;

(e) Speaking out against intolerance, including advocacy of religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence;

(f) Adopting measures to criminalize incitement to imminent violence based on religion or belief;

(g) Understanding the need to combat denigration and the negative religious stereotyping of persons, as well as incitement to religious hatred, by strategizing and harmonizing actions at the local, national, regional and international levels through, inter alia, education and awareness-raising;

(h) Recognizing that the open, constructive and respectful debate of ideas, as well as interreligious, interfaith and intercultural dialogue, at the local, national, regional and international levels, can play a positive role in combating religious hatred, incitement and violence;

8. *Also calls upon* all States:

(a) To take effective measures to ensure that public functionaries, in the conduct of their public duties, do not discriminate against individuals on the basis of religion or belief;

(b) To foster religious freedom and pluralism by promoting the ability of members of all religious communities to manifest their religion and to contribute openly and on an equal footing to society;

(c) To encourage the representation and meaningful participation of individuals, irrespective of their religion or belief, in all sectors of society;

(d) To make a strong effort to counter religious profiling, which is understood to be the invidious use of religion as a criterion in conducting questioning, searches and other investigative law enforcement procedures;

9. *Further calls upon* all States to adopt measures and policies to promote full respect for and protection of places of worship and religious sites, cemeteries and shrines and to take protective measures in cases where they are vulnerable to vandalism or destruction;

10. *Calls for* strengthened international efforts to foster a global dialogue for the promotion of a culture of tolerance and peace at all levels, based on respect for human rights and diversity of religions and beliefs;

11. *Encourages* all States to consider providing updates on efforts made in this regard as part of ongoing reporting to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and in this respect requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to include those updates in his reports to the Human Rights Council;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session a report that includes information provided by the High Commissioner on steps taken by States to combat intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons, based on religion or belief, as set forth in the present resolution.

## RESOLUTION 78/215

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/481/Add.2, para. 139)<sup>726</sup>

### 78/215. The safety of journalists and the issue of impunity

*The General Assembly,*

*Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,*

*Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>727</sup> and recalling relevant international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights<sup>728</sup> and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance,<sup>729</sup> as well as the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949<sup>730</sup> and the Additional Protocols thereto,<sup>731</sup>*

*Commemorating the fact that 2023 marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,*

*Recalling its previous resolutions on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity, including resolution 68/163 of 18 December 2013, in which it proclaimed 2 November as the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists, and resolutions 69/185 of 18 December 2014, 70/162 of 17 December 2015, 72/175 of 19 December 2017, 74/157 of 18 December 2019 and 76/173 of 16 December 2021,*

*Welcoming the latest report of the Secretary-General on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity, the current situation and the actions undertaken so far in relation thereto,<sup>732</sup>*

*Taking note with appreciation of the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, endorsed by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination on 12 April 2012, in which United Nations agencies, funds and programmes were invited to work with Member States towards a free and safe environment for journalists and media workers in both conflict and non-conflict situations, with a view to strengthening peace, democracy and development worldwide,*

*Recalling that the year 2022 marked the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, welcoming the activities undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to commemorate the anniversary, and taking note with appreciation of the organization of regional and thematic consultations,*

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<sup>726</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Seychelles, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu and Zambia.

<sup>727</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>728</sup> See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

<sup>729</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2716, No. 48088.

<sup>730</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 75, Nos. 970–973.

<sup>731</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

<sup>732</sup> A/78/270.

*Recalling also* Human Rights Council resolutions [21/12](#) of 27 September 2012,<sup>733</sup> [27/5](#) of 25 September 2014,<sup>734</sup> [33/2](#) of 29 September 2016,<sup>735</sup> [39/6](#) of 27 September 2018,<sup>736</sup> [45/18](#) of 6 October 2020<sup>737</sup> and [51/9](#) of 6 October 2022 on the safety of journalists,<sup>738</sup> [27/12](#) of 25 September 2014 on the World Programme for Human Rights Education,<sup>739</sup> [32/13](#) of 1 July 2016 on the promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights on the Internet,<sup>740</sup> [34/7](#) of 23 March 2017<sup>741</sup> and [48/4](#) of 7 October 2021 on the right to privacy in the digital age<sup>742</sup> and [44/12](#) of 16 July 2020 on freedom of opinion and expression,<sup>743</sup> Security Council resolutions [1325 \(2000\)](#) of 31 October 2000 on women and peace and security, [1738 \(2006\)](#) of 23 December 2006 and [2222 \(2015\)](#) of 27 May 2015, and Economic and Social Council resolution [2023/11](#) of 7 June 2023 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system,

*Taking note* of the joint road map entitled “Global Drive for Media Freedom, Access to Information and the Safety of Journalists”, developed by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization with the aim of fostering access to information, as well as furthering the prevention and protection from violations against journalists, with a special focus on women journalists, which builds on the 2020 report of the Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the safety of journalists and the danger of impunity, as well as the Windhoek+30 Declaration,

*Recalling* all other relevant reports of the Secretary-General, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and special procedures of the Human Rights Council on the safety of journalists, as well as the most recent reports of the Secretary-General on women and peace and security<sup>744</sup> and on conflict-related sexual violence,<sup>745</sup>

*Commending* the role and the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization with regard to the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity, including their collaboration to strengthen implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, and their facilitation of the commemoration of the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists on 2 November, in consultation with relevant entities within the United Nations system, Governments and relevant stakeholders, and recalling the outcome of the multi-stakeholder consultation on strengthening the implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity,

*Welcoming* the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>746</sup> and the commitments therein to, inter alia, build peaceful and inclusive societies, protect human rights and promote gender equality for sustainable development so that no one is left behind, including by ensuring public access to information and protecting fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements, and therefore recognizing the important contribution of the promotion and protection of the safety of journalists in this regard,

*Mindful* that the right to freedom of opinion and expression is a human right guaranteed to all, in accordance with article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and of the International Covenant on Civil and Political

<sup>733</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/67/53/Add.1)*, chap. III.

<sup>734</sup> *Ibid.*, *Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 53A* and corrigenda ([A/69/53/Add.1](#), [A/69/53/Add.1/Corr.1](#) and [A/69/53/Add.1/Corr.2](#)), chap. IV, sect. A.

<sup>735</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 53A* and corrigendum ([A/71/53/Add.1](#) and [A/71/53/Add.1/Corr.1](#)), chap. II.

<sup>736</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/73/53/Add.1)*, chap. III.

<sup>737</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-fifth Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/75/53/Add.1)*, chap. III.

<sup>738</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/77/53/Add.1)*, chap. III, sect. A.

<sup>739</sup> *Ibid.*, *Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 53A* and corrigenda ([A/69/53/Add.1](#), [A/69/53/Add.1/Corr.1](#) and [A/69/53/Add.1/Corr.2](#)), chap. IV, sect. A.

<sup>740</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/71/53)*, chap. V, sect. A.

<sup>741</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/72/53)*, chap. IV, sect. A.

<sup>742</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/76/53/Add.1)*, chap. IV, sect. A.

<sup>743</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-fifth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/75/53)*, chap. V, sect. A.

<sup>744</sup> [S/2023/725](#).

<sup>745</sup> [S/2023/413](#).

<sup>746</sup> Resolution [70/1](#).

Rights, and that it constitutes one of the essential foundations of a democratic society and one of the basic conditions for its progress and development,

*Acknowledging* that journalism is continuously evolving to include input from media institutions, private individuals and a range of organizations that seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, online as well as offline, in the exercise of freedom of opinion and expression, in accordance with article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, thereby contributing to the shaping of public debate,

*Recognizing* the importance of freedom of expression and of free, independent, plural and diverse media and access to information, online as well as offline, in building inclusive and peaceful knowledge societies and democracies and in fostering intercultural dialogue, peace and good governance, as well as understanding and cooperation,

*Recognizing also* the importance of public trust in and the credibility of journalism, in particular the challenges of maintaining media professionalism in an environment where new forms of media are constantly evolving and where targeted disinformation and smear campaigns to discredit the work of journalists are increasing,

*Recognizing further* that the work of journalists often puts them and their family members at specific risk of intimidation, threats, harassment and violence, which often deters journalists from continuing their work or encourages self-censorship, consequently depriving society of important information,

*Noting* the good practices of different countries aimed at the protection of journalists, as well as, inter alia, those designed for the protection of human rights defenders, that can, where applicable, be relevant to the protection of journalists,

*Urging* States to do their utmost to prevent violence, intimidation, threats and attacks against journalists and media workers, including by supporting capacity-building, training and awareness-raising in the judiciary and among law enforcement officers and military and security personnel, as well as among media organizations, journalists and civil society, regarding States' international human rights and international humanitarian law obligations and commitments relating to the safety of journalists,

*Recognizing* the efforts by States to review and, where necessary, amend laws, policies and practices that limit the ability of journalists to perform their work independently and without undue interference and to bring them fully in line with their obligations under international law,

*Emphasizing* the role of international cooperation in support of national efforts to prevent attacks and violence against journalists and in raising the capacities of States in the field of human rights, including in preventing attacks and violence against journalists, including through the provision of technical assistance, upon the request of and in accordance with the priorities set by the States concerned,

*Recognizing* that the number of people whose lives are influenced by the way information is presented is significant and that journalism influences public opinion,

*Recognizing also* the crucial role of journalists and media workers in the context of elections, including informing the public about candidates, their platforms and ongoing debates, and expressing serious concern that attacks against journalists and media workers increase during election periods,

*Recognizing further* the role of journalists and media workers, including women, in raising public awareness about climate change, environmental and disaster issues,

*Welcoming* the initiatives taken by States, media organizations and civil society organizations relevant to the safety of journalists,

*Recognizing* the role of journalists and media workers, especially women, in promoting and protecting the human rights of all women and girls, in placing their interests, needs and visions on local, national, regional and international agendas and in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of measures to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls,

*Alarmed* at instances in which political leaders, public officials and/or authorities denigrate, intimidate or threaten the media, including foreign and/or individual journalists, and media workers, which increases the risk of threats, reprisals and violence against journalists and undermines public trust in the credibility of journalism,



*Expressing serious concern* at attacks and violence against journalists and media workers in situations of armed conflict, including the specific risks faced by women journalists and media workers in this context, and recalling in this regard that journalists, media professionals and associated personnel engaged in dangerous professional missions in areas of armed conflict shall be considered civilians and shall be respected and protected as such, provided that they take no action adversely affecting their status as civilians,

*Bearing in mind* that impunity for attacks against journalists remains one of the greatest challenges to the safety of journalists and that ensuring accountability for crimes committed against journalists is a key element in preventing future attacks,

*Recognizing* the important role that national human rights institutions, where they exist, can play in promoting and protecting human rights, including the right to freedom of opinion and expression, and in addressing human rights violations and abuses against journalists through monitoring, educating and awareness-raising activities, as well as through the examination of complaints, and recognizing further that national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up can contribute to the prevention of human rights violations and abuses against journalists,

*Expressing deep concern* at the increased number of journalists and media workers who have been killed, tortured, arrested, detained, harassed and intimidated in recent years as a direct result of their profession,

*Deeply concerned* by all human rights violations and abuses committed in relation to the safety of journalists and media workers, including killing, torture, enforced disappearance, arbitrary arrest and arbitrary detention, arbitrary expulsion and physical and sexual violence, as well as intimidation, harassment, online and offline threats, the targeting of their family members or arbitrarily raiding and searching their residence, and other forms of violence of all kinds,

*Equally concerned* about incidences of extraterritorial targeting of journalists and media workers, including harassment, surveillance and killings,

*Expressing deep concern* at the growing threat to the safety of journalists posed by non-State actors, including terrorist groups and criminal organizations,

*Deeply concerned* by the specific risks faced by women journalists in relation to their work, in non-conflict as well as in armed conflict situations, where they continue to be targeted at alarming rates, underlining in this context the importance of taking a gender-responsive approach when considering measures to address the safety of journalists and media workers, online and offline, in particular to effectively tackle all forms of sexual and gender-based discrimination, violence, abuse and harassment, including sexual harassment, threats and intimidation, as well as inequality and gender stereotypes, to enable all women to enter and remain in journalism on terms of equality and non-discrimination while ensuring their greatest possible safety, and to ensure that the experiences and concerns of women journalists are effectively addressed and gender stereotypes in the media are adequately tackled,

*Deeply concerned also* that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic had significant implications for the work, health and safety of journalists and media workers, and in this regard concerned about the lasting consequences of the economic impact of the pandemic, which increases the vulnerability of journalists, especially women journalists, and weakens media sustainability, independence and pluralism and worsens the risk of the spreading of misinformation and disinformation by limiting access to a wide range of reliable information and opinions,

*Alarmed* at threats against, and arrests and enforced or involuntary disappearances, as well as disproportionate and undue restrictions on accreditation, access to information and freedom of movement of, journalists and media workers linked to their reporting on the pandemic,

*Acknowledging* the particular risks with regard to the safety of journalists in the digital age, including the particular vulnerability of journalists to becoming targets of unlawful or arbitrary surveillance or interception of communications, in violation of their rights to privacy and to freedom of expression,

*Noting with concern* that, while the use of artificial intelligence, including machine-learning technologies and generative artificial intelligence, may serve as a helpful tool, it may also, without proper technical, regulatory, legal and ethical safeguards in line with human rights obligations, pose risks to media and the safety of journalists and media workers, including through enabling online threats and harassment and the spreading of misinformation and disinformation,

*Recognizing* that national legal frameworks consistent with States' international human rights obligations and commitments are an essential condition for a safe and enabling environment for journalists, and expressing deep concern about the misuse of national laws, policies and practices to hinder or limit the ability of journalists to perform their work independently and without undue interference,

*Expressing serious concern* at the rise of strategic lawsuits against public participation, including by business entities, to exercise pressure, intimidate or exhaust the resources and morale of journalists, and thereby stop them from performing their work, including on matters of public interest,

*Stressing* the need for greater emphasis on prevention measures and the creation of enabling legal frameworks for freedom of expression to ensure a safe and enabling environment for journalists and media workers, including women journalists working on sexual violence in conflict,

1. *Condemns unequivocally* all attacks, reprisals and violence against journalists and media workers, such as torture, extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrest, arbitrary detention and expulsion, as well as intimidation, threats and harassment, online and offline, including through attacks on, or the forced closure of, their offices and media outlets, in both conflict and non-conflict situations;

2. *Also condemns unequivocally* extraterritorial targeting of journalists and media workers, including harassment, surveillance and killings and calls upon all States to cease and refrain from these measures, further condemns unequivocally the specific attacks on women journalists and media workers in relation to their work, such as all forms of sexual and gender-based discrimination and violence, including online and offline sexual harassment, intimidation and incitement to hatred against women journalists, and calls upon States to tackle these issues as part of broader efforts to promote and protect the human rights of all women, eliminate gender inequality and tackle gender-based stereotypes in society;

3. *Stresses the importance* of the full respect for the right to seek, receive and impart information, as included in the right to freedom of opinion and expression, and in this regard for the freedom of journalists to have access to information and the right of the general public to receive media output, and that the safety of journalists and media workers is indispensable to ensuring these rights;

4. *Strongly condemns* the prevailing impunity for attacks and violence against journalists, and expresses concern that the vast majority of these crimes go unpunished, which in turn contributes to the recurrence of these crimes;

5. *Calls upon* States to develop and implement effective and transparent legal frameworks and measures for the protection of journalists and media workers and for combating impunity, taking a gender-responsive approach, including, where appropriate, through the creation and strengthening of special investigative units or independent commissions, the appointment of a specialized prosecutor and the adoption of specific protocols and methods of investigation and prosecution;

6. *Also calls upon* States to take appropriate measures to protect journalists and media workers from strategic lawsuits against public participation, including by adopting laws and policies that prevent and/or alleviate such cases and provide support to victims;

7. *Urges* the immediate and unconditional release of journalists and media workers who have been arbitrarily arrested, arbitrarily detained or taken hostage or who have become victims of enforced disappearances;

8. *Calls upon* all States to take into account the specific role, exposure and vulnerability of journalists and media workers observing, monitoring, recording and reporting protests and assemblies, and the need to protect their safety, even if a protest has been declared unlawful or is dispersed;

9. *Encourages* States to take the opportunity of the proclamation of 2 November as the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists to raise awareness regarding the issue of the safety of journalists and to launch concrete initiatives in this regard;

10. *Requests* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in consultation with relevant entities of the United Nations system, and mindful of the provisions of the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980, to continue to facilitate the implementation of the International Day in collaboration with Governments and relevant stakeholders;

11. *Urges* Member States to do their utmost to prevent violence, threats and attacks targeting journalists and media workers, to ensure accountability through the conduct of impartial, speedy, thorough, independent and effective investigations into all alleged violence, threats and attacks against journalists and media workers, including by following and exhausting lines of enquiry that determine whether violence, threats and attacks result from the journalistic activities of the victims, in particular sexual and gender-based violence against women journalists and media workers in armed conflict and non-conflict situations, falling within their jurisdiction, to bring perpetrators, including those who command, conspire to commit, aid and abet or cover up such crimes, to justice, and to ensure that victims and their families have access to appropriate remedies;

12. *Urges* political leaders, public officials and/or authorities to refrain from denigrating, intimidating or threatening the media, including individual journalists and media workers, or from using misogynist or any discriminatory language towards women journalists, which thereby undermines trust in the credibility of journalists as well as respect for the importance of independent journalism;

13. *Calls upon* States to create and maintain, in law and in practice, a safe and enabling environment for journalists to perform their work independently and without undue interference, taking a gender-responsive approach, inter alia, by means of:

(a) Legislative measures, including by ensuring that laws also apply online;

(b) Supporting the judiciary in considering training, capacity-building and awareness-raising and supporting training, capacity-building and awareness-raising among law enforcement officers and military personnel, as well as among journalists and civil society, regarding international human rights and international humanitarian law obligations and commitments relating to the safety of journalists, including with a strong focus on combating, both online and offline, sexual and gender-based discrimination and violence against women journalists, as well as the particularities of online threats and harassment of women journalists;

(c) Regular monitoring and reporting of attacks against journalists;

(d) Collecting and analysing concrete quantitative and qualitative data on online and offline attacks or violence against journalists, that are disaggregated by, among other factors, sex;

(e) Publicly and systematically condemning online and offline attacks, harassment and violence against journalists and media workers;

(f) Dedicating the resources necessary to investigate and prosecute such attacks and to develop and implement gender-responsive strategies for combating impunity for attacks and violence against journalists, including by using, where appropriate, good practices such as those identified in Human Rights Council resolution 33/2;

(g) Putting in place safe gender-responsive preventive measures and investigative procedures, in order to protect journalists, especially women journalists;

(h) Encouraging the establishment of mechanisms for journalists to report online and offline attacks and threats against them, and providing victims and survivors with adequate support, including legal and psychosocial support;

(i) Consulting with journalists and civil society regarding how to address disinformation, including through independent fact-checking;

14. *Condemns unequivocally* measures taken by States in violation of international human rights law aiming to or that intentionally prevent or disrupt access to or the dissemination of information online and offline, aiming to undermine the work of journalists in informing the public, including through practices such as Internet shutdowns or measures to unduly restrict, block or take down media websites, such as denial of service attacks, and calls upon all States to cease and refrain from these measures, which cause irreparable harm to efforts at building inclusive and peaceful knowledge societies and democracies;

15. *Calls upon* States to ensure that measures to combat terrorism and preserve national security or public order are in compliance with their obligations under international law and do not arbitrarily or unduly hinder the work and safety of journalists, including through arbitrary arrest or detention or the threat thereof;

16. *Also calls upon* States to ensure that defamation and libel laws are not misused, in particular through excessive criminal sanctions, to illegitimately or arbitrarily censor journalists and interfere with their mission of

informing the public and, where necessary, to revise and repeal such laws, in compliance with States' obligations under international human rights law;

17. *Reaffirms* that the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online, in particular the right to freedom of opinion and expression;

18. *Emphasizes* that, in the digital age, encryption and anonymity tools have become vital for many journalists to freely exercise their work and their enjoyment of human rights, in particular their rights to freedom of expression and to privacy, including to secure their communications and to protect the confidentiality of their sources, and calls upon States not to interfere with journalists' use of such technologies and to ensure that any restrictions thereon comply with States' obligations under international human rights law;

19. *Also emphasizes* the important role that media organizations can play in providing adequate safety, risk awareness, digital security and self-protection training and guidance to journalists and media workers, together with protective equipment;

20. *Urges* States to develop and implement policies, action plans and strategies related to the promotion of media and information literacy, including by increasing awareness and capacity for prevention and acknowledging the crucial role that journalists and media workers play in ensuring access to information and thereby contributing to the promotion of human rights;

21. *Stresses* the need to ensure better cooperation and coordination at the international and regional levels, including through technical assistance and capacity-building, with regard to helping to improve the safety of journalists at the national and local levels;

22. *Calls upon* States to cooperate with relevant United Nations entities, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as well as international and regional human rights mechanisms, including the relevant special procedures of the Human Rights Council, and invites States to share information on a voluntary basis on the status of investigations into attacks and violence against journalists, including in response to requests by the Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization through the mechanism operated by its International Programme for the Development of Communication;

23. *Encourages* States to continue to address the issue of the safety of journalists through the process of the universal periodic review;

24. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to further intensify his efforts regarding the safety of journalists and media workers, and invites the agencies, organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to actively exchange information and enhance cooperation, including through the network of focal points and, at the local level, with United Nations country teams, as well as accelerate gender mainstreaming in the implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, in cooperation with Member States and under the overall coordination of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

25. *Recognizes* the important contribution of the promotion and protection of the safety of journalists in the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, in particular target 16.10, and calls upon States to strengthen national collection of disaggregated data, analysis and reporting on the number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention, torture and other harmful acts against journalists and associated media personnel, in accordance with Sustainable Development Goal indicator 16.10.1, and to do their utmost to make these data available to the relevant entities, in particular the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to further assist in the implementation of the present resolution and to report to the General Assembly at its eightieth session and to the Human Rights Council at its sixty-first session on the safety of journalists and media workers, with a special focus on the safety of those reporting on climate change, environmental and disaster issues, including women journalists and media workers, and the activities of the network of focal points in addressing the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity and taking into account the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity and the follow-up thereto.

## RESOLUTION 78/216

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/481/Add.2, para. 139)<sup>747</sup>

### **78/216. Implementing the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms through providing a safe and enabling environment for human rights defenders and ensuring their protection**

*The General Assembly,*

*Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,*

*Guided also by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>748</sup> the International Covenants on Human Rights<sup>749</sup> and other relevant instruments,*

*Recalling its resolution 53/144 of 9 December 1998, by which it adopted by consensus the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, commonly referred to as the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, and encouraging States to uphold the purposes, principles and provisions of the Declaration in the context of its implementation,*

*Stressing, in this regard, that all human rights and fundamental freedoms apply to all persons equally, including human rights defenders, in the context of the Declaration, and that these rights and freedoms must be respected, protected and fulfilled without discrimination,*

*Recalling all other previous resolutions on this subject, including its resolution 76/174 of 16 December 2021 and Human Rights Council resolutions 49/18 of 1 April 2022<sup>750</sup> and 52/4 of 3 April 2023,<sup>751</sup>*

*Recalling also resolution 68/181 of 18 December 2013 acknowledging the important and legitimate role of all women human rights defenders in the promotion and protection of human rights for all, contributing to gender equality, democracy, the rule of law, peace and security and sustainable development,*

*Noting that 2023 marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the thirtieth anniversary of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,<sup>752</sup> and acknowledging the importance of these instruments for the promotion and the protection of all human rights,*

*Noting also that 2023 marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, commonly referred to as the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders,*

*Emphasizing that these anniversaries offer a valuable opportunity to raise awareness and to reflect on achievements, best practices and challenges with regard to the full realization of human rights for all, without discrimination of any kind,*

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<sup>747</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and Vanuatu.

<sup>748</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>749</sup> Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

<sup>750</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/77/53)*, chap. VI, sect. A.

<sup>751</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/78/53)*, chap. V, sect. A.

<sup>752</sup> A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

*Reaffirming* that States have the primary responsibility and are under the obligation to respect, promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons,

*Reiterating* that all human rights and fundamental freedoms are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and should be promoted and implemented in a fair and equitable manner, without prejudice to the implementation of each of those rights and freedoms,

*Recognizing* that the work of human rights defenders to promote and protect human rights can contribute to achieving sustainable development and strengthening peace and security,

*Reaffirming* the importance of the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders and its full and effective implementation, and that promoting respect, support and protection for the activities of human rights defenders, including women, Indigenous and environmental human rights defenders, is essential to the overall enjoyment of human rights, and recognizing the substantial role that human rights defenders can play in supporting efforts to strengthen conflict prevention, peace and sustainable development, including environmental protection, through dialogue, openness, participation and justice, including by monitoring, reporting on and contributing to the promotion and protection of all civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, and other rights, including the right to development, and in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>753</sup>

*Recognizing* the positive, important and legitimate role played by human rights defenders in the promotion and protection of human rights as they relate to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, and deeply concerned that human rights defenders working in environmental matters, referred to as environmental human rights defenders, are among the human rights defenders most exposed and at risk,

*Underscoring* the positive, important and legitimate role of human rights defenders in promoting and advocating the realization of all human rights, at the local, national, regional and international levels, including by engaging with Governments and contributing to the efforts in the implementation of the obligations and commitments of States in this regard,

*Recognizing* the important and legitimate role of human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders, in the promotion and protection of human rights, including in conflict and post-conflict situations, with regard to monitoring, documenting and raising awareness about human rights violations and abuses and, as applicable, violations of international humanitarian law, promoting accountability, fighting impunity, countering hate speech, misinformation and disinformation, assisting victims of human rights violations and abuses in gaining access to justice, advancing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, raising awareness of the human rights impacts of conflict and humanitarian emergencies, and contributing to the building of accountable and responsive institutions,

*Stressing* that, in the exercise of the rights and freedoms referred to in the Declaration, human rights defenders, acting individually and in association with others, shall be subject only to such limitations as are in accordance with applicable international obligations and are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society,

*Underscoring* that the legal framework within which human rights defenders work peacefully to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms is that of national legislation consistent with the Charter and international human rights law,

*Welcoming* the steps taken by some States to create a safe and enabling environment, online and offline, for the promotion, protection and defence of human rights, and recognizing in this regard the positive efforts by authorities, national human rights institutions, where they exist, and civil society towards the development and enactment of relevant national policies, laws, programmes and practices, and the monitoring of their implementation,

*Mindful* that domestic law and administrative provisions and their application should not hinder but enable the work, both online and offline, of human rights defenders, including by avoiding any criminalization, stigmatization,

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<sup>753</sup> Resolution 70/1.

impediments, obstructions or restrictions thereof, contrary to the obligations and commitments of States under international human rights law,

*Recognizing* that, while the institutional measures for the protection of human rights defenders and the promotion of their work within the United Nations, regional organizations and national systems have grown in number since the adoption of the Declaration, they remain insufficient to address the ongoing human rights violations and abuses against human rights defenders around the world, and that strengthened efforts are required for the effective implementation of the Declaration,

*Gravely concerned* that, in many countries, persons and organizations engaged in promoting and defending human rights and fundamental freedoms frequently face threats, harassment, discrimination, attacks and unlawful or arbitrary surveillance, both online and offline, and suffer insecurity as a result of those activities, including through restrictions on freedom of association or expression or the right to peaceful assembly, arbitrary arrests and detention, abuse of criminal or civil proceedings or deplorable acts of intimidation and reprisal intended to hinder and prevent their cooperation with the United Nations and other international and regional bodies in the field of human rights, and strongly condemning all such violations and abuses,

*Deeply concerned* at the persistence of multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination against women and girls, online and offline, and all forms of violence against women and girls, including sexual and gender-based violence, noting that defamation, stigmatization, smear campaigns and hate speech against women human rights defenders often aim to undermine their legitimacy and silence them, that women promoting access to sexual and reproductive health-care services may face stigma and violence, and that restrictive or discriminatory legislation or gender stereotypes and negative social norms can amplify these risks and embolden perpetrators of such attacks,

*Gravely concerned* that national security, counter-terrorism and cybercrime legislation and other measures, such as laws regulating civil society organizations, are in some instances misused to target human rights defenders or have hindered their work and endangered their safety in a manner contrary to international law,

*Recognizing* the pressing importance of addressing, and taking concrete steps to prevent and stop, the use of legislation to hinder or limit unduly the ability of human rights defenders to exercise their work and access resources, including by reviewing and, where necessary, amending relevant legislation and its implementation in order to ensure compliance with international human rights law,

*Recognizing also* that the protection of human rights defenders can be fully achieved only in the context of a holistic approach that includes the strengthening of democratic institutions, safeguarding civic space, the fight against impunity, ending gender and economic inequality and social exclusion, and equal access to justice,

*Stressing* the importance of meaningful participation of human rights defenders in the implementation of the Declaration, and reaffirming the right of everyone, individually and in association with others, to unhindered access to and communication with international bodies, both online and offline, in particular the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights, including the Human Rights Council and its special procedures, the universal periodic review mechanism and treaty bodies, as well as regional human rights mechanisms, in accordance with their respective mandates, existing rules of procedure and modalities, without fear of reprisals,

*Stressing also* the need for further action by States and non-State actors to promote a safe and enabling environment for human rights defenders and their protection, taking into account their diversity and the diverse contexts in which they operate,

1. *Welcomes* the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the thirtieth anniversary of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms,<sup>754</sup> commonly referred to as the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, and stresses the importance of the mandates of the Human Rights Council, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and all other United Nations human rights mechanisms with regard to the promotion and protection of the effective enjoyment by all of the human rights and fundamental freedoms enshrined in the

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<sup>754</sup> Resolution 53/144, annex.



Universal Declaration of Human Rights and referenced in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the Beijing Platform for Action<sup>755</sup> and the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders;

2. *Encourages* States to use these anniversaries to raise awareness of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, and their role in the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to acknowledge and celebrate the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders and the contributions of human rights defenders to the realization of all human rights for all;

3. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work of human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders, to develop and discuss new human rights ideas, including how human rights relate to, inter alia, sustainable development, climate change, environment, business, new digital technologies, and all forms of discrimination, and disseminate information about and advocate the acceptance of such ideas as a contribution to the realization of human rights for all;

4. *Urges* States to redouble their efforts in fulfilling their duty to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and referenced in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders;

5. *Affirms* the important role of human rights defenders in supporting States to realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the pledge that no one will be left behind and to reach the furthest behind first;

6. *Expresses grave concern* at the situation of human rights defenders around the world, strongly condemns the violence against and the criminalization, harassment, intimidation, attacks, torture, enforced disappearance, arbitrary arrest and detention, killing of and all other human rights violations or abuses against human rights defenders, including women, environmental and Indigenous human rights defenders, by State and non-State actors, and stresses the need to combat impunity by ensuring that those responsible for violations and abuses against human rights defenders, including against their legal representatives, associates and family members, are promptly brought to justice through impartial investigations;

7. *Condemns* all acts of intimidation and reprisal, both online and offline, by State and non-State actors against individuals, groups and organs of society, including against human rights defenders and their legal representatives, associates and family members, who seek to cooperate, are cooperating or have cooperated with subregional, regional and international bodies, including the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms, in the field of human rights, and strongly calls upon all States to give effect to the right of everyone, individually and in association with others, to unhindered access to and communication with international bodies, including the United Nations, its special procedures, the universal periodic review mechanism and the treaty bodies, as well as regional human rights mechanisms;

8. *Welcomes* the work and takes note of the reports of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders presented to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly, and encourages all States to consider implementing recommendations contained in the reports and to cooperate with and assist the Special Rapporteur;

9. *Calls upon* States to ensure that the criminalization and prosecution of terrorism or national security offences, and the measures used to address threats in this regard, are in accordance with their obligations under international human rights law, to avoid endangering the safety of human rights defenders or unduly hindering their work;

10. *Also calls upon* States to take concrete steps to prevent and put an end to arbitrary arrest and detention, including of human rights defenders, and in this regard strongly urges the release of persons detained or imprisoned, in violation of the obligations and commitments of States under international human rights law, for exercising their human rights and fundamental freedoms, such as the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association, including in relation to cooperation with the United Nations or other international mechanisms in the area of human rights;

11. *Urges* States to promote a safe and enabling environment, online and offline, including through the implementation of existing national legislation that is in compliance with international human rights law and, where

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<sup>755</sup> *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution I, annex II.

necessary, through the adoption and implementation of more comprehensive legislative and administrative measures, in which human rights defenders can operate free from hindrance, arbitrary or unlawful surveillance, reprisals and insecurity, ensuring, among other things, the right to take part in the conduct of public affairs and in cultural life, the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and equal access to justice, including to an effective remedy;

12. *Stresses* the legitimate and valuable role of women human rights defenders in promoting the human rights of women and girls, promoting access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, contributing to gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and combating gender-based discrimination and violence, including discrimination and violence that occurs through or is amplified by the use of technologies;

13. *Continues to express particular concern* about systemic and structural discrimination, economic disenfranchisement, violence and harassment disproportionately faced by women human rights defenders in diverse situations and conditions, including sexual and gender-based violence as well as defamation and smear campaigns, both online and offline;

14. *Condemns* all attacks on women human rights defenders, and reiterates its strong call upon States to take appropriate, robust and practical steps to protect women human rights defenders and to integrate a gender perspective into their efforts to create a safe and enabling environment for the defence of human rights;

15. *Recognizes* the contributions of children, their views being given due weight in accordance with their age and maturity, and youth in defending human rights, democracy and the rule of law and expresses deep concern about the threats, human rights violations and abuses and discrimination they may face because of their age and the nature of their civic engagement and as a result of their activities in promoting human rights, and in this regard calls upon States to provide a safe, enabling and empowering environment for young people to promote human rights;

16. *Also recognizes* that democracy and the rule of law are essential components for the creation of a safe and enabling environment, and the protection of human rights defenders, and urges States to take measures to strengthen democratic institutions, safeguard civic space, uphold the rule of law and combat impunity;

17. *Calls upon* States to promote, through public statements, policies, programmes or laws, the important and legitimate role of human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders, in the promotion of all human rights, democracy and the rule of law as essential components of ensuring their protection, including by respecting the independence of their organizations and by denouncing the stigmatization of their work;

18. *Calls upon* all States to take all measures necessary to ensure the rights and safety of all persons, including human rights defenders, who exercise, inter alia, the rights to freedom of opinion, expression, peaceful assembly and association, which are essential for the promotion and protection of human rights;

19. *Calls upon* States and encourages non-State actors to ensure that those involved in the protection of human rights defenders, their legal representatives, associates or family members are trained in human rights and the protection-related needs of human rights defenders at risk;

20. *Underlines* the legitimate and valuable role of human rights defenders in mediation efforts and in supporting victims in accessing effective remedies for violations and abuses of their human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights, including for members of impoverished communities and communities in vulnerable situations and for those belonging to minorities and Indigenous Peoples;

21. *Calls upon* States to take appropriate measures for the prevention of all forms of violence, intimidation, threats, harassment and attacks against human rights defenders on the Internet and through digital technologies and tools, to refrain from the use of surveillance technologies against human rights defenders, in a manner that is not compliant with international human rights obligations, and to protect human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders, in online spaces and to consider adopting laws, policies and practices that protect them against online threats of violence and intimidation while also affirming the rights to freedom of expression and privacy, and further encourages social media companies to condemn attacks against human rights defenders when they occur on their platforms;

22. *Also calls upon* States to refrain from Internet shutdowns, network restrictions or any other measures aiming to disrupt or prevent human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders, from having access to and disseminating information and communicating safely and securely, including interference with the use of

technologies, such as encryption and anonymity tools, and to ensure that any restrictions thereon comply with the obligations of States under international human rights law;

23. *Urges* States to investigate, in a prompt, effective, independent and accountable manner, complaints and allegations regarding threats or human rights violations and abuses perpetrated by State and non-State actors, including against human rights defenders, their legal representatives, associates or family members, and to initiate, when appropriate, proceedings against the perpetrators so as to ensure that impunity for such acts is eliminated and, as far as possible, to report publicly on investigations and proceedings;

24. *Calls upon* States to develop and implement appropriate and effective protection mechanisms for human rights defenders at risk or in vulnerable situations, including through meaningful consultation with them and based on comprehensive risk analysis, and also to ensure that these mechanisms are holistic, appropriately resourced, age- and gender-sensitive, and respond to the protection needs of individuals and the communities in which they live, functioning also as an early warning to ensure that human rights defenders, when threatened, have immediate access to authorities that are competent and adequately resourced to provide effective protective measures, while further research should be undertaken, with a view to improving the effectiveness of existing protection mechanisms;

25. *Underlines* the value of national human rights institutions, established and operating in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles),<sup>756</sup> in the continued engagement with human rights defenders and in the monitoring of existing legislation and consistently informing the State about its impact on the activities of human rights defenders, including by making relevant and concrete recommendations, while noting with concern that national human rights institutions and their members and staff may themselves sometimes be in need of protection;

26. *Strongly encourages* States to develop and put in place comprehensive, sustainable and age- and gender-responsive public policies and programmes that support and protect human rights defenders at all stages of their work, online and offline, that ensure effective coordination between relevant institutional actors, including coordination within national and local levels, and address causes of attacks against defenders and barriers against the defence of rights, and that take into account, inter alia, the diversity of human rights defenders and the diverse contexts in which they operate, and the intersectional dimensions of violations and abuses against women human rights defenders, Indigenous Peoples, children, persons with disabilities, persons belonging to minorities and rural communities and human rights defenders working to address racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

27. *Strongly reaffirms* the urgent need to respect, protect, facilitate and promote the work of human rights defenders promoting and defending economic, social and cultural rights, as a vital factor contributing towards the realization of those rights, including as they relate to environmental, land and Indigenous Peoples' issues and business activity, as well as development, including through corporate accountability;

28. *Urges* non-State actors, including transnational corporations and other business enterprises, to assume their responsibility to respect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons, including human rights defenders, and underlines the need to ensure human rights due diligence and the accountability of, and the provision of adequate remedies by, transnational corporations and other business enterprises, while also urging States to adopt relevant policies and laws in this regard, including to hold all companies to account for involvement in threats or attacks against human rights defenders;

29. *Calls upon* all States and encourages non-State actors to implement the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework,<sup>757</sup> underscores the responsibility of all business enterprises, both transnational and other, to respect human rights, including the rights to life and to liberty and security of person of human rights defenders, and their exercise of the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association, and participation in the conduct of public affairs, and underscores further the importance that business enterprises establish or participate in effective and accessible operational-level grievance mechanisms for individuals and communities who may be adversely impacted;

30. *Recognizes* the important contribution of the promotion and protection of the safety of human rights defenders in the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals, including target 16.10, and calls upon States to

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<sup>756</sup> Resolution 48/134, annex.

<sup>757</sup> A/HRC/17/31, annex.

strengthen national disaggregated data collection, analysis and reporting on the number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention, torture and other harmful acts against human rights advocates, as reflected in Sustainable Development Goal indicator 16.10.1, and to do their utmost to make these data available to the relevant entities;

31. *Takes note* of the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights, and the United Nations Guidance Note on the Protection and Promotion of Civic Space;

32. *Encourages* all concerned United Nations system entities and organizations, within their mandates, to implement the United Nations Guidance Note on the Protection and Promotion of Civic Space, and to consider ways in which they can assist States, upon their request, in creating and maintaining a safe and enabling environment for human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders, and ensuring their protection;

33. *Encourages* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in consultation with the Special Rapporteur and other special procedures of the Human Rights Council, to continue to compile and share information on best practices and challenges for the development of a more coherent approach to support the Declaration by the United Nations;

34. *Also encourages* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue its work, within its mandate, including in cooperation with States, regional organizations, civil society and human rights defenders, on collecting information on threats and attacks against human rights defenders, including cases of their arbitrary detention and deprivation of liberty for exercising their human rights, and to make this information publicly available through existing channels;

35. *Requests* all concerned United Nations system entities and organizations, within their mandates, to provide all possible assistance and support to the Special Rapporteur for the effective fulfilment of her mandate, including in the context of country visits and through suggestions on ways and means of ensuring the protection of human rights defenders;

36. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to continue to report annually on her activities to the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council, in accordance with the mandate;

37. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

## RESOLUTION 78/217

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/481/Add.2, para. 139)<sup>758</sup>

### 78/217. Protection of migrants

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* all its previous resolutions on the protection of migrants, the most recent of which is resolution 76/172 of 16 December 2021, and recalling also Human Rights Council resolutions 35/17 of 22 June 2017,<sup>759</sup> 36/5 of 28 September 2017,<sup>760</sup> 41/7 of 11 July 2019,<sup>761</sup> 47/12 of 12 July 2021<sup>762</sup> and 53/24 of 13 July 2023,<sup>763</sup>

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<sup>758</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Argentina, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Germany, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Ireland, Kyrgyzstan, Luxembourg, Malawi, Mexico, Morocco, North Macedonia, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Spain, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

<sup>759</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/72/53)*, chap. V, sect. A.

<sup>760</sup> *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 53A (A/72/53/Add.1), chap. III.

<sup>761</sup> *Ibid.*, Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/74/53), chap. V, sect. A.

<sup>762</sup> *Ibid.*, Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/76/53), chap. VII, sect. A.

<sup>763</sup> *Ibid.*, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/78/53), chap. VII, sect. A.

*Reaffirming* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>764</sup> which proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set out therein, without distinction of any kind, in particular as to race,

*Reaffirming also* that everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State and that everyone has the right to leave any country, including his or her own, and to return to his or her country,

*Reiterating* that everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law,

*Recognizing* that migration has been and will continue to be part of the human experience through history, underscoring that all migrants, regardless of their migration status, are human rights holders, and reaffirming the need to protect their safety and dignity and to respect, protect and fulfil their human rights and fundamental freedoms, without any kind of discrimination, while promoting the security, well-being and prosperity of all communities,

*Recalling* all relevant international instruments, particularly the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights<sup>765</sup> and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>766</sup> the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,<sup>767</sup> the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance,<sup>768</sup> the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,<sup>769</sup> the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>770</sup> the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,<sup>771</sup> the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,<sup>772</sup> the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations,<sup>773</sup> the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families<sup>774</sup> and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto,<sup>775</sup> in particular the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,<sup>776</sup> and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,<sup>777</sup> and in particular the relevant contributions of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families to the protection of migrants,

*Recalling also* the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, adopted at the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, held in Marrakech, Morocco, on 10 and 11 December 2018, and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution [73/195](#) of 19 December 2018,

*Recalling further* that the Global Compact is based on a set of cross-cutting and interdependent guiding principles: people-centred, international cooperation, national sovereignty, rule of law and due process, sustainable development, human rights, gender-responsive, child-sensitive, whole-of-government approach and whole-of-society approach,

*Recalling* the Progress Declaration of the International Migration Review Forum, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution [76/266](#) of 7 June 2022,

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<sup>764</sup> Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

<sup>765</sup> See resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

<sup>766</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>767</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1465, No. 24841.

<sup>768</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2716, No. 48088.

<sup>769</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

<sup>770</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>771</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 660, No. 9464.

<sup>772</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

<sup>773</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 596, No. 8638.

<sup>774</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2220, No. 39481.

<sup>775</sup> *Ibid.*, vols. 2225, 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.

<sup>776</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2241, No. 39574.

<sup>777</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2237, No. 39574.

*Acknowledging* the sovereign right of States to determine their national migration policy and their prerogative to govern migration within their jurisdiction, in conformity with international law, in particular their obligations under international human rights law and international refugee law,

*Reaffirming* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>778</sup> and recalling Sustainable Development Goals 8 and 10, including the targets on the protection of labour rights and promotion of safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants and those in precarious employment, and on the facilitation of orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies, as noted in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants,<sup>779</sup>

*Looking forward* to the convening of the regional reviews of the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in 2024,

*Recalling* the importance of the decent work agenda of the International Labour Organization, including for migrant workers, the 10 fundamental Conventions of that Organization, and the Global Jobs Pact adopted by the International Labour Conference at its ninety-eighth session,

*Recognizing* the work of the Global Compact Champion countries and the Friends of Migration group, including their initiative to share insights, lessons learned and promising practices in support of the implementation of the Global Compact,

*Looking forward* to the fourteenth summit meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, chaired by France and to be held in Geneva from 23 to 25 January 2024, under the overarching theme “From environmental concerns to cultural aspects of migration: adopting an inclusive approach to meet the challenges of and increase the opportunities for human mobility”,

*Recalling* the provisions concerning migrants contained in the outcome documents of major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development,<sup>780</sup> the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda,<sup>781</sup>

*Recalling also* Commission on Population and Development resolutions 2006/2 of 10 May 2006<sup>782</sup> and 2009/1 of 3 April 2009<sup>783</sup> and its resolution 2013/1 of 26 April 2013 on new trends in migration: demographic aspects,<sup>784</sup>

*Taking note* of advisory opinion OC 16/99 of 1 October 1999 on the Right to Information on Consular Assistance in the Framework of the Guarantees of the Due Process of Law, advisory opinion OC 18/03 of 17 September 2003 on the Juridical Condition and Rights of Undocumented Migrants and advisory opinion OC 21/14 of 19 August 2014 on the Rights and Guarantees of Children in the Context of Migration and/or in Need of International Protection, issued by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights,

*Taking note also* of the Judgment of the International Court of Justice of 31 March 2004 in the case concerning *Avena and Other Mexican Nationals*<sup>785</sup> and the Judgment of the Court of 19 January 2009 regarding the request for interpretation of the *Avena* Judgment,<sup>786</sup> and recalling the obligations of States reaffirmed in both decisions,

*Recognizing* the positive role and contributions of millions of migrants, including women migrant workers, in the response and recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, including as essential workers, and remaining deeply concerned that the pandemic has had a severe and disproportionate impact on migrants, including through increased COVID-19 exposure, discrimination, violence, job losses, wage theft, protracted family separation,

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<sup>778</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>779</sup> Resolution 71/1.

<sup>780</sup> Resolution 63/303, annex.

<sup>781</sup> Resolution 71/256, annex.

<sup>782</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2006, Supplement No. 5 (E/2006/25)*, chap. I, sect. B.

<sup>783</sup> *Ibid.*, 2009, *Supplement No. 5 (E/2009/25)*, chap. I, sect. B.

<sup>784</sup> *Ibid.*, 2013, *Supplement No. 5 (E/2013/25)*, chap. I, sect. B.

<sup>785</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 4 (A/59/4)*, chap. V, sect. A.23.

<sup>786</sup> *Ibid.*, *Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 4 (A/64/4)*, chap. V, sect. B.12.

and restricted or lack of access to health-care services and other basic services, including vaccines, social protection, education and child services, and mental health, and being subjected to unsafe and undignified returns,

*Recognizing also* the positive role and contributions of migrants for inclusive growth and sustainable development in countries of origin, transit and destination, including by enriching societies through human, socioeconomic and cultural capacities,

*Underlining* the importance of the Human Rights Council in promoting respect for the protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all, including migrants,

*Recognizing* that women represent almost half of all international migrants, in this regard recognizing also that the positive contribution of women migrant workers has the potential to foster inclusive growth and sustainable development in countries of origin, transit and destination, underlining the value and dignity of their labour in all sectors, including in care and domestic work, and encouraging efforts to improve public perceptions of migrants and migration,

*Concerned* that gender-based violence, in particular against migrant women, is rooted in historical and structural inequalities in power relations between women and men, which further reinforces gender stereotypes and barriers to the full enjoyment by all migrant women and girls of their human rights,

*Acknowledging* the cultural and economic contributions made by migrants to their communities of origin and destination and the need to identify appropriate means of maximizing development benefits, to respond to the challenges that migration poses to countries of origin, transit, and destination, to promote dignified, humane treatment with applicable protections and access to basic services, and to strengthen mechanisms for international cooperation,

*Recognizing* that migration can increase social, cultural and economic ties between nations and can be facilitated by agreements within regional integration processes to reinforce education exchange, labour mobility and the portability of applicable social security entitlements and earned benefits of migrant workers,

*Emphasizing* the multidimensional character of international migration, the importance of international, regional and bilateral cooperation and dialogue in this regard, as appropriate, and the need to protect the human rights of all migrants, particularly at a time when migration flows, both within and across regions, have increased in the globalized economy and take place in a context of continued security concerns,

*Recognizing* that large movements of migrants have political, economic, social, developmental, humanitarian and human rights ramifications that call for global approaches and global solutions, that no one State can manage on its own,

*Deeply concerned* at the large and growing number of migrants, especially women and children, including those unaccompanied or separated from their parents, who find themselves in a vulnerable situation when crossing or attempting to cross international borders, and recognizing the obligation of States to respect the human rights of those migrants in accordance with their applicable international human rights obligations, and reaffirming the commitments to take action to avoid the loss of life of migrants and to uphold the prohibition of collective expulsion, as well as the need to prevent human rights violations in all contexts involving migration,

*Acknowledging* the need to strengthen efforts to enhance and diversify the availability of pathways for safe, orderly and regular migration, including in response to demographic and labour market realities,

*Recognizing* the need to ensure that returned migrants are duly received and readmitted, in accordance with States' obligation not to arbitrarily deprive their nationals of the right to enter their own country and the obligation of States to readmit their own nationals,

*Recognizing also* the importance of coordinating international efforts to provide adequate protection, assistance and support to migrants in vulnerable situations and, as appropriate, facilitate their voluntary, safe and dignified return to their countries of origin or procedures for determining the need for international protection while respecting the principle of non-refoulement,

*Bearing in mind* the obligations of States under international law, as applicable, to exercise due diligence to prevent crimes targeting migrants and to investigate and punish perpetrators, and that not doing so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of victims,



*Expressing concern* that migrants continue to struggle to access and receive humanitarian assistance, including search and rescue efforts and medical care, which creates and exacerbates situations of vulnerability,

*Reaffirming its commitment* to preserve the lives of all migrants and take action to prevent loss of migrant lives, and in this context remaining deeply concerned that thousands of migrants, including women and children, continue to die or go missing each year along perilous routes on land and at sea,

*Stressing* the importance of all regulations and laws regarding irregular migration, at all levels of government, being in accordance with the obligations of States under international law, including international human rights law,

*Expressing concern* at and condemning the increasing trend of acts, manifestations and expressions of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and hostility towards migrants and diasporas in societies, and the negative stereotypes often applied to them, including on the basis of religion or belief, all of which has a negative impact on the fulfilment of human rights globally,

*Stressing* the obligation of States to protect the human rights of migrants regardless of their migration status, including when implementing their specific migration and border security policies, and expressing its concern at measures which, including in the context of policies aimed at reducing irregular migration, treat irregular migration as a criminal rather than an administrative offence, where the effect of doing so is to deny migrants the full enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, and in this regard recalling that sanctions and the treatment given to irregular migrants should be commensurate with their offences,

*Aware* that, as criminals take advantage of migratory flows and attempt to circumvent restrictive immigration policies and border controls, migrants become more vulnerable to, inter alia, kidnapping, extortion, forced labour, sexual exploitation, physical assault, debt bondage and abandonment,

*Aware also* that employing border governance policies that do not respect human rights and are in violation of a State's obligations under international law, and that are failing to combat widespread impunity for those who violate the human rights of migrants, contributes to limit pathways for safe, orderly and regular migration and can contribute to the death or disappearance of migrants, particularly those in vulnerable situations,

*Recognizing* the human, cultural, social and economic capital that diasporas bring, as well as their engagement and remittances in national development strategies, and in programmes to improve the financial inclusion and literacy of migrant workers and their families,

*Acknowledging* that remittance flows constitute sources of private capital, complement domestic savings and are instrumental in improving the well-being of recipients, bearing in mind that remittances cannot be considered a substitute for foreign direct investment, official development assistance, debt relief or other public sources of financing for development,

*Recognizing* the positive contributions of young migrants to countries of origin and destination, and in that regard encouraging States to consider the specific circumstances and needs of young migrants,

*Concerned* that a growing number of migrant children, including those who are unaccompanied or separated from their parents or primary caregivers, are particularly vulnerable along their migration journey, and reaffirming the commitment to protecting the rights of the child and upholding the principle of the best interests of the child,

*Recognizing* the obligations of countries of origin, transit and destination under international human rights law, as well as the need to adopt a comprehensive and integral approach to migration policies, to facilitate safe, orderly, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, in accordance with their relevant obligations under international human rights law, and, as applicable, consistent with their commitments in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration,

*Underlining* the importance for States, in cooperation with civil society, including non-governmental organizations, workers' organizations and the private sector, among other relevant stakeholders, to undertake information campaigns aimed at clarifying opportunities, limitations, laws, risks and rights in the event of migration in order to enable everyone to make informed decisions and to prevent anyone from utilizing irregular or dangerous means to cross international borders,

1. *Calls upon* States to promote and protect effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of their migration status, especially those of women and children, and to address international

migration through international, regional or bilateral cooperation and dialogue and a comprehensive and balanced approach, recognizing the roles and responsibilities of countries of origin, transit and destination in promoting and protecting the human rights of all migrants and ensuring that their legislation and migration policies and practices are consistent with their applicable international human rights obligations, in order to avoid approaches that might aggravate their vulnerability;

2. *Expresses its concern* about the impacts of financial and economic crises, as well as natural disasters and the effects of climate-related phenomena, on international migration and migrants, and in that regard urges Governments to combat discriminatory treatment of migrants, in particular migrant workers and their families, and to facilitate fair and ethical recruitment;

3. *Calls upon* Member States to develop coherent approaches to address the challenges of migration movements in the context of sudden-onset and slow-onset natural disasters, including by taking into consideration relevant recommendations from State-led consultative processes, such as the Agenda for the Protection of Cross-Border Displaced Persons in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change, and the Platform on Disaster Displacement;

4. *Reaffirms* the rights set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the obligations of States under the International Covenants on Human Rights, and in this regard:

(a) Strongly condemns acts, manifestations and expressions of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance against migrants and the stereotypes often applied to them, including on the basis of religion or belief, and urges States to apply and, where needed, to reinforce existing laws when hate crimes, xenophobic or intolerant acts, manifestations or expressions against migrants occur, in order to eradicate impunity for those who commit those acts and, where appropriate, to provide effective remedy to the victims;

(b) Encourages States to establish or, when appropriate, strengthen mechanisms which allow migrants to report alleged cases of abuse by relevant authorities and employers without fear of reprisal, and which allow for such complaints to be addressed fairly;

(c) Expresses concern about legislation adopted by some States that results in measures and practices that may restrict the human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrants, and reaffirms that, when exercising their sovereign right to enact and implement migratory and border security measures, States have the duty to comply with their obligations under international law, including international human rights law, in order to ensure full respect for the human rights of migrants;

(d) Calls upon States to ensure that their laws and policies, in particular in the areas of counter-terrorism and combating transnational organized crime, such as trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, fully respect the human rights of migrants;

(e) Calls upon States that have not done so to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families as a matter of priority, and requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to promote and raise awareness of the Convention;

(f) Takes note of the reports of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families on its thirty-third and thirty-fourth sessions<sup>787</sup> and thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth sessions;<sup>788</sup>

5. *Also reaffirms* the duty of States to effectively promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, including those of women and children, regardless of their migration status, in conformity with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the international instruments to which they are party, and therefore:

(a) Calls upon all States to respect the human rights and inherent dignity of migrants, to put an end to arbitrary arrest and detention and, bearing in mind the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, to review policies that deny migrants the full enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, to pursue alternatives to

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<sup>787</sup> Ibid., *Seventy-seventh Session, Supplement No. 48 (A/77/48)*.

<sup>788</sup> Ibid., *Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 48 (A/78/48)*.

## V. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Third Committee

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detention while assessments of migration status are under way and to take into account measures that have been successfully implemented by some States;

(b) Encourages States to put in place, if they have not yet done so, appropriate systems and procedures in order to ensure that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration in all actions or decisions concerning migrant children, regardless of their migration status, and to work towards ending the detention of migrant children;

(c) Also encourages States to cooperate and to take appropriate measures, in full conformity with their obligations under international human rights law, to prevent, combat and address the smuggling of migrants, including strengthening laws, policies, information-sharing and joint operational functions, enhancing capacities and supporting opportunities for migration in a well-managed, safe and dignified manner and strengthening legislative methods for criminalizing acts of smuggling migrants, particularly women and children;

(d) Urges all States to adopt effective measures to prevent and punish any form of illegal deprivation of liberty of migrants by individuals or groups;

(e) Requests States to adopt concrete measures to prevent the violation of the human rights of migrants while in transit, including in ports and airports and at borders and migration checkpoints, and to regularly train public officials who work in those facilities and in border areas to treat migrants respectfully and in accordance with their obligations under international human rights law;

(f) Encourages States to formulate, implement and refine training programmes for their law enforcement officials, immigration officers and border officials, diplomatic and consular officials, judiciary, prosecutors, public sector medical staff and other service providers, with a view to sensitizing these public sector workers to the issue of violence against migrants and imparting to them the necessary skills to ensure the delivery of proper, professional and gender-sensitive interventions, including for those in detention facilities;

(g) Underlines the right of migrants to return to their country of citizenship, and recalls that States must ensure that their returning nationals are duly received;

(h) Calls upon States to analyse and implement, where appropriate, mechanisms for the safe and orderly administration of returning migrants, with particular attention to the human rights of migrants, in accordance with their obligations under international law;

(i) Also calls upon States to prosecute, in conformity with applicable law, acts of violation of the human rights of migrants and their families, such as arbitrary detention, torture and violations of the right to life, including extrajudicial executions, during their transit from the country of origin to the country of destination and vice versa, including transit across national borders;

(j) Recognizes the particular vulnerability of migrants in transit situations, including through national borders, and the need to ensure full respect for their human rights also in these circumstances;

(k) Reaffirms the importance of ensuring the promotion and respect of human rights in coordinated efforts of the international community to assist and support migrants who are stranded or in vulnerable situations;

(l) Reaffirms emphatically the duty of States parties to ensure full respect for and observance of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, in particular with regard to the right of all foreign nationals, regardless of their migration status, to communicate with a consular official of the sending State in case of arrest, imprisonment, custody or detention, and the obligation of the receiving State to inform the foreign national without delay of his or her rights under the Convention;

(m) Requests all States, in conformity with national legislation and applicable international legal instruments to which they are party, to enforce labour law effectively, including by addressing violations of such law, with regard to migrant workers' labour relations and working conditions, inter alia, those related to their remuneration and conditions of health, safety at work and the right to freedom of association;

(n) Invites Member States to consider ratifying relevant conventions of the International Labour Organization, including the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189), on decent work for domestic workers,<sup>789</sup> as well as the Abolition of Forced Labour Convention 1957 (No. 105);<sup>790</sup>

(o) Encourages Member States to take actions to further promote faster, safer and cheaper remittances, with the aim of reducing the average transaction cost to less than 3 per cent of the amount transferred by 2030, by further developing existing conducive policy and regulatory environments that enable competition, regulation and innovation on the remittance market and by providing gender-responsive programmes and instruments that enhance the financial inclusion of migrants and their families;

(p) Recalls that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognizes that everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted to him or her;

6. *Emphasizes* the importance of protecting persons in vulnerable situations, and in this regard:

(a) Expresses its concern about the increase in the activities and profits of transnational and national organized crime entities and others who profit from crimes against migrants, especially migrant women and children, without regard for dangerous and inhumane conditions, and in flagrant violation of national laws and international law and contrary to international standards;

(b) Calls upon States to cooperate internationally to save lives and prevent migrant deaths and injuries through individual or joint search and rescue operations, and standardized collection and exchange of relevant information, as well as to identify those who have died or gone missing, and to facilitate communication with affected families;

(c) Urges States to adopt measures to prevent deaths, disappearances, acts of torture, sexual and gender-based violence and all other forms of violence, including violence based on religion or belief and violence based on race, excessive use of force against migrants, and refoulement, and to ensure that all human rights violations and abuses are subject to independent and transparent investigations and that perpetrators are held accountable;

(d) Encourages Member States to invest in innovative solutions that facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences of migrant workers at all skill levels, as well as to ensure decent work in labour migration;

(e) Expresses its concern about the high level of impunity enjoyed by traffickers and their accomplices, as well as other members of organized crime entities and, in this context, the denial of rights and justice to migrants who have suffered from abuse;

(f) Urges Member States to show greater solidarity, especially during times of emergency, to strengthen international cooperation to enhance the protection, well-being, safe return and effective reintegration into labour markets of migrant workers, and to ensure that no one is left behind;

(g) Welcomes immigration programmes, adopted by some countries, that allow migrants to integrate fully into the countries of destination, facilitate family reunification and promote a harmonious, tolerant and respectful environment, and encourages States to consider the possibility of adopting these types of programmes;

(h) Calls upon States that have not already done so to provide for the protection of the human rights of women migrant workers, to promote fair labour conditions and to ensure that all women, including domestic and care workers, are legally protected against violence and exploitation;

(i) Encourages States to implement gender-sensitive policies and programmes for women migrant workers, to provide safe and regular channels that recognize the skills and education of women migrant workers and, as appropriate, to facilitate their productive employment, decent work and integration into the labour force, including in the fields of education and science and technology;

(j) Encourages all States to develop international migration policies and programmes that include a gender perspective, in order to adopt the measures necessary to better protect women and girls against dangers and human rights violations and abuses during migration;

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<sup>789</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2955, No. 51379.

<sup>790</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 320, No. 4648.

(k) Calls upon States to protect the human rights of migrant children, given their vulnerability, particularly unaccompanied migrant children, ensuring that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration in their legislation, policies and practices, including on integration, return and family reunification;

(l) Encourages all States to prevent and eliminate discriminatory policies and legislation at all levels of government that deny migrant children access to education and, while taking into account the best interests of the child as a primary consideration, to foster the successful integration of migrant children into the educational system and the removal of barriers to their education in host countries and countries of origin;

(m) Reminds all States that all persons, including migrants, should have access to lifelong learning opportunities that help them to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to take advantage of opportunities and to participate fully in society;

(n) Urges States to ensure that repatriation mechanisms allow for the identification and special protection of persons in vulnerable situations, including unaccompanied children and persons with disabilities, and take into account in conformity with their international obligations and commitments, the principle of the best interests of the child in both the development and implementation of legislation and policies, as well as clarity of reception and care arrangements and family reunification;

7. *Encourages* States to take into account the conclusions and recommendations of the study of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on challenges and best practices in the implementation of the international framework for the protection of the rights of the child in the context of migration<sup>791</sup> when designing and implementing their migration policies;

8. *Urges* States parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, in particular the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, to implement them fully, and calls upon States that have not done so to consider ratifying or acceding to them as a matter of priority;

9. *Encourages* States to protect migrants from becoming victims of national and transnational organized crime, including kidnapping, trafficking in persons and, in some instances, illicit smuggling of migrants, including through the implementation of programmes and policies that prevent victimization and provide effective guarantees and protections, as well as access to medical, psychosocial and legal assistance, where appropriate;

10. *Encourages* Member States that have not already done so to enact national legislation and to take further effective measures to combat human trafficking and smuggling of migrants, recognizing that these crimes may endanger the lives of migrants or subject them to harm, servitude, exploitation, debt bondage, slavery, sexual exploitation or forced labour, and also encourages Member States to strengthen international cooperation to prevent, investigate and combat such trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants and to identify and disrupt financial flows related to these activities;

11. *Invites* Member States to expand international cooperation and partnerships to implement the vision of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration,<sup>792</sup> including through financial and technical assistance to developing countries, including to African countries, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and middle-income countries;

12. *Also invites* Member States to accelerate efforts, at all levels, to integrate public health considerations into migration policies and incorporating the health needs of migrants in national and local health-care services policies and plans, in ways which are transparent, equitable, non-discriminatory, people-centred, gender-responsive, child-sensitive and disability-responsive, and which leave no one behind;

13. *Encourages* Governments to promote the appropriate use of voluntary and confidential HIV testing and pregnancy testing to prevent unwarranted barriers prior to and during the migration cycle;

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<sup>791</sup> A/HRC/15/29.

<sup>792</sup> Resolution 73/195, annex.

14. *Calls upon* all States to promote and protect the right of everyone, including migrants, without discrimination of any kind, to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and encourages them to promote equitable access to health services, disease prevention and care for migrants, including mental health and psychosocial support;

15. *Stresses* the importance of international, regional and bilateral cooperation in the protection of the human rights of migrants, through, inter alia, the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, and therefore:

(a) Requests all States, international organizations and relevant stakeholders to take into account in their policies and initiatives on migration issues the global character of the migratory phenomenon and to give due consideration to international, regional and bilateral cooperation in this field, including by undertaking dialogues on migration that include countries of origin, transit and destination, as well as civil society, including migrants, with a view to addressing, in a comprehensive manner, inter alia, its causes and consequences and the challenge of undocumented or irregular migration, granting priority to the protection of the human rights of migrants;

(b) Encourages States to promote the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including its target 10.7 on the facilitation of orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies;

(c) Also encourages States to take the measures necessary to achieve policy coherence on migration at the local, national, regional and international levels, including by ensuring coordinated child protection policies and systems across borders that are in full compliance with international human rights law;

(d) Further encourages States to cooperate effectively in protecting witnesses in cases of smuggling of migrants and victims in cases of trafficking in persons, regardless of their migration status;

(e) Calls upon the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations and multilateral institutions to enhance their cooperation in the development of methodologies for the collection and processing of statistical data on international migration and the situation of migrants in countries of origin, transit and destination and to assist Member States in their capacity-building efforts in this regard;

(f) Encourages Governments, as appropriate, to strengthen joint analysis and sharing of information to better map, understand, predict and address migration movements, such as those that may result from sudden-onset and slow-onset natural disasters, the adverse effects of climate change and environmental degradation, as well as other precarious situations, while ensuring effective respect for and the protection and fulfilment of the human rights of all migrants;

(g) Urges all States, in line with relevant obligations under international human rights law, to combat all forms of discrimination, such as expressions, acts and manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, violence, xenophobia and related intolerance against all migrants, while at the same time acknowledging the need to promote an open and evidence-based public discourse on migration and migrants, in partnership with all parts of society, that generates a more realistic, humane and constructive perception in this regard, and to protect freedom of expression in accordance with international law, recognizing that an open and free debate contributes to a comprehensive understanding of all aspects of migration;

(h) Encourages States to include, as appropriate, information on the implementation of their international obligations related to the human rights of migrants in their national reports to the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council and to the treaty bodies;

16. *Reaffirms* the consideration afforded to the issues of migration, development and human rights in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

17. *Invites* Member States to consider establishing, as applicable, open and accessible information points along relevant migration routes that can refer migrants to child-sensitive and gender-responsive support and counselling, offer opportunities to communicate with consular representatives of the country of origin, and make available relevant information, including on human rights and fundamental freedoms, appropriate protection and assistance, options and pathways for regular migration, and possibilities for safe and dignified return, in a language that the person concerned understands;

18. *Encourages* States, as appropriate, to address practical barriers, including language barriers, that migrants may encounter in countries of destination, and provide them with adequate information about their rights, including to consular assistance, prior to their departure from their countries of origin;

19. *Calls upon* Member States to commit to develop national gender-responsive and child-sensitive migration policies and legislation in line with relevant obligations under international law to respect, protect and fulfil the human rights of all migrant women and children, regardless of their migration status, and further stresses the importance of ensuring the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in the formulation and implementation of migration policies, while recognizing their independence, agency and leadership;

20. *Invites* Member States to provide newly arrived migrants with targeted, gender-responsive, child-sensitive, accessible and comprehensive information and legal guidance on their rights and obligations, including on compliance with national and local laws, obtaining of work and resident permits, status adjustments, registration with authorities, access to justice to file complaints about rights violations, as well as access to basic services;

21. *Encourages* Governments to ensure that the return of migrants who do not have the legal right to stay on another State's territory is safe and dignified, follows an individual assessment, is carried out by competent authorities through prompt and effective cooperation between countries of origin and destination, and allows all applicable legal remedies to be exhausted, in compliance with due process guarantees and other obligations under international human rights law;

22. *Calls upon* States to ensure that migrants who may be in vulnerable situations at international borders have access to assistance and relief, regardless of their migration status, and to create a safe and enabling environment in which humanitarian actors that provide such attention can operate free from hindrance and insecurity, including by ensuring that domestic law and administrative provisions and their application facilitate the work of all actors providing humanitarian assistance to and defending the human rights of migrants in transit, inter alia by avoiding the criminalization and stigmatization of the work of humanitarian actors, as well as impediments thereto, obstruction thereof or restrictions thereon, that are not in line with international human rights law;

23. *Encourages* States to strengthen cooperation, information exchange and coordination at all levels, including between countries of origin, transit and destination, and with international humanitarian organizations, civil society organizations, and migrants and their families, in order to prevent and investigate human rights violations and abuses against migrants in transit, to find and identify missing migrants and to ensure accountability for victims;

24. *Reaffirms* the commitments of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, and urges Member States and the United Nations system to work cooperatively to follow up on and apply the Declaration, in accordance with national legal systems;

25. *Encourages* States, relevant international organizations, civil society, including non-governmental organizations, and the private sector to continue and to enhance their dialogue in relevant international meetings with a view to strengthening and making more inclusive public policies aimed at promoting and respecting human rights, including those of migrants;

26. *Recognizes* the importance of the contribution of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Chair of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the human rights of migrants, as well as other key actors, to the discussion on international migration;

27. *Welcomes* the ongoing work of the United Nations Network on Migration on missing migrants and humanitarian assistance in line with the Progress Declaration of the International Migration Review Forum,<sup>793</sup> inter alia the exchange of good practices, including through cross-border cooperation to support families and border communities in preventing and responding to the death of migrants or migrants going missing, including through humanitarian assistance;

28. *Invites* the Chair of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families to present an oral report on the work of the Committee and to engage in an interactive dialogue with

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<sup>793</sup> Resolution 76/266, annex.



the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth and eightieth sessions, as a way to enhance communication between the Assembly and the Committee;

29. *Invites* the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants to submit his report to the General Assembly and to engage in an interactive dialogue at its seventy-ninth and eightieth sessions, under the item entitled “Promotion and protection of human rights”;

30. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the human rights of migrants;<sup>794</sup>

31. *Also takes note* of the reports of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh and seventy-eighth sessions;<sup>795</sup>

32. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council at their eightieth and sixty-first sessions, respectively, a comprehensive report entitled “Human rights of migrants”, covering all aspects of the implementation of the present resolution;

33. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

### RESOLUTION 78/218

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/481/Add.3, para. 33)<sup>796</sup>

#### 78/218. Situation of human rights in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* that all States have an obligation to respect, protect and fulfil human rights and fundamental freedoms and to fulfil the obligations that they have undertaken under the various international instruments,

*Recalling* all previous resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, including Assembly resolution 77/226 of 15 December 2022 and Council resolution 52/28 of 4 April 2023,<sup>797</sup> and mindful of the need for the international community to strengthen its coordinated efforts aimed at achieving the implementation of those resolutions,

*Deeply concerned* at the grave human rights situation, the pervasive culture of impunity and the lack of accountability for human rights violations and abuses in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea,

*Reiterating* the importance of following up on the recommendations contained in the report of the commission of inquiry on human rights in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea,<sup>798</sup> and reiterating also its grave concern at the detailed findings contained therein,

*Recalling* the responsibility of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea to protect its population from crimes against humanity, and recalling also that the commission of inquiry urged the leadership of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea to prevent and suppress crimes against humanity and to ensure that perpetrators are prosecuted and brought to justice,

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<sup>794</sup> See A/78/203.

<sup>795</sup> A/77/189 and A/78/180.

<sup>796</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Nauru, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Vanuatu.

<sup>797</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/78/53)*, chap. V, sect. A.

<sup>798</sup> A/HRC/25/63.

*Taking note* of the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea,<sup>799</sup> regretting that the new Special Rapporteur has also not been allowed to visit the country and that she has received no cooperation from the authorities of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and taking note also of the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea submitted in accordance with resolution 77/226,<sup>800</sup>

*Mindful* that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>801</sup> the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>802</sup> the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>803</sup> the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women<sup>804</sup> and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,<sup>805</sup> and urging full implementation of these Conventions and of the recommendations contained in the concluding observations from treaty body reviews and the submission of all overdue periodic reports to the respective treaty bodies,

*Encouraging* the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to implement the recommendations contained in the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities on her visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in May 2017, submitted to the Council at its thirty-seventh session,<sup>806</sup> and urging the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to respond to the list of issues sent by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,<sup>807</sup>

*Stressing* the importance of extending the cooperation of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to other United Nations special procedures and human rights mechanisms, in particular to use the opportunity to engage with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in accordance with their terms of reference,

*Recalling* the participation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the third universal periodic review process, noting the acceptance by the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of 132 of the 262 recommendations,<sup>808</sup> and encouraging the Government to implement these recommendations in good faith,

*Noting with regret* that independent civil society organizations cannot operate in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and that, as a result, no civil society organization based in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is able to independently monitor, document and report on human rights violations in the country, and encouraging the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to allow stakeholder submissions to the fourth cycle of the universal periodic review, in view of the adoption of the outcome report scheduled at the fifty-seventh session of the Human Rights Council, in 2024,

*Recalling* the collaboration established between the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in providing human rights education to a small number of government officials in Geneva in May 2019, and urging that such technical cooperation be resumed and broadened, including through virtual meetings, and participation in regional and global human rights programmes,

*Stressing* the importance of extending the cooperation of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the field-based structure of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the region,

*Noting* the cooperation between the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund and the World Health Organization in order to improve

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<sup>799</sup> A/78/526.

<sup>800</sup> A/78/212.

<sup>801</sup> See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

<sup>802</sup> Ibid.

<sup>803</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>804</sup> Ibid., vol. 1249, No. 20378.

<sup>805</sup> Ibid., vol. 2515, No. 44910.

<sup>806</sup> A/HRC/37/56/Add.1.

<sup>807</sup> CRPD/C/PRK/Q/1.

<sup>808</sup> A/HRC/42/10.

the health situation in the country, including communication with the World Health Organization on addressing the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the delivery of COVID-19 vaccines to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea,

*Noting also* the activities undertaken by the United Nations Development Programme, on a modest scale, in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea prior to the withdrawal of international staff, and encouraging the engagement of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with the international community to ensure that the programmes benefit persons in need of assistance and continue to be implemented even within the context of measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19,

*Noting further* the cooperation between the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the World Food Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on a number of assessments, underscoring the importance of those assessments in analysing changes in the national, household and individual situations with regard to food security, nutrition, health, water and sanitation, thereby supporting confidence in the targeting and monitoring of aid programmes, and noting with appreciation the work of international aid operators,

*Stressing* the importance of granting immediate access to the country for humanitarian agencies, especially given the prevalence of malnutrition and the need to continue to respond to COVID-19 and the necessity for international humanitarian aid organizations to be able to carry out independent needs assessments and implement their humanitarian programmes consistent with international standards and humanitarian principles, including in areas with no operational presence, as well as the need for full, safe, rapid and unhindered access for humanitarian organizations to provide assistance to persons in the most vulnerable situations, including individuals in detention, and persons with disabilities, including through the entry of international staff and the prioritization of the shipment of life-saving humanitarian assistance, in accordance with guidance and best practice provided by the World Health Organization,

*Noting with concern* the findings of the United Nations in the humanitarian report entitled "Democratic People's Republic of Korea 2020: needs and priorities" and the joint rapid food security assessments conducted in 2019 by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Food Programme and their calls to address the critical humanitarian needs in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea,

*Condemning* the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for continuing to divert its resources into pursuing its illicit nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programmes over the welfare of its people, and emphasizing the necessity for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to respect and ensure the welfare and inherent dignity of the people in the country, as referred to by the Security Council in its resolutions [2321 \(2016\)](#) of 30 November 2016, [2371 \(2017\)](#) of 5 August 2017, [2375 \(2017\)](#) of 11 September 2017 and [2397 \(2017\)](#) of 22 December 2017,

*Noting with grave concern* the exacerbation of the humanitarian situation and the adverse impact on the human rights situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of disproportionate and unnecessary measures taken following the global outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, and stressing that any restrictions to address the COVID-19 pandemic and the national outbreak announced in May 2022 must be necessary, proportionate, non-discriminatory, time-bound, transparent and strictly in line with international law, including international human rights law, and with relevant Security Council resolutions,

*Noting with concern* the government restrictions that have compelled the international staff of humanitarian agencies to leave the country and suspend assistance projects and the effect that these restrictions may have had on the levels of malnutrition and access to health services, water and sanitation,

*Taking note* of the ongoing strategic framework for cooperation between the United Nations and the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Government's commitment in accordance with the principles, goals and targets of the Sustainable Development Goals<sup>809</sup> and in line with its commitments to international agreements and conventions,

*Stressing again with grave concern* the urgency and importance of the issue of international abductions, which involves a serious violation of human rights, and of the immediate return of all abductees, as they and their family members age, expressing grave concern at the long years of severe suffering experienced by abductees and their

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<sup>809</sup> See resolution [70/1](#).

families, and the lack of any concrete or positive action by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, notably since the investigations on all the Japanese nationals commenced on the basis of the government-level consultations held between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Japan in May 2014 and the identical and non-substantive replies by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the numerous communications transmitted by the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, and strongly demanding again that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea sincerely listen to the voices of the victims and their families to address all allegations of enforced disappearances, clarify the fate and whereabouts of disappeared persons and faithfully provide accurate, detailed and full information promptly to the families of the victims, and resolve immediately all issues relating to all abductees, in particular the realization of the immediate return of all abductees of Japan and the Republic of Korea,

*Noting with concern* the allegations of continued violations of the human rights of unrepatriated prisoners of war and their descendants, and the issue of nationals of other Member States arbitrarily detained in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with no information available regarding their health or the conditions of their detention,

*Stressing* the urgency and importance of the issue of separated families, including affected Koreans worldwide, and in this regard urging the resumption of the reunions of separated families across the border, including the implementation of the commitments made on this issue at the inter-Korean summit held on 19 September 2018 to strengthen humanitarian cooperation to fundamentally resolve the issue of separated families and allow permanent regular reunions and contact between separated families, including through meetings at an easily accessible location and regular facility, regular written correspondence, video reunions and the exchange of video messages, in accordance with relevant Security Council resolutions,

*Welcoming* efforts undertaken by Member States and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea so far, and encouraging further efforts to raise international awareness about the human rights situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea,

*Stressing* that the human rights situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, including with respect to gender equality and the rights of all women and girls, including adolescent girls, is intrinsically linked to international peace and security, since the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea funds its illicit nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programmes through human rights violations and abuse, such as forced labour, and noting with concern that a disproportionate amount of the State budget is allocated to military spending, resulting in failure to fully respect, protect and fulfil human rights, such as the right to adequate food as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living and the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health,

*Encouraging* diplomatic efforts, and stressing the importance of dialogue and engagement, including inter-Korean dialogue, to seek improvement of the human rights and the humanitarian situation in the country,

*Welcoming* the efforts of the Secretary-General to contribute to improving inter-Korean relations and promoting reconciliation and stability on the Korean Peninsula and the well-being of the Korean people,

1. *Condemns in the strongest terms* the long-standing and ongoing systematic, widespread and gross violations of human rights in and by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, including those that may amount to crimes against humanity according to the commission of inquiry on human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, established by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 22/13 of 21 March 2013,<sup>810</sup> and those identified by the group of independent experts on accountability for human rights violations in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea,<sup>811</sup> established pursuant to Council resolution 31/18 of 23 March 2016,<sup>812</sup> and by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, including its field-based structure in Seoul, during its ongoing monitoring and documentation work, and the continuing impunity for such violations;

2. *Expresses its very serious concern* about:

(a) The persistence of continuing reports of violations of human rights, including the detailed findings made by the commission of inquiry in its report, by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

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<sup>810</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/68/53)*, chap. IV, sect. A.

<sup>811</sup> See *A/HRC/34/66/Add.1*.

<sup>812</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/71/53)*, chap. IV, sect. A.

in its ongoing monitoring and documentation work and by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, such as:

- (i) Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, including inhuman conditions of detention; all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, including rape, in particular against women and girls; extrajudicial, summary and arbitrary executions; the imposition of the death penalty for political and religious reasons; public executions; extrajudicial and arbitrary detention; the absence of due process and the rule of law, including fair trial guarantees and an independent judiciary; collective punishments extending up to three generations; and the extensive use of forced labour, including of children;
- (ii) The existence of an extensive system of political prison camps, where a vast number of persons are deprived of their liberty and subjected to deplorable conditions, including forced labour, and where alarming violations of human rights are perpetrated;
- (iii) Enforced and involuntary disappearances of persons by arrest, detention or abduction against their will; refusal to disclose the fate and whereabouts of the persons concerned; and refusal to acknowledge the deprivation of their liberty, which places such persons subjected thereto outside the protection of the law and which has had the effect of inflicting severe suffering on them and their families;
- (iv) The forcible transfer of populations and the limitations imposed on persons wishing to move freely within the country and travel abroad, including harming or punishing those who leave or try to leave the country without permission, or their families, as well as punishment of persons who are returned;
- (v) The situation of refugees and asylum-seekers expelled or returned to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, including where the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea exerts pressure on returning States to effectuate such returns, and retaliations against citizens of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea who have been repatriated from abroad, leading to punishments of internment, torture, other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, sexual and gender-based violence or the death penalty, and in this regard strongly urges all Member States to respect the fundamental principle of non-refoulement, especially in the light of a resumption of cross-border travel, including where the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea exerts pressure on returning States to effectuate such returns, to treat those who seek refuge humanely and to ensure unhindered access to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and his Office, with a view to protecting the human rights of those who seek refuge, and once again urges States parties to comply with their obligations under the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees<sup>813</sup> and the 1967 Protocol thereto<sup>814</sup> in relation to refugees from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea who are covered by those instruments, as well as under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;<sup>815</sup>
- (vi) All-pervasive and severe restrictions, including an absolute monopoly on information and total control over organized social life, further tightened by the COVID-19 prevention measures, both online and offline, on the rights to freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, opinion and expression, peaceful assembly and association, including the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, the right to privacy and equal access to information, by such means as the unlawful and arbitrary surveillance, persecution, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, imprisonment and, in some instances, summary executions of individuals exercising their rights to freedom of opinion and expression and religion or belief, and the right of everyone, including women, to fully, equally and meaningfully take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives, of their country;
- (vii) Violations of economic, social and cultural rights, exacerbated by the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the continued closure by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of its borders, which have led to food insecurity, severe hunger, malnutrition, widespread health problems and other hardship for the population in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in particular for women, children, persons with disabilities, older persons and political prisoners;

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<sup>813</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.

<sup>814</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 606, No. 8791.

<sup>815</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1465, No. 24841.

(viii) Violations of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and girls, including unequal access to employment and discriminatory regulations; as well as, in particular, the creation of internal conditions that force women and girls to leave the country, making them extremely vulnerable to trafficking in persons for the purpose of sexual exploitation, forced labour, domestic servitude or forced marriage, and their subjection to sexual and gender-based discrimination, including in the political and social spheres, as well as in detention, including through forced abortions and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence;

(ix) Violations of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of children, in particular the continued lack of access to basic economic, social and cultural rights for many children, and in this regard notes the particularly vulnerable situation faced by, inter alia, returned or repatriated children, children without housing, children with disabilities, children whose parents are detained, deceased or otherwise absent, children living in detention or in institutions and children in conflict with the law;

(x) Violations of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of persons with disabilities, especially violations involving the use of collective camps and coercive measures that target the rights of persons with disabilities to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children and allegations of the possible use of persons with disabilities in medical testing, forced relocation to rural areas and separation of children with disabilities from their parents;

(xi) Violations of workers' rights, including the right to freedom of association and effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining, the right to strike as defined by the obligations of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the prohibition of the economic exploitation of children and of any harmful or hazardous work of children as defined by the obligations of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as the exploitation of workers sent abroad from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to work under conditions that reportedly amount to forced labour, often for the purpose of generating income for the Government, and emphasizing in this context the importance, especially as there are indications of transport routes reopening, of the full implementation of the requirement that nationals of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea earning income overseas be repatriated, subject to applicable national and international law, as soon as possible pursuant to paragraph 8 of Security Council resolution 2397 (2017), the provision of final reports as soon as possible pursuant to the same and the prohibition on providing work authorizations pursuant to paragraph 17 of resolution 2375 (2017), and urges the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to promote, respect and protect the human rights of workers, including workers repatriated to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

(xii) Discrimination based on the *songbun* system, which classifies people on the basis of State-assigned social class and birth and also includes consideration of political opinions and religion;

(xiii) Violence and discrimination against women, including unequal access to employment and discriminatory laws and regulations;

(b) The continued refusal of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to extend an invitation to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, to engage and give consideration to the reports and recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, or to extend cooperation to the Special Rapporteur and several other United Nations special procedures, in accordance with their terms of reference, as well as to other United Nations human rights mechanisms;

(c) The continued lack of acknowledgement by the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of the grave human rights situation in the country and its consequential lack of action to report on the state of implementation of the recommendations contained in the outcome of its first,<sup>816</sup> second<sup>817</sup> and third<sup>818</sup> universal periodic reviews and to give consideration to the concluding observations of the treaty bodies;

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<sup>816</sup> [A/HRC/13/13](#).

<sup>817</sup> [A/HRC/27/10](#).

<sup>818</sup> [A/HRC/42/10](#).



3. *Condemns* the systematic abduction, denial of repatriation and subsequent enforced disappearance of persons, including those from other Member States, on a large scale and as a matter of State policy, as well as denial of repatriation of prisoners of war, and in this regard strongly urges the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to engage in constructive dialogues with the parties concerned and to urgently resolve these issues of international grave concern, by clarifying their whereabouts in good faith and in a transparent manner, including by ensuring the realization of the immediate return of all abductees, detainees and unrepatriated prisoners of war;

4. *Underscores its very serious concern* regarding reports of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, summary executions, arbitrary detention, abductions and other forms of human rights violations and abuses that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea commits against citizens of other Member States within and outside of its territory, and urges the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to disclose all relevant information to bereaved families and relevant entities;

5. *Expresses its very deep concern* about the prevalence of chronic and acute malnutrition, in particular among persons in the most vulnerable situations, including pregnant and lactating women and adolescent girls, children, persons with disabilities, older persons and prisoners, including political prisoners, which is exacerbated by a lack of access to basic services, including health care, clean water, sanitation and hygiene services, structural weaknesses in agricultural production that result in shortages of diversified food, limitations in the capacity of the Government to respond to natural disasters and government policies that limit access to and availability of adequate food, including through restrictions on the cultivation of and trade in foodstuffs and the closure of the border, and urges the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in this regard, to take preventive and remedial action, including by cooperating with international donor and humanitarian agencies and allowing them access to people in vulnerable situations in order to implement humanitarian assistance programmes, monitored in a manner consistent with international standards;

6. *Welcomes* the latest report to the Human Rights Council of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea,<sup>819</sup> including the efforts to uphold a two-track approach of engagement and accountability, given the need for a comprehensive approach;

7. *Reiterates its appreciation* for the report of the group of independent experts on accountability for human rights violations in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea,<sup>820</sup> established pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 31/18, including options to seek accountability and secure truth and justice for all victims;

8. *Welcomes* the latest report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights<sup>821</sup> on steps taken pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 34/24 of 24 March 2017,<sup>822</sup> 40/20 of 22 March 2019<sup>823</sup> and 46/17 of 23 March 2021,<sup>824</sup> and also welcomes Council resolution 52/28, which continue to strengthen the capacity of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, including its field-based structure in Seoul, to allow the implementation of relevant recommendations made by the group of independent experts on accountability aimed at strengthening current monitoring and documentation efforts, establishing a central repository for information and evidence and having experts in legal accountability assess all information and testimonies with a view to developing possible strategies to be used in any future accountability process;

9. *Expresses strong support* for the work being undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, including its field-based structure in Seoul, in furtherance of Human Rights Council resolution 52/28, with the aim of ensuring accountability for suspected violations of international law committed in and by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and calls upon all States to support such efforts;

10. *Reiterates its appreciation* for the work of the commission of inquiry and acknowledges the importance of its report and the finding that the body of testimony gathered and the information received provide reasonable grounds to believe that crimes against humanity have been committed in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea,

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<sup>819</sup> [A/HRC/52/65](#).

<sup>820</sup> [A/HRC/34/66/Add.1](#).

<sup>821</sup> [A/HRC/52/64](#).

<sup>822</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/72/53)*, chap. IV, sect. A.

<sup>823</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/74/53)*, chap. IV, sect. A.

<sup>824</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/76/53)*, chap. V, sect. A.



pursuant to policies established at the highest level of the State for decades and by institutions under the effective control of its leadership, which was confirmed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the report to the Human Rights Council submitted pursuant to resolutions [34/24](#), [40/20](#) and [46/17](#);

11. *Expresses its concern* at the failure of the authorities of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to hold accountable those responsible for human rights violations, including violations which the commission of inquiry has said may amount to crimes against humanity, and encourages the international community to cooperate with accountability efforts and to ensure that such crimes do not remain unpunished;

12. *Encourages* the Security Council to continue its consideration of the relevant conclusions and recommendations of the commission of inquiry and take appropriate action to ensure accountability, including through consideration of referral of the situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the International Criminal Court and consideration of further sanctions in order to target effectively those who appear to be most responsible for human rights violations that the commission has said may constitute crimes against humanity;

13. *Welcomes* the resumption of the Security Council discussion on the situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and reiterates its appreciation to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for briefing the Council on the country's human rights situation, in the light of the serious concerns expressed in the present resolution, and looks forward to its continued and more active engagement on this matter;

14. *Encourages* the continuing endeavours of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, including through its field-based structure in Seoul, in organizing a series of consultations and outreach activities with victims and survivors, affected communities and other relevant stakeholders with a view to ensuring a victim- and survivor-centred approach to accountability and to including their views in avenues for accountability, compiling a central repository to consolidate the information and evidence relating to suspected violations of international law, and assessing all such evidence and information in order to develop possible strategies to be used in any future accountability process, and also encourages the cooperation of the Office with a wide range of stakeholders in the procurement of evidence that could be used in future criminal proceedings;

15. *Calls upon* Member States to undertake to ensure that the field-based structure of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights can function with independence, has sufficient resources and support to fulfil its mandate, enjoys full cooperation with relevant Member States and is not subjected to any reprisals or threats;

16. *Also calls upon* Member States to continue to support the strengthening of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, including its field-based structure in Seoul, to allow the implementation of relevant recommendations made by the group of independent experts on accountability in its report and in accordance with Human Rights Council resolutions [34/24](#), [40/20](#), [46/17](#), [49/22](#) of 1 April 2022<sup>825</sup> and [52/28](#) aimed at strengthening monitoring and documentation efforts, compiling a central information and evidence repository and having experts in legal accountability assess all information and testimonies with a view to developing possible strategies to be used in any future accountability process;

17. *Further calls upon* Member States to engage with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to explore options to strengthen, institutionalize and further advance work on accountability and undertake, where possible, the investigation and prosecution of persons suspected of committing international crimes in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in accordance with international law;

18. *Strongly urges* the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to respect, protect and fulfil all human rights and fundamental freedoms and, in this regard:

(a) To immediately put an end to the systematic, widespread and grave violations and abuses of human rights emphasized above, inter alia, by implementing fully the measures set out in the above-mentioned resolutions of the General Assembly, the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council, and the recommendations addressed to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea by the Council in the context of the universal periodic review and by the commission of inquiry, the United Nations special procedures and treaty bodies;

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<sup>825</sup> Ibid., *Seventy-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/77/53)*, chap. V, sect. A.

(b) To immediately close the political prison camps and to release all political prisoners unconditionally and without any delay, and to immediately conduct a comprehensive review of conditions in detention facilities and take steps to ensure that conditions in those facilities are in compliance with relevant obligations and commitments relating to the humane treatment of persons in detention, as outlined in the relevant provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as well as the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules);<sup>826</sup>

(c) To immediately cease the use of torture and other cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment or punishment, including in places of detention;

(d) To protect its inhabitants, address the issue of impunity and ensure that those responsible for crimes involving violations and abuses of human rights are brought to justice before an independent judiciary;

(e) To tackle the root causes leading to outflows of migrants and refugees and to prosecute, in trials that meet international human rights standards for fair trial, those involved in migrant smuggling, trafficking in human beings and extortion, while not criminalizing the victims of trafficking, and ensure that repatriated women and girls who are victims of trafficking receive appropriate support and are not punished, sent to labour camps or prisons or otherwise deprived of their liberty;

(f) To ensure that everyone within the territory of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea enjoys the right to freedom of movement and is free to leave the country, including for the purpose of seeking asylum outside the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, without interference by the authorities of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

(g) To ensure that citizens of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea who are expelled or returned to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are able to return in safety and dignity, are treated humanely and are not subjected to any kind of human rights violations, including enforced disappearances, arbitrary executions, torture and ill-treatment and trials that do not conform with international fair trial guarantees, and to provide information on their status and treatment;

(h) To provide citizens of other Member States detained in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with protections, including freedom of communication with, and access to, consular officers in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations,<sup>827</sup> to which the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is a party, and any other necessary arrangements to confirm their status and to communicate with their families;

(i) To extend its full cooperation to the new Special Rapporteur, including by granting her full, free and unimpeded access to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and to other special procedures of the Human Rights Council, as well as to other United Nations human rights mechanisms, so that a full assessment of the human rights situation may be made;

(j) To extend an invitation to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to visit the country;

(k) To engage in technical cooperation activities in the field of human rights with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and his Office, including the field-based structure in the region, as pursued by the previous High Commissioner in recent years, with a view to improving the situation of human rights in the country;

(l) To implement the accepted recommendations stemming from the universal periodic reviews and to provide comprehensive information detailing progress on the implementation of the recommendations accepted from the third cycle;

(m) To become a member of the International Labour Organization, to enact legislation and adopt practices to comply with international labour standards and to consider ratifying all the relevant conventions, in particular the core labour conventions of the International Labour Organization;

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<sup>826</sup> Resolution 70/175, annex.

<sup>827</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 596, No. 8638.

## V. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Third Committee

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(n) To continue and reinforce its cooperation with United Nations humanitarian agencies, including by allowing for the immediate return of international and humanitarian staff;

(o) To ensure full, safe and unhindered access to persons in need of humanitarian aid, and take measures to allow humanitarian agencies to survey and assess the needs of persons in vulnerable situations, to obtain critical baseline data and to provide the required technical and material contributions and activities, including the unhindered and impartial delivery of such humanitarian aid to all parts of the country, on the basis of need in accordance with humanitarian principles, as it pledged to do, and to furthermore ensure access to adequate basic services and implement more effective food security and nutrition policies, including through sustainable agriculture, sound food production and distribution measures and the allocation of more funds to the food sector, to allow adequate monitoring of humanitarian assistance;

(p) To cooperate with the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator initiative and its COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Facility and relevant bodies and to respond constructively to offers of assistance to ensure the timely delivery and equitable distribution of sufficient vaccine doses, recognizing that access to vaccines is an essential dimension of everyone's right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including as it relates to a Government taking requisite actions for the entry of international staff and the prioritization of the shipment of life-saving humanitarian assistance, in accordance with relevant Security Council resolutions and in a manner consistent with guidance and best practice provided by the World Health Organization;

(q) To further improve cooperation with the United Nations country team members and development agencies so that they can directly contribute to improving the living conditions of the civilian population, including progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

(r) To consider ratifying and acceding to the remaining international human rights treaties, which would enable a dialogue with the human rights treaty bodies, to prioritize reporting to monitoring bodies on treaties to which it is a party, to participate meaningfully in treaty body reviews, and to give consideration to the concluding observations of such bodies in order to improve the human rights situation in the country;

(s) To ensure the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief and the rights to freedom of opinion, expression and association, both online and offline, including by permitting the establishment of independent newspapers and other media and reviewing laws, including the Law on Rejecting Reactionary Thought and Culture, and practices suppressing the aforementioned rights;

19. *Urges* the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to implement the recommendations of the commission of inquiry, the group of independent experts, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Secretary-General and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights without delay;

20. *Reiterates* the importance of maintaining high on the international agenda the grave human rights situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, including through sustained communications, advocacy and outreach initiatives, and requests the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to strengthen those activities;

21. *Encourages* all Member States that engage in dialogue with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to continue to advocate for the establishment of lasting peace and security in the Korean Peninsula, to engage with United Nations human rights mechanisms and to address the human rights situation;

22. *Encourages* all Member States, the General Assembly, the Human Rights Council, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Secretariat, relevant specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations and forums, civil society organizations, foundations and engaged business enterprises and other stakeholders towards which the commission of inquiry has directed recommendations to implement or take forward those recommendations, and to also support efforts aimed at resuming and improving dialogue, including inter-Korean dialogue, on the humanitarian and human rights situation, including enforced disappearances and international abductions, in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

23. *Encourages* the United Nations system as a whole to continue to address the grave human rights situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in a coordinated and unified manner;

24. *Encourages* the relevant United Nations programmes, funds, specialized agencies and other related organizations to assist the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the implementation of recommendations stemming from the United Nations human rights mechanisms, including the universal periodic reviews, human rights treaty body reviews and the report of the commission of inquiry;

25. *Calls upon* the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to engage constructively with international interlocutors with a view to promoting concrete improvements in the human rights situation on the ground, including through human rights dialogues, official visits to the country that include adequate access to fully assess human rights conditions, cooperation initiatives and more people-to-people contact as a matter of priority;

26. *Decides* to continue its examination of the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea at its seventy-ninth session, and to this end requests the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and requests the Special Rapporteur to continue to report her findings and recommendations, as well as to report on the follow-up to the implementation of the recommendations of the commission of inquiry.

### RESOLUTION 78/219

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/481/Add.3, para. 33)<sup>828</sup>

#### 78/219. Situation of human rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar

*The General Assembly,*

*Guided* by the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>829</sup> the International Covenants on Human Rights<sup>830</sup> and other relevant international law and human rights law instruments,

*Recalling* that States have the primary responsibility to respect, protect and fulfil human rights,

*Recalling also* its previous resolutions on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, the most recent of which being resolutions 77/227 of 15 December 2022, 76/180 of 16 December 2021, 75/287 of 18 June 2021, 75/238 of 31 December 2020, 74/246 of 27 December 2019, 73/264 of 22 December 2018 and 72/248 of 24 December 2017, and recalling the resolutions and decisions of the Human Rights Council, the most recent of which being resolutions 53/26 of 14 July 2023,<sup>831</sup> 52/31 of 4 April 2023,<sup>832</sup> 50/3 of 7 July 2022,<sup>833</sup> 49/23 of 1 April 2022,<sup>834</sup> 47/1 of 12 July 2021,<sup>835</sup> 46/21 of 24 March 2021,<sup>836</sup> S-29/1 of 12 February 2021,<sup>837</sup> 43/26 of 22 June 2020,<sup>838</sup> 42/3 of 26 September

<sup>828</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Central African Republic, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kiribati, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Vanuatu.

<sup>829</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>830</sup> Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

<sup>831</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/78/53)*, chap. VII, sect. A.

<sup>832</sup> *Ibid.*, chap. V, sect. A.

<sup>833</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/77/53)*, chap. VIII, sect. A.

<sup>834</sup> *Ibid.*, chap. VI, sect. A.

<sup>835</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/76/53)*, chap. VII, sect. A.

<sup>836</sup> *Ibid.*, chap. V, sect. A.

<sup>837</sup> *Ibid.*, chap. IV.

<sup>838</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-fifth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/75/53)*, chap. IV, sect. A.

2019,<sup>839</sup> 39/2 of 27 September 2018,<sup>840</sup> 37/32 of 23 March 2018<sup>841</sup> and S-27/1 of 5 December 2017,<sup>842</sup> the presidential statements issued by the Security Council on 6 November 2017<sup>843</sup> and 10 March 2021,<sup>844</sup> and the press statements of the Security Council on the situation in Myanmar of 9 May 2018,<sup>845</sup> 4 February 2021<sup>846</sup> and 1 and 30 April 2021, as well as Security Council resolutions 2669 (2022) of 21 December 2022 and 2467 (2019) of 23 April 2019,

*Condemning in the strongest terms* all violations and abuses of human rights against civilians, including Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar, including before and following the unjustified declaration of the state of emergency on 1 February 2021 and its later extensions,

*Reiterating its deep concern* over the continued violence, violations and abuses of human rights against and forced displacement of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities, and in this regard stressing the need to address the root causes of the crisis in Rakhine State,

*Expressing its deep concern* over the sharp rise in serious human rights violations since the declaration and subsequent extensions of the state of emergency by the Myanmar military, which pose further serious challenges to the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return of all forcibly displaced persons, including Rohingya Muslims,

*Condemning in the strongest terms* the arbitrary detention, arrest and politically motivated convictions, sentencing and executions, including of opposition activists, as well as violent acts including extrajudicial killings, sexual and gender-based violence, and torture committed against the population, including medical doctors, teachers, students, lawyers, artists, journalists, humanitarian workers and many others, which exacerbates the polarization and violence and worsens the humanitarian situation in the country,

*Expressing deep concern* at the indiscriminate use of violence and ongoing escalation of the conflict, as well as the declaration of martial law in parts of the country, which seriously undermines the enjoyment of human rights in Myanmar, especially those of women, children and older persons, as well as those of persons belonging to ethnic and religious minorities, including Rohingya Muslims, owing to the heavy militarization of Myanmar aggravated by the continued access to arms from abroad,

*Underlining* the urgency for the Myanmar military to immediately end all acts of violence, to unconditionally and immediately release all those arbitrarily detained and to refrain from further violence and arbitrary detentions,

*Expressing its unequivocal support* for the people of Myanmar and their democratic will, interests and aspirations for peace, as well as for the need to rebuild and strengthen democratic institutions and processes and to respect fully human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law,

*Underlining* the importance of the mandate of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar, and encouraging the Secretary-General to appoint a new Special Envoy without delay, to continue the work, engagement and inclusive dialogue with all relevant stakeholders, including civil society and affected populations, in particular women and youth, and urging the Myanmar military and all Member States to extend full cooperation with the Special Envoy,

*Noting with appreciation* the work of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, while deeply regretting the non-cooperation of the Myanmar military with the mandate, and urging them to extend full cooperation to the Special Rapporteur,

*Welcoming* the reports of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on human rights violations and abuses occurring in Myanmar since the declaration of the state of emergency, violations of international

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<sup>839</sup> Ibid., Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/74/53/Add.1), chap. II.

<sup>840</sup> Ibid., Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/73/53/Add.1), chap. II.

<sup>841</sup> Ibid., Supplement No. 53 (A/73/53), chap. IV, sect. A.

<sup>842</sup> Ibid., chap. III.

<sup>843</sup> S/PRST/2017/22; see *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 2017* (S/INF/72).

<sup>844</sup> S/PRST/2021/5.

<sup>845</sup> SC/13331.

<sup>846</sup> SC/14430.

humanitarian law and denial of humanitarian access,<sup>847</sup> and on the root causes of the human rights violations and abuses Rohingya and other minorities in Myanmar are facing,<sup>848</sup> and reiterating the importance of fully implementing the recommendations contained in these reports,

*Recalling* the work done by the independent international fact-finding mission on Myanmar, including its final report<sup>849</sup> and all its other reports, including the reports on the economic interests of the Myanmar military and on sexual and gender-based violence in Myanmar and the gendered impact of its ethnic conflicts, alarmed by its findings of evidence of the most serious human rights violations and abuses suffered by Rohingya Muslims and other minorities, and deeply regretting the lack of cooperation of Myanmar with the fact-finding mission,

*Concerned* that, contrary to the fact-finding mission's recommendations, laws, orders, policies and practices at all levels limiting freedoms of movement, expression, association and assembly, or which are discriminatory in their application or impact, continue to be utilized to stifle freedom of association, speech and the press,

*Welcoming* the work of the Independent Mechanism for Myanmar, established by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 39/2, to collect, consolidate, preserve and analyse evidence of the most serious international crimes and violations of international law committed in Myanmar since 2011, in particular but not limited to Rakhine, Kachin and Shan States, making use of the information handed over by the independent international fact-finding mission, and to prepare files in order to facilitate and expedite fair and independent criminal proceedings, in accordance with international law standards, in national, regional or international courts or tribunals that have, or may in the future have, jurisdiction over these crimes, in accordance with international law,

*Welcoming also* the reports of the Independent Mechanism for Myanmar, established by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 39/2, including the fifth report submitted to the General Assembly,<sup>850</sup> and encouraging the Mechanism to continue its work and engagement with victims and other stakeholders,

*Welcoming further* the cooperation extended by the Government of Bangladesh with the Independent Mechanism for Myanmar, and underlining, in this regard, the call of the Mechanism to other Member States, including countries in the region, to extend full and meaningful cooperation, allowing the Mechanism to fully deliver on its mandate,

*Recognizing* the complementary and mutually reinforcing work of the various United Nations mandate holders and mechanisms, including international justice and accountability mechanisms working on Myanmar to improve the situation of human rights in Myanmar,

*Recognizing also* the importance of the role of regional organizations in efforts to achieve pacific settlement of local disputes, as stipulated in Chapter VIII of the Charter, while noting that such efforts do not preclude action under Chapter VI of the Charter,

*Recognizing further* the important role of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in facilitating a peaceful solution to the crisis in Myanmar in the interests of the people of Myanmar and in supporting efforts that can contribute to the creation of an environment in Myanmar that is conducive to the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return of forcibly displaced persons, including Rohingya Muslims, to Myanmar, and reiterating the need to work in close coordination and in full consultation with Rohingya Muslims, as well as with all relevant United Nations agencies and international partners, and to address the root causes of the crisis and displacement so that affected communities can rebuild their lives after their return to Myanmar,

*Acknowledging* the work of the Chair of ASEAN, through its Office of the Special Envoy, in establishing inclusive engagements with all relevant stakeholders in Myanmar towards establishing a national inclusive dialogue, through a building-blocks dialogue approach,

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<sup>847</sup> [A/HRC/53/52](#).

<sup>848</sup> [A/HRC/52/22](#).

<sup>849</sup> [A/HRC/42/50](#).

<sup>850</sup> [A/78/299](#).



## V. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Third Committee

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*Welcoming* the ASEAN Leaders' review of and decision on the implementation of the five-point consensus, adopted in Jakarta on 5 September 2023, that decides to maintain the five-point consensus as the main reference to address the political crisis in Myanmar which should be implemented in its entirety,

*Acknowledging* the comprehensive report of the Chair of ASEAN on the implementation of the five-point consensus, and, in line with the assessment of the report, expressing grave concern that there has been a lack of substantial progress in this regard,

*Acknowledging also* the efforts of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, alongside relevant international efforts, aimed at bringing peace and stability to Rakhine State and other states and regions of Myanmar, including through the work of the previous Special Envoy for Myanmar of the Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation,

*Underlining* the importance of close coordination between the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar, once appointed, with all relevant United Nations entities as well as other respective envoys,

*Recognizing* the vital role of civil society in collecting information and highlighting the most serious violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law in Myanmar, as relevant,

*Welcoming* the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>851</sup>

*Welcoming also* the adoption of Security Council resolution 2669 (2022), in which the Council demanded an immediate end to all forms of violence throughout Myanmar and urged restraint and de-escalation of tensions, while acknowledging the central role of ASEAN, including its five-point consensus on Myanmar,

*Welcoming further* the statement by the Chair of ASEAN in May 2023 that reiterated the "unified position" of ASEAN towards the situation in Myanmar and that the five-point consensus remains the "main reference" in addressing developments in Myanmar, as well as the statement made by ASEAN Foreign Ministers, following their meeting of 11 and 12 July 2023, where ASEAN "urged all parties involved to take concrete action to immediately halt indiscriminate violence, denounce any escalation and create a conducive environment for the delivery of humanitarian assistance and inclusive national dialogue",

*Welcoming* the ASEAN Leaders' review and decision to establish an informal consultation mechanism, consisting of the current, previous and incoming Chairs of ASEAN, to ensure the sustainability of the ongoing efforts of ASEAN in addressing the crisis in Myanmar, in line with the five-point consensus,

*Welcoming also* the ongoing processes to ensure justice and accountability in respect of alleged crimes committed against Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar,

*Recalling* that the International Criminal Court has authorized its Prosecutor to investigate alleged crimes within the Court's jurisdiction related to the situation in Bangladesh/Myanmar, and welcoming the cooperation provided by Bangladesh to the Office of the Prosecutor,

*Recalling* the order of the International Court of Justice of 23 January 2020 indicating provisional measures in the case lodged by the Gambia against Myanmar on the application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide,<sup>852</sup> which found that the Rohingya in Myanmar appeared to constitute a "protected group" within the meaning of article 2 of the Convention and that there was a real and imminent risk of irreparable prejudice to the rights of the Rohingya in Myanmar, and calling upon Myanmar to fully comply with the order,

*Recalling also* the judgment of the International Court of Justice of 22 July 2022 rejecting the preliminary objections of Myanmar in the case lodged by the Gambia against Myanmar, and finding the application of the Gambia to be admissible, and welcoming in this regard funds contributed by a number of member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation as well as the engagement of other Member States to back the ongoing proceedings,

*Noting* the publication of the executive summary of the report of the Independent Commission of Enquiry established by Myanmar in 2018, which, notwithstanding its limitations, acknowledges that war crimes, serious

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<sup>851</sup> [A/78/278](#).

<sup>852</sup> Resolution 260 A (III), annex.



human rights violations and violations of domestic law had been committed by multiple actors and that there were reasonable grounds to believe that members of Myanmar security forces were involved, and regretting that the full report of the Commission at present remains unpublished,

*Condemning* all violations and abuses of human rights in Myanmar, including against Rohingya Muslims and other minorities, as well as the use of excessive force and violence by the Myanmar armed forces, including torture and sexual and gender-based violence, which has led to injuries and fatalities in many cases, against peaceful demonstrators, as well as members of civil society, women, young people, children, minorities and others, and expressing its deep concern at undue restrictions to the activities of medical and humanitarian personnel, all other representatives of civil society, labour union members, journalists and media workers, and calling for the immediate release of all those detained arbitrarily, including foreign nationals,

*Reiterating its deep concern* at the widespread, deliberate, indiscriminate and excessive use of force by Myanmar security and armed forces across the country, including abductions, arbitrary detentions, mass killings, torture and maiming, aerial attacks against and burning of villages and civilian objects, attacks on schools, hospitals, internally displaced persons camps and places of worship and civilian gatherings, the unlawful recruitment and use of children and the use of facilities functioning as hospitals and schools for military purposes and for committing crimes, as well as reports of violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, including those involving the use of landmines, leading to continued forced displacement and making conditions in Rakhine State and other parts of the country unsuitable for the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return of all refugees and forcibly displaced persons, including Rohingya,

*Underlining* the urgent need to prevent the laying of additional landmines and to promote the marking and mapping of newly mined areas, mine clearance, the clearance of explosive remnants of war and mine-risk education programmes for civilians, and to prioritize victim assistance and stockpile destruction, including prior to any movement by internally displaced persons back to contaminated areas,

*Alarmed* that children continue to be subjected to the six grave violations against children during armed conflict, and that the scale and recurrent nature of such violations and abuses will affect generations to come,

*Reiterating* the urgent need to ensure that all those responsible for crimes related to violations and abuses of international law throughout Myanmar, including international human rights law, international humanitarian law and international criminal law, are held to account through credible and independent national, regional or international justice mechanisms, while recalling the authority of the Security Council in this regard,

*Expressing deep concern* that, in Rakhine, more than 600,000 Rohingya Muslims remain largely segregated and discriminated against with respect to accessing citizenship and enjoying their human rights and fundamental freedoms, a large number of whom remain confined in camps with no freedom of movement and grossly restricted access to basic services, including health and psychosocial care and education, as well as livelihoods,

*Expressing its concern* that Rohingya Muslims and other minorities, in particular women and girls, remain at significant risk of sexual and gender-based violence, notably in the context of the continued conflict between the Myanmar security and armed forces and the Arakan Army,

*Continuing to underline* the need for the Myanmar security and armed forces and other armed groups to cease all actions that run counter to the protection of all persons within the country, including those belonging to the Rohingya community, by respecting international law, including international human rights law and international humanitarian law, and ending violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, and calling for urgent steps to ensure justice in respect of all human rights violations and violations of international humanitarian law so that those displaced by violence are able to voluntarily return in safety and dignity to their places of origin or to a place of their choice in a sustainable manner,

*Alarmed* at the rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation in Myanmar, the continued attacks on medical and humanitarian personnel and the denial of safe, rapid and unhindered humanitarian access, and calling for all sides, in particular the Myanmar armed forces, to abide by international law, including international humanitarian law, in this matter, and to enable humanitarian actors to deliver humanitarian aid consistent with the humanitarian principles of humanity, independence, neutrality and impartiality,

*Alarmed also* at the devastation caused by Cyclone Mocha in May 2023, which caused significant damage in Rakhine State and has further exacerbated the situation of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities, noting that the

humanitarian access constraints have compounded multiple vulnerabilities in conflict-affected areas, and expressing concern that the combined humanitarian response plan and the flash appeal for 2023 have been severely underfunded,

*Expressing its deep concern* at the lack of access given to the International Committee of the Red Cross to prisons and other places of detention, which has grave consequences on the ability of families to be informed about the health and conditions of prisoners, as well as on prisoners' access to necessary health care,

*Reiterating its deep distress* at reports that unarmed individuals in Rakhine State have been subjected to the excessive use of force and to violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law by the military and security and armed forces, including those involving extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary killings, systematic rape and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance and government seizure of Rohingya lands from which Rohingya Muslims were evicted and their homes destroyed, and remaining concerned by the previous large-scale destruction of homes and systematic evictions in northern Rakhine State, including the use of arson and violence, as well as the unlawful use of force by non-State actors,

*Expressing concern* that, in northern Rakhine State, the implementation of policies under the guise of economic development and reconstruction by the Myanmar military and the heavy militarization of the area have resulted in the alteration of the demographic structure, which further prevents the members of the displaced Rohingya Muslim population from returning to their places of origin or a place of their choice in Rakhine State,

*Stressing* the need for an immediate end to all forms of violence, de-escalation and an enduring ceasefire throughout Myanmar, best achieved by dialogue between all parties,

*Underlining* the need for the resumption of peacebuilding efforts and their relevance for inclusive State- and nation-building,

*Emphasizing* the importance of supporting women's leadership and full, equal and meaningful participation in inclusive State- and nation-building, especially by amplifying their potential in Myanmar as multipliers of peace, promoting social cohesion across different ethnic and religious communities, and thus welcoming the development of the women and peace and security platform in Myanmar, co-facilitated by the former Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Indonesia,

*Reiterating its grave concern* that, in spite of the fact that the Rohingya minority has lived in Myanmar for generations prior to the independence of Myanmar, held full documentation and participated actively in government and civic life, they were made stateless by the enactment of the 1982 Citizenship Law and were eventually disenfranchised, from 2015, from the electoral process,

*Reaffirming* that the denial of citizenship status and related rights to Rohingya Muslims and other minorities, including voting rights, is a serious human rights concern,

*Re-emphasizing* the right of all refugees and the importance of internally displaced persons to be able to return home and that such returns should be in safety and dignity and in a voluntary and sustainable manner, and reminding the international community of its collective responsibility towards the forcibly displaced persons in the region,

*Expressing concern* at the irregular maritime movement of Rohingya, risking their lives in perilous conditions at the hands of exploitative traffickers and smugglers, which highlights their desperate situation and the urgent need to address the root causes of their vulnerability,

*Alarmed* by the continued influx from Myanmar to Bangladesh over the last four decades, leading to the presence of around 1.2 million Rohingyas in Bangladesh, the majority of whom have arrived since 25 August 2017 in the aftermath of atrocities committed by the security and armed forces of Myanmar,

*Recalling* the bilateral arrangement of return concluded between the Government of Bangladesh and the Government of Myanmar on 23 November 2017 in Nay Pyi Taw, and noting the recent exchange of visits between the group of Rohingya refugees to northern Rakhine and Myanmar officials to Cox's Bazar under this arrangement, while regretting that no repatriation could commence under the arrangement owing to the continued absence of a conducive environment in Rakhine State,

*Underscoring* the urgent need for the reinstatement and subsequent implementation of the memorandum of understanding between Myanmar and the United Nations Development Programme and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on assistance in the repatriation process of all displaced persons from

Rakhine State, including Rohingya Muslims, and calling upon relevant stakeholders in Myanmar to grant United Nations agencies unhindered access to northern Rakhine so that they can meaningfully engage in the process,

*Reiterating its deep concern* over the continued spread of false news and information, hate speech and inflammatory rhetoric, in particular through social media, notably targeting Rohingya Muslims and other minorities,

*Reiterating its deep concern also* at the restrictions and attacks on civil society, journalists and media workers, including restrictions on seeking, receiving and imparting information, including Internet shutdowns in Myanmar, that may also exacerbate further the plight of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities,

*Underlining* the importance of the call by the Secretary-General for increased efforts to implement the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, to address the root causes of the crisis, including those on access to citizenship for Rohingya, freedom of movement, the elimination of systematic segregation and all forms of discrimination, and inclusive and equal access to health services and education, and birth registration, in full consultation with members of all ethnic and minority groups and persons in vulnerable situations, including on matters of citizenship for Rohingya,

*Acknowledging* the pronouncements of the National Unity Government articulated in the “Policy position on the Rohingya in Rakhine State” released on 3 June 2021, and the subsequent pledges to dismantle the discriminatory legal framework that has enabled the commission of human rights violations against the Rohingya Muslims and other minorities,

*Recalling* the commitment of the Secretary-General to implementing the recommendations made by the independent inquiry into the involvement of the United Nations in Myanmar from 2010 to 2018, and underlining the urgent need to implement relevant recommendations to enable more effective work in the future and to strengthen the prevention capacity of the United Nations system, while regretting the lack of progress in this regard,

*Underlining* the need for a peaceful solution for Myanmar, through an inclusive and peaceful dialogue between all parties, in accordance with the will and interests of the people of Myanmar,

*Stressing* the importance of ensuring equal opportunity for the representation and the full, equal and meaningful participation of Rohingya, other minorities and internally displaced persons, candidates and voters in free and democratically organized general elections, and that all people of Myanmar are able to cast their vote, allowing all candidates to contest elections fairly,

*Alarmed* at the increase in grave violations against children in Myanmar, as identified by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict,<sup>853</sup> including the dramatic increase in child abduction and recruitment and use of children by Myanmar security forces and other armed groups, and alarmed also at the high number of unaccompanied children in Rakhine State after Cyclone Mocha,

*Commending* the ongoing humanitarian efforts and commitments that the Government of Bangladesh, in cooperation with United Nations agencies and the international community, including all humanitarian actors, has extended to those fleeing human rights violations and abuses in Myanmar, welcoming in this regard the memorandum of understanding between the Government of Bangladesh and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, on behalf of the United Nations, to provide humanitarian assistance to the Rohingyas relocated to Bhashan Char, and recognizing the extensive investments that the Government of Bangladesh has made in its Bhashan Char project, including in the facilities and infrastructure, and welcoming further efforts to facilitate access to work and livelihood opportunities while noting the importance of efforts to ensure the sustainability of the project,

*Noting with grave concern* that, despite the unprecedented generosity of host countries and donors, the gap between humanitarian needs on the ground and actual funding continues to grow, recalling in this context the need for more equitable burden- and responsibility-sharing, and encouraging in this regard Member States and other actors to leverage the Global Refugee Forum 2023 and its follow-up processes to demonstrate commitment to ease the pressure on the host countries and work towards sustainable solutions,

*Recognizing* that many member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation continue to host a large number of Rohingya Muslim refugees who fled the crisis,

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<sup>853</sup> See [A/77/895-S/2023/363](#).

## V. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Third Committee

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1. *Expresses grave concern* at the continuing reports of serious human rights violations and abuses by the military and security forces as well as violations of international humanitarian law in Myanmar against civilians, including Rohingya Muslims and other minorities, including those involving mass killings, arbitrary arrests, deaths in detention, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, deliberate killing and maiming of children, recruitment and use of children for forced labour, aerial attacks against and burning of villages and civilian objects, attacks on schools, hospitals, internally displaced persons camps and places of worship and protected persons in relation to schools and/or hospitals, indiscriminate shelling in civilian areas, deprivation of economic and social rights, rape, sexual slavery and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence, as well as restrictions on exercising the rights to freedom of religion or belief, expression and peaceful assembly, and restrictions on media freedom and full Internet access and other restrictions, which has generated continued forced displacement within Myanmar and across its borders;
2. *Condemns in the strongest terms* all violations and abuses of human rights against civilians in Myanmar, including Rohingya Muslims and other minorities, before and after the unjustified declaration of the state of emergency on 1 February 2021 and its later extensions, and emphasizes the importance of conducting international, independent, fair and transparent investigations into the most serious human rights violations in Myanmar, including sexual and gender-based violence and violations and abuses against women and children, and of holding accountable all those responsible for brutal acts and crimes against all persons, including Rohingya Muslims, in order to deliver justice to victims using all legal instruments and domestic, regional and international judicial mechanisms, including the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court, as applicable;
3. *Calls upon* the security and armed forces of Myanmar to respect the democratic will and aspirations of the people of Myanmar, to end violence, to fully respect human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law, to uphold democratic institutions and processes, and to end the state of emergency declared on 1 February 2021;
4. *Demands* an immediate end to hostilities and all forms of violence throughout the country, and urges restraint and de-escalation of tensions;
5. *Calls upon* the security and armed forces of Myanmar to immediately release all those who have been arbitrarily detained, arrested, convicted and sentenced on political grounds, including opposition activists and foreign nationals;
6. *Calls for* constructive, inclusive and peaceful dialogue and reconciliation, in accordance with the will and interests of the people of Myanmar, including Rohingya Muslims and other minorities;
7. *Stresses* the importance of agreeing on and enforcing an enduring ceasefire, including in Rakhine, a cessation of violence, and restraint by Myanmar security and armed forces and other armed groups, with a view to ensuring safety, security and protection of civilians, including those who are displaced and willing to return;
8. *Calls upon* all parties to the conflict to increase their engagement with the United Nations, and with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, to strengthen the protection of children, including through the signature of concrete time-bound commitments;
9. *Reiterates* the importance of conducting international, independent, fair and transparent investigations into human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law in Myanmar, including alleged war crimes, and of holding accountable all those responsible for brutal acts and crimes against all persons, including Rohingya Muslims and other minorities;
10. *Expresses deep concern* that, despite the provisional measures ordered by the International Court of Justice on 23 January 2020 in the case of *The Gambia v. Myanmar*, Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar, including women and children, are not protected and continue to suffer from discrimination, targeted killings, indiscriminate violence and serious injuries, including by indiscriminate fire, shelling, landmines or unexploded ordnance;
11. *Urges* Myanmar, in accordance with the order of the International Court of Justice to take all measures within its power to prevent the commission of all acts within the scope of article 2 of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, to ensure that its military and any irregular armed units that may be directed or supported by it and any organizations and persons that may be subject to its control, direction or influence do not commit, inter alia, any such acts, to prevent the destruction and ensure the preservation of evidence and to report to the Court as ordered on all measures taken to give effect to its order;

12. *Expresses grave concern* about the ongoing restrictions on humanitarian access in all conflict areas across Myanmar, including in Rakhine and Chin States and Sagaing and Magway Regions, also in the aftermath of Cyclone Mocha, as well as the limited steps taken to ensure access to health care for Rohingya, and urges the granting of full, unrestricted and safe access to all humanitarian actors and all United Nations mandate holders and human rights mechanisms, including the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, the United Nations country task force on monitoring and reporting grave violations committed against children, the Independent Mechanism for Myanmar, established by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 39/2, and relevant United Nations agencies and international and regional human rights bodies to independently monitor the situation of human rights and to ensure that individuals can cooperate without hindrance with these mechanisms and without fear of reprisal, intimidation or attack, and expresses deep concern that international access to affected areas of northern Rakhine State and other areas affected by violence remains severely restricted for the international community, including for United Nations agencies, humanitarian actors and international media;

13. *Calls upon* the United Nations to ensure that the Independent Mechanism for Myanmar, as established by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 39/2, is afforded the flexibility that it needs in terms of staffing, location and operational freedom so that it can deliver as effectively as possible on its mandate, and be able to brief Member States on its activities, and urges Myanmar, Member States, judicial authorities and private entities to cooperate fully with the Mechanism, including by granting it access, including access to witnesses where applicable, and by providing it with every assistance in the execution of its mandate;

14. *Expresses grave concern* at the potential retraumatization of survivors of human rights violations and abuses, particularly child survivors and sexual violence survivors, and calls upon all actors engaging in documentation to follow the “do no harm” principle for evidence-gathering in order to respect the dignity of survivors and to avoid retraumatization, and calls for fully addressing the needs of victims and survivors and their right to effective remedy, including through prompt, effective and independent casualty recording and guarantees of non-recurrence;

15. *Underlines* the importance of consulting with survivors and families of victims, including Rohingya and other minorities, and including them in advancing justice and accountability, as appropriate;

16. *Reiterates* the urgent call upon Myanmar or the Myanmar military where applicable:

(a) To end immediately all violence and all violations of international law in Myanmar, to ensure the protection of the human rights of all persons in Myanmar, including of Rohingya and persons belonging to other minorities, and to take all measures necessary to provide justice to victims, to ensure full accountability and to end impunity for all violations and abuses of human rights law and violations of international humanitarian law, starting with a full, transparent and independent investigation into reports of all these violations, and calls for the release of the report of the Independent Commission of Enquiry established in 2018 in full or to share its findings with relevant international mechanisms;

(b) To engage in inclusive, constructive and peaceful dialogue and reconciliation, in accordance with the will and interests of the people of Myanmar, including Rohingya Muslims and other minorities;

(c) To ensure the right to return of all refugees, including Rohingya Muslims, hosted in other countries, and take concrete actions to create conditions necessary for voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return and reintegration, regretting the fact that not a single Rohingya so far has returned through a bilaterally set up mechanism for repatriation between Bangladesh and Myanmar owing to the failure of Myanmar to create such conditions in Rakhine State;

(d) To build trust among Rohingya Muslims in camps in Bangladesh through confidence-building measures, including by arranging voluntary “go and see” visits to Rakhine State by Rohingya representatives;

(e) To ensure full protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons in Myanmar, including Rohingya Muslims and other minorities, in an equal, non-discriminatory and dignified manner, in order to prevent further instability and insecurity, alleviate suffering, address the root causes of the crisis, including by repealing or reforming discriminatory legislation, and forge a viable, lasting and durable solution;

(f) To fulfil its human rights obligations and commitments to protect the right to freedom of expression, including online, and the rights to freedom of association and peaceful assembly, to create and maintain a safe and enabling environment for civil society and independent media;

(g) To take the measures necessary to end discrimination and prejudice and to combat the incitement of hatred against Rohingya Muslims and persons belonging to other minorities, and to publicly condemn such acts and combat hate speech, while fully respecting international human rights law, as well as to promote interfaith dialogue in cooperation with the international community and encourage political and religious leaders in the country to work towards reconciliation among communities and national unity through dialogue, and to implement the Peacebuilding Fund project to address hate speech;

(h) To protect all persons and communities, in line with international humanitarian law and human rights law, including the Rohingya Muslims and other minorities;

(i) To expedite efforts to eliminate statelessness and the systematic and institutionalized discrimination against members of all minorities, in particular relating to Rohingya Muslims, by, inter alia, reviewing and reforming the 1982 Citizenship Law, which has led to deprivation of human rights, by ensuring equal access to full citizenship through a transparent, voluntary and accessible procedure and to all civil and political rights, by allowing for self-identification, by amending or repealing all discriminatory legislation and policies, including discriminatory provisions of the set of “protection of race and religion laws” enacted in 2015 covering religious conversion, interfaith marriage, monogamy and population control, and by lifting all local orders restricting rights to freedom of movement and access to civil registration, health and education services and livelihoods;

(j) To dismantle the camps for internally displaced persons in Rakhine State with a clear timeline and without further delay, ensuring that the return and relocation of internally displaced persons is carried out in accordance with international standards and best practices, in cooperation with the United Nations and the international community, and affected communities, including as set forth in the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement;<sup>854</sup>

(k) To accelerate full implementation of all the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State to address the root causes of the crisis;

(l) To ensure that Rohingya, other minorities and internally displaced persons have an equal opportunity for representation and the full, equal and meaningful participation as candidates and voters in all general elections;

(m) To end and prevent the unlawful recruitment and use of children by all armed and security forces, including by implementing all activities of the joint action plan on children and armed conflict in coordination with the United Nations, and to address protection gaps by engaging with the task force on monitoring and reporting violations committed against children, notably by developing a joint action plan on killing and maiming and rape and other forms of sexual violence committed against children;

(n) To protect the rights of all children, including Rohingya children, in accordance with the obligations of Myanmar under the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>855</sup> including the right to acquire a nationality, to eliminate statelessness, to ensure the protection of all children in armed conflict and to end the unlawful recruitment and use of children for forced labour;

(o) To cooperate with the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar, once appointed, including by facilitating unconditional visits to Myanmar and meaningful engagement with all stakeholders, including Rohingya Muslims and those arbitrarily detained;

(p) To cooperate and engage meaningfully with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, the Independent Mechanism and other United Nations mandate holders and mechanisms working on Myanmar, including by facilitating visits and granting unrestricted access throughout the country;

(q) To allow the resumption of family visits, grant immediate access, without undue restrictions, to appropriate international organizations and provide medical services to detainees and detention facilities;

(r) To review and repeal the amendments made in 2018 to the Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Lands Management Law, and to establish an inclusive land governance framework and to resolve issues of land tenure, in full consultation with affected populations, including ethnic and religious minority communities, in particular Rohingya Muslims;

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<sup>854</sup> E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex.

<sup>855</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

(s) To end the reclassification of areas where Rohingya villages were previously located, and the removal of the names of villages from official maps, potentially altering how the land may be used, and stop, without delay, the construction of military facilities in those villages;

(t) To swiftly implement the five-point consensus reached at the Leaders' Meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) held on 24 April 2021 to facilitate a peaceful solution in the interests of the people of Myanmar and their livelihoods, and to that end calls upon all stakeholders in Myanmar to cooperate with the Association and the Special Envoy of the Chair of the Association, and expresses its support for these efforts;

(u) To take concrete steps to strengthen institution-building and structural reforms to uphold the rule of law, human rights and democratic principles, through a participatory and inclusive approach, including efforts to ensure the independence of the judiciary, and by reforming the security sector to enhance civilian control;

(v) To facilitate independent, impartial and thorough investigations into all allegations of violations of international humanitarian law, including into conduct that may constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity, including the use of starvation as a method of warfare, crimes of sexual violence and allegations of human rights violations, and ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice through transparent and credible processes;

17. *Underscores* the importance of providing protection and assistance, including non-discriminatory access to services such as medical and psychosocial care, specifically tailored to women and girls, especially those who are victims of sexual and gender-based violence and human trafficking;

18. *Reiterates its deep concern* at the continued plight of Rohingya, and commends the commitment of the Government of Bangladesh and other Member States to provide temporary shelter, humanitarian assistance and protection to them;

19. *Encourages* Myanmar to continue to work with Bangladesh, in line with the bilateral instruments on repatriation signed by Bangladesh and Myanmar, in order to expedite the creation of a conducive environment for the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return of the forcibly displaced Rohingya in Bangladesh, with the full support and meaningful involvement of the international community, including the United Nations and its funds, programmes and agencies, and stresses the importance of meaningfully engaging with civil society and the displaced communities;

20. *Recognizes* that the continuing multifaceted crisis that has arisen following the declaration of the state of emergency on 1 February 2021, inter alia, the cross-border displacement and prolonged delay in the repatriation of Rohingya, has serious negative impacts on the peace and stability of the region, particularly for the neighbouring countries of Myanmar, and stresses the urgent need for concrete action towards a sustainable solution to the crisis in line with the will of the people of Myanmar;

21. *Recognizes with appreciation* the assistance and support of the international community, including regional organizations, in particular ASEAN, and the countries neighbouring Myanmar;

22. *Calls upon* the international community to effectively address irregular maritime movements of Rohingya, in cooperation with the relevant United Nations agencies, as well as ensure international burden- and responsibility-sharing, especially by the States parties to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees;<sup>856</sup>

23. *Emphasizes* the need for Myanmar to continue to cooperate fully with the Government of Bangladesh and with the United Nations, in particular the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and in consultation with the populations concerned to enable the voluntary, safe, dignified, sustainable and well-informed return of all refugees and forcibly displaced persons and internally displaced persons to their places of origin in Myanmar, and to ensure protection of returnees and give them freedom of movement and unimpeded access to livelihoods, social services, including health services, education and shelter, and to compensate them for all losses;

24. *Calls for* the reinstatement and subsequent implementation of the memorandum of understanding signed by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Development Programme with Myanmar, to support the creation of conditions for the return of refugees from Bangladesh;

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<sup>856</sup> Ibid., vol. 189, No. 2545.



## V. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Third Committee

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25. *Underlines* the urgent need for support for the expansion of the pilot projects by the United Nations Development Programme and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees under which the internally displaced Rohingya, living under difficult conditions in northern Rakhine State, can return to their places of origin or to a place of their choice and their communities can receive multisectoral assistance;

26. *Calls upon* the international community, in the true spirit of solidarity, interdependence and more equitable burden- and responsibility-sharing, to support Rohingya refugees and forcibly displaced persons sheltered in Bangladesh until conditions for return are met, including by adequately funding the 2023 joint response plan for the Rohingya humanitarian crisis and, in this regard, by leveraging the opportunities at the Global Refugee Forum 2023;

27. *Also calls upon* the international community to support the humanitarian efforts in Myanmar to meet the humanitarian needs of all affected persons of all communities, taking into account the vulnerable situation of women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities;

28. *Welcomes* the continued engagement of ASEAN in facilitating a peaceful solution in the interests of the people of Myanmar, looks forward to its continued implementation of the preliminary needs assessment to provide effective humanitarian assistance, facilitate the repatriation process and promote sustainable development in Rakhine State, and also looks forward to the comprehensive needs assessment when conditions allow;

29. *Encourages* all business enterprises, including transnational corporations and domestic enterprises operating in Myanmar, to respect human rights in accordance with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights<sup>857</sup> and the recommendations made by the independent international fact-finding mission in its report on the economic interests of the Myanmar military;

30. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To continue to provide his good offices and to pursue his discussions relating to Myanmar, involving all relevant stakeholders, and to offer assistance to Myanmar;

(b) To swiftly appoint a Special Envoy on Myanmar, and to submit the report of the Special Envoy covering all relevant issues addressed in the present resolution to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session;

(c) To provide all assistance necessary to enable the Special Envoy on Myanmar, once appointed, to promptly and effectively discharge its mandate and to report to Member States periodically, or as warranted by the situation on the ground, including through a workplan for the Special Envoy's work in Myanmar;

(d) To develop a strategy for the engagement of the United Nations in Myanmar and identify ways in which the existing mandates can more effectively deliver in their respective areas of responsibility concerning Myanmar and can complement each other's work through enhanced coordination;

(e) To ensure that all in-country programmes incorporate a human rights-based approach and undergo due diligence processes;

(f) To call the continued attention of the Security Council to the situation in Myanmar with concrete recommendations for action to restore peace, end the state of emergency, promote fully inclusive and representative dialogue aimed at supporting the democratic path in Myanmar and resolve the humanitarian crisis, promoting the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return of Rohingya refugees and forcibly displaced persons and ensuring accountability for those responsible for mass atrocities and human rights violations and abuses;

(g) To support the implementation of the 2018 recommendations of the independent international fact-finding mission on Myanmar and assist the work of the ongoing Independent Mechanism, including by facilitating a dialogue between the General Assembly and the Mechanism during the seventy-ninth session of the Assembly;

(h) To fully implement the recommendations contained in the report of the independent inquiry into the involvement of the United Nations in Myanmar from 2010 to 2018 in order to ensure more effective work in the future and to strengthen the prevention capacity of the United Nations system;

(i) To support the reinstatement and subsequent implementation of the memorandum of understanding signed between Myanmar and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations

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<sup>857</sup> [A/HRC/17/31](#), annex.

Development Programme, to encourage all relevant United Nations agencies to lend their support for the efforts, as appropriate, in this regard, and to continue to report on its status;

31. *Requests* that the next Special Envoy participate by way of an interactive dialogue in the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly;

32. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter, inter alia, on the basis of the reports of the Secretary-General, the independent international fact-finding mission on Myanmar, the Independent Mechanism, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar and the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar.

## RESOLUTION 78/220

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 78 to 30, with 68 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/481/Add.3, para. 33)<sup>858</sup>

\* *In favour:* Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kiribati, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Seychelles, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Yemen

*Against:* Algeria, Armenia, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Eritrea, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Lebanon, Mali, Nicaragua, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe

*Abstaining:* Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Nigeria, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Thailand, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu, Zambia

### 78/220. Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran

*The General Assembly,*

*Guided* by the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>859</sup> the International Covenants on Human Rights<sup>860</sup> and other international human rights instruments,

*Recalling* its previous resolutions on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, the most recent of which is resolution 77/228 of 15 December 2022,

*Welcoming* Human Rights Council resolution S-35/1 of 24 November 2022,<sup>861</sup> in which the Council decided to establish the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Human Rights Council resolution 52/27 of 4 April 2023, in which the Council renewed the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran,<sup>862</sup>

<sup>858</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Vanuatu.

<sup>859</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>860</sup> Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

<sup>861</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/78/53)*, chap. III.

<sup>862</sup> *Ibid.*, chap. V, sect. A.

## V. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Third Committee

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1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to resolution [77/228](#)<sup>863</sup> and the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran,<sup>864</sup> submitted pursuant to Council resolution [52/27](#);
2. *Welcomes* the continuing efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host one of the largest refugee populations in the world, including approximately 4.5 million Afghan refugees, acknowledges efforts to provide them with access to basic services, in particular health care, temporary work permits, and education for children, and notes with concern the reports of discrimination, violence and limited access to basic economic and social services of Afghan refugees;
3. *Also welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran to implement the Nationality Law, which gives Iranian women married to men with foreign nationality the right to request Iranian citizenship for their children under the age of 18 years, and calls for its full implementation;
4. *Further welcomes* the engagement of the Islamic Republic of Iran with human rights treaty bodies, including through the submission of periodic reports, notes the continued engagement of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, while encouraging enhanced substantive technical cooperation with the Office, and urges the Islamic Republic of Iran to continue its engagement with the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Human Rights Committee and its participation in the universal periodic review, including by submitting any outstanding periodic reports;
5. *Takes note* of the appointment of the “Special Committee to investigate the 2022 unrests” by the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and reiterates the statement made by the Chairperson of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Islamic Republic of Iran at the fifty-third session of the Human Rights Council, that the work of the Special Committee should be looked at in the light of international human rights law and standards applicable to domestic investigations, including being prompt, independent and transparent;
6. *Acknowledges* the announcement by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran that 22,000 prisoners were pardoned in connection with the protests that began in September 2022, while expressing serious concern at the circumstances of those pardons, namely the reports that many of the detained protesters were arbitrarily detained, submitted to forced confessions, and had their freedom of peaceful assembly and association restricted, and reports that a number of individuals pardoned received judicial summons on new charges or were re-arrested;
7. *Notes* the ongoing contact with and dialogue between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as its cooperation with select special procedure mandate holders, while noting the limited scope of such cooperation to date and reaffirming the importance of full cooperation with all special procedure mandate holders;
8. *Also notes* the expressed readiness of the Iranian High Council for Human Rights and other Iranian officials to engage in bilateral dialogues on human rights, and calls upon them to increase such dialogues or resume those that have been paused;
9. *Emphasizes* the importance of continuing discussions on prohibiting child, early and forced marriage, female genital mutilation, the subjection of children to the death penalty and to torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and increasing the age of majority for boys and girls in the Islamic Republic of Iran to 18 years;
10. *Condemns* the alarmingly high frequency of the imposition of the death penalty and significant increase in the carrying-out of the death penalty by the Islamic Republic of Iran in violation of its international obligations, including executions undertaken against persons on the basis of forced confessions and without fair trial and due process, notably in the context of the protests that began in September 2022; reiterates the concern that a number of offences carrying the death penalty do not qualify as the most serious crimes, including drug-related offences, as well as other actions provided under the penal code of the Islamic Republic of Iran, including adultery, same-sex relations, apostasy, blasphemy and convictions for drinking alcohol, as well as crimes that are overly broad or vaguely defined,

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<sup>863</sup> [A/78/511](#).

<sup>864</sup> [A/78/326](#).

which is in violation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;<sup>865</sup> expresses serious concern at the disproportionate application of the death penalty to persons belonging to minorities, particularly ethnic and religious minorities, who are targeted for death sentences relating to their alleged involvement in political or religious groups; expresses concern at the continuing disregard for protections under Iranian law or internationally recognized safeguards relating to the imposition of the death penalty, including executions undertaken without prior notification of the prisoner's family members or legal counsel, as required by Iranian law, and calls upon the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to abolish, in law and in practice, public executions, which are contrary to the 2008 directive seeking to end this practice issued by the former head of the judiciary, and to consider establishing a moratorium on executions;

11. *Expresses serious concern* at the continued imposition of the death penalty by the Islamic Republic of Iran against minors, and urges the Islamic Republic of Iran to cease the imposition of the death penalty against minors, including persons who at the time of their offence were under the age of 18, in violation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>866</sup> and to commute the sentences for child offenders on death row;

12. *Calls upon* the Islamic Republic of Iran to ensure, in law and in practice, that no one is subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, which may include sexual and gender-based violence in all its forms, amputations, and punishments that are grossly disproportionate to the nature of the offence, in conformity with amendments to the Penal Code, the constitutional guarantees of the Islamic Republic of Iran and international obligations and standards, including but not limited to the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules),<sup>867</sup> and to ensure that all allegations of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment are promptly and impartially investigated and perpetrators held responsible;

13. *Urges* the Islamic Republic of Iran to cease the widespread and systematic use of arbitrary arrests and detention, including the frequent use of this practice to target dual and foreign nationals, who in some cases reside overseas and may be prosecuted upon return, and citizens perceived to be involved in the nationwide protests that began in September 2022, and the practices of enforced disappearance and incommunicado detention, to release those who have been arbitrarily detained and to account for the fate or whereabouts of those subjected to enforced disappearance and to hold those responsible to account, and to uphold, in law and in practice, procedural guarantees and other legal protections to ensure a fair trial, including timely access to legal representation of one's choice from the time of arrest through all stages of trials and appeals, being informed promptly and in detail, in a language that the accused speaks and understands, of the charges faced, and being provided consideration of bail and other reasonable terms for release from custody pending trial, and respect the prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and calls upon the Islamic Republic of Iran to ensure that it meets its obligations under article 36 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations<sup>868</sup> in relation to communication with and access to nationals of sending States who are in prison, custody or detention;

14. *Calls upon* the Islamic Republic of Iran to address the poor conditions of prisons, urges an end to the practice of deliberately denying prisoners access to adequate medical treatment and supplies, safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, or making such access contingent upon confession, as well as the use of sexual and gender-based violence, including rape, against prisoners, calls upon the Islamic Republic of Iran to establish credible and independent prison oversight authorities to investigate reports of suspicious deaths in detention and complaints of abuse, and urges the relevant authorities to conduct prompt, effective, independent, transparent and impartial investigations and ensure accountability;

15. *Condemns* the intensified, targeted repression of women and girls by the Islamic Republic of Iran, both online and offline; strongly urges the Islamic Republic of Iran to eliminate, in law and in practice, all forms of systemic discrimination and verbal and physical harassment against women and girls, in public and private life, and related human rights violations against women and girls, and to ensure that grievances are taken seriously and investigations

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<sup>865</sup> See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

<sup>866</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>867</sup> Resolution 70/175, annex.

<sup>868</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 596, No. 8638.

into alleged human rights violations and abuses are conducted promptly, effectively, independently, transparently and impartially; acknowledges the adoption of the bill to protect women against violence, and calls for its prompt implementation, and for the Islamic Republic of Iran to take gender-responsive measures to prevent and ensure protection for women and girls against sexual and gender-based violence in all its forms, including sexual assault and intimate partner violence, to ensure women's and girls' equal protection and access to justice, including by preventing and prohibiting so-called honour killings and child, early and forced marriage, as recommended by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, to promote, support and enable women's and girls' full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership in political and other decision-making processes, and, while recognizing the high enrolment of women in all levels of education in the Islamic Republic of Iran, to lift restrictions on women's and girls' equal access to free, equitable primary and secondary education and to take appropriate prevention and protection measures to protect schools and students, including girls, and remove legal, regulatory and cultural barriers to women's free, equal and meaningful participation and leadership in the labour market and in all aspects of economic, cultural, social and political life, including participation in and attendance at sporting events; and expresses concern that the entry into force of the bill on youth and protection of the family in November 2021 undermines the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health for women and girls;

16. *Expresses serious concern* at the enforcement of the hijab and chastity law in the Islamic Republic of Iran, including by the consideration of new legislation and policy to further impose restrictive and punitive measures on women and girls, particularly the use of technology to monitor and fine women and girls, the exclusion of women and girls from public spaces, restrictions on access to social, cultural, health and commercial services, and the suppression of online and offline activism, in addition to existing de facto restriction on women and girls for non-compliance, including risk of violence in the enforcement of such laws and policies, which fundamentally undermine the human rights of women and girls, including the rights to freedom of movement and freedom of opinion and expression, and reiterates calls by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for the laws to be repealed;

17. *Also expresses serious concern* at the widespread restrictions on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association and freedom of opinion and expression, both online and offline, and calls upon the Islamic Republic of Iran to release persons detained for the exercise of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, including all those who remain under detention for taking part in peaceful protests, including but not limited to the protests of September 2022 to January 2023;

18. *Condemns* the measures used by the Islamic Republic of Iran to respond to the protests that began in September 2022 following the death in custody of Jina Mahsa Amini, notably the use of mass arrests and arbitrary detention, the disproportionate use of force, including use of force resulting in the death of peaceful protesters, and the imposition and carrying out of the death penalty against those connected to the protests, and expresses serious concern at reports of ill-treatment during arrest, physical and psychological abuse, and physical violence in detention, including sexual and gender-based violence, and therefore, strongly urges the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to cease the use of all unlawful practices in response to peaceful protesters, calls upon the Islamic Republic of Iran to release human rights defenders and protesters unjustly detained, as well as journalists and lawyers who defend or seek to defend those persons, and reiterates the importance of prompt, independent, impartial, effective and transparent investigations into all instances of alleged human rights violations to hold those responsible to account;

19. *Also condemns* the widespread use of force against non-violent protesters, expresses concern at the bill proposed by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the use of firearms during protests and calls for its withdrawal, and calls upon the Iranian authorities to uphold the human rights of those involved in peaceful protests, to consider rescinding unduly harsh sentences, including those involving the death penalty and long-term internal exile, and to end reprisals against human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders, peaceful protesters and their families, journalists and media workers covering the protests, lawyers who represent or seek to represent protesters, and individuals who cooperate or attempt to cooperate with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, to investigate reprisals and instances of use of force with respect to peaceful protests and to hold those responsible to account, and emphasizes the commitments made by judicial authorities to review the cases of those arrested;

20. *Expresses serious concern* at the disproportionate use of force with respect to the peaceful protests regarding labour rights between March 2020 and May 2023, and calls upon the Islamic Republic of Iran to release human rights defenders working on labour and environmental issues and members of teachers associations subjected to arbitrary arrest and detention, and prison sentences, and urges the Government to address violations of the rights to

social security and to just and favourable conditions of work, and to address wage arrears, denial of employee protections and benefits, unjustified dismissals and low worker wages, and to increase wages and pensions to ensure an adequate living standard;

21. *Strongly urges* the Islamic Republic of Iran to end violations of the rights to freedom of opinion and expression, both online and offline, which includes the freedom to seek, receive and impart information, and to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, including through Internet disruption practices such as shutting down networks and throttling access to the Internet, applications and services on mobile data, online censorship to intentionally prevent or disrupt access to or the dissemination of information online, arbitrary or unlawful surveillance of online and digital contexts, or measures to unlawfully or arbitrarily block or take down media websites and social networks, and other widespread restrictions on Internet access or dissemination of information online, and calls upon the Islamic Republic of Iran to withdraw the bill on protecting the rights of users in cyberspace as its implementation undermines the rights of individuals online;

22. *Encourages* the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to cooperate with all relevant authorities on investigations into allegations of harassment and intimidation of some families of the victims of the downing of Ukraine International Airlines flight 752, and calls upon the Government to ensure accountability for the downing in accordance with its obligations under applicable international law;

23. *Calls upon* the Islamic Republic of Iran, including the judicial and security branches, to create and maintain, in law and in practice, a safe and enabling environment, both online and offline, in which an independent, diverse and pluralistic civil society can operate free from hindrance, insecurity and reprisals, to end its harassment, intimidation and persecution, including abductions, arrests and executions, of political opponents, human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders, children and youth defending human rights, human rights defenders belonging to minority groups and those defending the rights of persons belonging to minority groups, religious leaders, labour, retiree and trade union activists, environmentalists, academics, students, lawyers, media professionals, artists, film-makers, journalists, bloggers, social media users, social media page administrators, media workers, and their families, whether they are Iranians, dual nationals or foreign nationals, and wherever it may occur;

24. *Also calls upon* the Islamic Republic of Iran to release women human rights defenders imprisoned for exercising their rights, including the rights to freedom of association and peaceful assembly and the right to freedom of opinion and expression, and to take appropriate, robust and practical steps to protect women human rights defenders and guarantee their full enjoyment of all their human rights, recalls the positive, important and legitimate role of human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders, in addition to lawyers, journalists and media workers, in promoting and protecting human rights and strengthening understanding, tolerance and peace, and strongly urges the Islamic Republic of Iran to create and support a safe, enabling, accessible and inclusive environment online and offline for their participation in all relevant activities;

25. *Further calls upon* the Islamic Republic of Iran to eliminate, in law and in practice, all forms of discrimination and other human rights violations against persons belonging to ethnic, linguistic or other minorities, including but not limited to Arabs, Azeris, Balochis, Kurds and Turkmen, and their defenders;

26. *Expresses serious concern* about ongoing severe limitations and increasing restrictions on the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, restrictions on the establishment of places of worship, undue restrictions on burials carried out in accordance with religious tenets, attacks against places of worship and burial and other human rights violations, including but not limited to the increased harassment, intimidation, persecution, arbitrary arrest and detention of, and incitement to hatred that leads to violence against, persons belonging to recognized and unrecognized religious minorities, including Christians (particularly converts from Islam), Gonabadi Dervishes, Jews, Sufi Muslims, Sunni Muslims, Yarsanis, Zoroastrians, and, in particular, Baha'is, who have been subjected to a continued increase in persecution, including attacks, harassment and targeting, who face increasing restrictions and systemic persecution by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran on account of their faith and have been reportedly subjected to mass arrests and lengthy prison sentences, as well as the arrest of prominent members and increased confiscation and destruction of property, and calls upon the Government to cease monitoring individuals on account of their religious identity, to release all religious practitioners imprisoned for their membership in or activities on behalf of a minority religious group, to cease the desecration of cemeteries and to ensure that everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief, including the freedom to have, to change or to adopt a religion or belief of their choice, in accordance with its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;



27. *Calls upon* the Islamic Republic of Iran to eliminate, in law and in practice, all forms of discrimination on the basis of thought, conscience, religion or belief, including restrictions contained in article 499 bis and article 500 bis of the Islamic Penal Code, the continuing enforcement of which has significantly escalated discrimination and violence, as well as economic restrictions, such as the closure, destruction or confiscation of businesses, land and properties, the cancellation of licences and the denial of employment in certain public and private sectors, including government or military positions and elected office, the denial of and restrictions on access to education, including for members of the Baha'i faith, and other human rights violations against persons belonging to recognized and unrecognized religious minorities, condemns without reservation antisemitism and any denial of the Holocaust, and calls upon the Islamic Republic of Iran to end ongoing systemic impunity for those who commit crimes against persons belonging to recognized and unrecognized religious minorities;

28. *Also calls upon* the Islamic Republic of Iran to launch a comprehensive accountability process, including legal reforms, reiterating the importance of meaningful engagement with civil society, and prompt, effective, independent, transparent and impartial investigations that align with international standards in response to all allegations of human rights violations, including disproportionate use of force, arbitrary arrest and detention, and torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, failure to respect fair trial guarantees and due process, and the use of torture to extract confessions, and cases of suspicious deaths in custody, as experienced by human rights defenders, peaceful protesters, political prisoners, and dual or foreign nationals, among others, and in response to long-standing violations involving the Iranian judiciary and security agencies, including enforced disappearances, extrajudicial executions and destruction of evidence and gravesites in relation to such violations, and calls upon the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to end ongoing systemic impunity for such violations and ensure the availability of effective remedies for victims;

29. *Further calls upon* the Islamic Republic of Iran to implement its obligations under those human rights treaties to which it is already a party, to withdraw any reservations that are imprecise or could be considered incompatible with the object and purpose of the treaty, to act upon the concluding observations concerning the Islamic Republic of Iran adopted by the bodies of the international human rights treaties to which it is a party and to consider ratifying or acceding to the international human rights treaties to which it is not already a party;

30. *Calls upon* the Islamic Republic of Iran to deepen its engagement with international human rights mechanisms by:

(a) Cooperating fully with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, including by accepting the repeated requests made by the Special Rapporteur to visit the country in order to carry out the mandate, and to take under consideration the conclusions and recommendations presented to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran in reports by United Nations special procedures;

(b) Cooperating fully with the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Islamic Republic of Iran, including by allowing unhindered access to the country and to gather information critical to carrying out the mandate;

(c) Increasing cooperation with other special procedures, including by facilitating long-standing requests for access to the country from thematic special procedure mandate holders, whose access to its territory has been restricted or denied, despite the standing invitation issued by the Islamic Republic of Iran, without imposing undue conditions upon those visits;

(d) Continuing to enhance its cooperation with the treaty bodies, including by submitting reports under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination<sup>869</sup> and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights<sup>870</sup> and the implementation of the recommendations from treaty bodies;

(e) Implementing all accepted universal periodic review recommendations from its first cycle, in 2010, its second cycle, in 2014, and its third cycle, in 2019, with the full and genuine participation of independent civil society and other stakeholders in the implementation process;

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<sup>869</sup> Ibid., vol. 660, No. 9464.

<sup>870</sup> See resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.



(f) Building upon the engagement of the Islamic Republic of Iran with the universal periodic review process by continuing to explore cooperation on human rights and justice reform with the United Nations, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

(g) Following through on its commitment to establish an independent national human rights institution in line with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles),<sup>871</sup> made in the context of its first, second and third universal periodic reviews by the Human Rights Council, with due regard for the recommendation of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

31. *Also calls upon* the Islamic Republic of Iran to continue to translate the statements made by the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran with respect to human rights into concrete action that results in demonstrable improvements as soon as possible and to ensure that its national laws are consistent with its obligations under international human rights law and that they are implemented in accordance with its international obligations;

32. *Further calls upon* the Islamic Republic of Iran to address the substantive concerns highlighted in the reports of the Secretary-General and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as the specific calls to action found in previous resolutions of the General Assembly, and to respect fully its human rights obligations in law and in practice;

33. *Strongly encourages* the relevant thematic special procedure mandate holders to pay particular attention to, with a view to investigating and reporting on, the human rights situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran;

34. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution, including options and recommendations to improve its implementation, and to submit an interim report to the Human Rights Council at its fifty-sixth session;

35. *Decides* to continue its examination of the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran at its seventy-ninth session under the item entitled “Promotion and protection of human rights”.

## RESOLUTION 78/221

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 78 to 15, with 79 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/481/Add.3, para. 33)<sup>872</sup>

\* *In favour:* Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kiribati, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Myanmar, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, Türkiye, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu

*Against:* Belarus, Burundi, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Eritrea, Honduras, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Mali, Nicaragua, Niger, Russian Federation, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Zimbabwe

*Abstaining:* Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia

<sup>871</sup> General Assembly resolution 48/134, annex.

<sup>872</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Guatemala, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Vanuatu.

**78/221. Situation of human rights in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, including the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol**

*The General Assembly,*

*Guided* by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>873</sup> international human rights treaties and other relevant international instruments and declarations,

*Recalling* the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,<sup>874</sup> the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,<sup>875</sup> the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>876</sup> the Convention on the Rights of the Child<sup>877</sup> and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,<sup>878</sup> as well as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,<sup>879</sup>

*Recalling also* the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949<sup>880</sup> and Additional Protocol I thereto, of 1977,<sup>881</sup> as applicable, as well as relevant customary international law,

*Confirming* the primary responsibility of States to respect, protect and fulfil human rights,

*Reaffirming* the responsibility of States to respect international law, including the principle that all States shall refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State and from acting in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations, recalling its resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970, in which it approved the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, and reaffirming the principles contained therein,

*Recalling* its resolution 3314 (XXIX) of 14 December 1974, entitled “Definition of aggression”, in which it states that no territorial acquisition or special advantage resulting from aggression is or shall be recognized as lawful,

*Recalling also* its resolution 68/262 of 27 March 2014 on the territorial integrity of Ukraine, in which it affirmed its commitment to the sovereignty, political independence, unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders and called upon all States, international organizations and specialized agencies not to recognize any alteration to the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol and to refrain from any action or dealing that might be interpreted as recognizing any such altered status,

*Recalling further* its resolution ES-11/4 of 12 October 2022, entitled “Territorial integrity of Ukraine: defending the principles of the Charter of the United Nations”,

*Recalling* its resolutions 71/205 of 19 December 2016, 72/190 of 19 December 2017, 73/263 of 22 December 2018, 74/168 of 18 December 2019, 75/192 of 16 December 2020, 76/179 of 16 December 2021 and 77/229 of 15 December 2022 on the situation of human rights in the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine, its resolutions 73/194 of 17 December 2018, 74/17 of 9 December 2019, 75/29 of 7 December 2020 and 76/70 of 9 December 2021 on the problem of the militarization of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine, as well as parts of the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov, and relevant decisions of international organizations, specialized agencies and bodies within the United Nations system,

*Recalling also* its resolutions ES-11/1 of 2 March 2022 on the aggression against Ukraine, ES-11/2 of 24 March 2022 on the humanitarian consequences of the aggression against Ukraine and ES-11/6 of 23 February 2023 on the

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<sup>873</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>874</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 660, No. 9464.

<sup>875</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1465, No. 24841.

<sup>876</sup> See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

<sup>877</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>878</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

<sup>879</sup> Resolution 61/295, annex.

<sup>880</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970–973.

<sup>881</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1125, No. 17512.

principles of the Charter of the United Nations underlying a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine, and Human Rights Council resolutions 49/1 of 4 March 2022<sup>882</sup> and 52/32 of 4 April 2023<sup>883</sup> on the situation of human rights in Ukraine stemming from the Russian aggression and S-34/1 of 12 May 2022 on the deteriorating human rights situation in Ukraine stemming from the Russian aggression,<sup>884</sup>

*Gravely concerned* that the provisions of these resolutions and relevant decisions of international organizations, specialized agencies and bodies within the United Nations system have not been implemented by the Russian Federation,

*Condemning* the ongoing temporary control or occupation by the Russian Federation of part of the territory of Ukraine, including the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (hereinafter “Crimea”), and certain areas of the Kherson, Zaporizhzhia, Donetsk and Luhansk regions (hereinafter “temporarily controlled or occupied territories of Ukraine”), and reaffirming the non-recognition of its annexation,

*Condemning also* the unprovoked aggression against Ukraine by the Russian Federation in violation of Article 2 (4) of the Charter, and the use of Crimea for this aim and to support the attempted illegal annexation of the Kherson, Zaporizhzhia, Donetsk and Luhansk regions,

*Supporting* the commitment by Ukraine to adhering to international law in its efforts to put an end to the temporary Russian occupation of Crimea, and welcoming the commitments by Ukraine to respecting, protecting and fulfilling the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons, including Indigenous Peoples, and its cooperation with human rights treaty bodies and international institutions,

*Recalling* that organs and officials of the Russian Federation established in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine are illegitimate and should be referred to as “occupying authorities of the Russian Federation”,

*Concerned* that applicable international human rights obligations and treaties, to which Ukraine is a party, are not upheld by the occupying Power, thus significantly decreasing the ability of residents of the temporarily controlled or occupied territories of Ukraine to exercise their human rights and fundamental freedoms,

*Reaffirming* the obligation of States to ensure that persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, and Indigenous Peoples may exercise fully and effectively all human rights and fundamental freedoms without any discrimination and in full equality before the law,

*Welcoming* the reports of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the human rights situation in Ukraine, of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe and of the missions of experts under the Moscow Mechanism of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, in which they stated that violations and abuses of human rights continued to take place in Ukrainian territory affected by aggression by the Russian Federation,

*Welcoming also* the reports of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine, submitted pursuant to resolutions 71/205<sup>885</sup> and 72/190,<sup>886</sup> and the reports of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to resolutions 73/263,<sup>887</sup> 74/168,<sup>888</sup> 75/192,<sup>889</sup> 76/179<sup>890</sup> and 77/229,<sup>891</sup> and the reports of

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<sup>882</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/77/53)*, chap. VI, sect. A.

<sup>883</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/78/53)*, chap. V, sect. A.

<sup>884</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/77/53)*, chap. VII.

<sup>885</sup> See A/72/498.

<sup>886</sup> See A/73/404.

<sup>887</sup> A/74/276.

<sup>888</sup> A/75/334 and A/HRC/44/21.

<sup>889</sup> A/76/260 and A/HRC/47/58.

<sup>890</sup> A/77/220 and A/HRC/50/65.

<sup>891</sup> A/78/340 and A/HRC/53/64.

18 October 2022,<sup>892</sup> 15 March 2023<sup>893</sup> and 19 October 2023<sup>894</sup> of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 49/1,

*Condemning* the imposition and retroactive application of the legal system of the Russian Federation, and its negative impact on the human rights situation in the temporarily controlled or occupied territories of Ukraine, the imposition of automatic citizenship of the Russian Federation on protected persons, which is contrary to international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions and customary international law, and the deportation, regressive effects on the enjoyment of human rights and effective restriction of land ownership of those who have rejected that citizenship,

*Deeply concerned* about continued reports that the law enforcement system of the Russian Federation conducts searches and raids of private homes, businesses and meeting places in the temporarily controlled or occupied territories of Ukraine, which disproportionately affect Crimean Tatars, and recalling that the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights prohibits arbitrary or unlawful interference with a person's privacy, family, home or correspondence,

*Gravely concerned* that, since 2014, torture has reportedly been used by the Russian authorities, and expressing deep concern about the ongoing reports of arbitrary detentions, arrests and sentencing by the Russian Federation of Ukrainian citizens and citizens of other countries, in particular for statements and actions in opposition to the aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine, including Emir-Usein Kuku, Halyna Dovhopola, Server Mustafayev, Vladyslav Yesypenko, Nariman Dzhelyal, Asan and Aziz Akhmetov, Iryna Danilovych, Bohdan Ziza, Enver Krosh, Vilen Temeryanov, Mariano García Calatayud and many others,

*Deeply concerned* about the serious continued restrictions on the right to freedom of movement of persons who have been previously arbitrarily detained and served sentences on politically motivated criminal charges,

*Gravely concerned* that the temporary control or occupation continues to affect the enjoyment of social, cultural and economic rights by residents, including children, women, older persons, persons with disabilities and other persons in vulnerable and marginalized situations,

*Condemning* the reported serious violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights committed against residents of the temporarily controlled or occupied territories of Ukraine, in particular extrajudicial killings, abductions, enforced disappearances, politically motivated prosecutions, discrimination, harassment, intimidation, violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, mass searches and raids, arbitrary detentions and arrests, torture and ill-treatment, in particular to extract confessions, subjecting detainees to special security regimes and involuntary placement in psychiatric institutions, as well as deplorable treatment and conditions in detention, and the forcible transfer or deportation of protected persons to the Russian Federation, as well as reported abuses of other fundamental freedoms, including the freedoms of expression, religion or belief and association and the right to peaceful assembly,

*Seriously concerned* about reports of arbitrary detention and the taking of civilian hostages by the Russian Federation in the temporarily controlled or occupied territories of Ukraine, which is strictly prohibited under international law,

*Deeply concerned* about restrictions faced by Ukrainians, including Indigenous Peoples of Crimea, in particular the Crimean Tatars, in exercising their economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to work and education, as well as the ability to maintain their identity and culture and to education in the Ukrainian and Crimean Tatar languages,

*Condemning* the reported destructions of cultural and natural heritage, illegal archaeological excavations and transfer of cultural property, discrimination of persons belonging to religious minorities and repression of religious traditions, thereby diminishing Ukrainian and Crimean Tatar culture in the ethnocultural landscape of the temporarily controlled or occupied territories of Ukraine,

*Expressing concern* about the militarization and assimilation of young people in the temporarily controlled or occupied territories of Ukraine by the Russian Federation, including combat training of children for military service

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<sup>892</sup> [A/77/533](#).

<sup>893</sup> [A/HRC/52/62](#).

<sup>894</sup> [A/78/540](#).

in the Russian armed forces as well as the introduction of the “military-patriotic” education system, and its blocking of access to Ukrainian education,

*Condemning* the incitement of hatred against Ukraine and Ukrainians as well as the dissemination of disinformation justifying the war of aggression against Ukraine by the Russian Federation, including through the education system,

*Gravely concerned* by the above-mentioned policies and practices of the Russian Federation, which cause a continuing threat and have caused a large number of Ukrainians to flee from the temporarily controlled or occupied territories of Ukraine,

*Recalling* that individual or mass forcible transfers and deportations of protected persons from occupied territory to the territory of the occupying Power, or to that of any other country, occupied or not, and the deportation or transfer by an occupying Power of parts of its own civilian population into the territory that it occupies, are prohibited under international humanitarian law, and may amount to war crimes or crimes against humanity,

*Deeply concerned* by consistent reports that the Russian Federation promotes policies and conducts practices aimed at changing the demographic, including ethnic, structure in the temporarily controlled or occupied territories of Ukraine,

*Concerned* about the negative effects on the full and effective enjoyment of human rights by residents of the temporarily controlled or occupied territories of Ukraine, in particular in Crimea, resulting from disruptive activities of the occupying Power, including the expropriation of land, demolition of houses and depletion of natural and agricultural resources,

*Reaffirming* the right of return of all internally displaced persons and refugees affected by the temporary occupation by the Russian Federation to their homes in Ukraine,

*Reaffirming its serious concern* that, according to the decision of the so-called “Supreme Court of Crimea” of 26 April 2016 and the decision of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation of 29 September 2016, the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People, the self-governing body of the Indigenous People of Crimea – the Crimean Tatars, continues to be declared an extremist organization and the ban on its activities has still not been repealed, and that the persecution of the leaders of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People continues,

*Condemning* the ongoing pressure exerted upon persons belonging to religious minorities and their communities, including through frequent police raids, demolition of and eviction from buildings dedicated to religion, undue registration requirements that have affected legal status and property rights and threats against and persecution of those belonging to the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, Protestant churches, Muslim religious communities, Greek Catholics, Roman Catholics and Jehovah’s Witnesses, and condemning also the baseless prosecution of dozens of peaceful Muslims for allegedly belonging to extremist organizations,

*Gravely concerned* about the constant use of military courts, including those located on the territory of the Russian Federation, to try civilian residents of the temporarily controlled or occupied territories of Ukraine and the failure of the occupying Power to respect fair trial standards,

*Condemning* the continuous widespread misuse of counter-terrorism and anti-extremism laws to suppress dissent, including through enforcing new Russian legislation with the intent to dissuade the residents of the temporarily controlled or occupied territories of Ukraine from peaceful protests, in accordance with their rights to freedom of expression and political opinion, following and during the unprovoked Russian war of aggression against Ukraine,

*Strongly condemning*, in this regard, the ongoing pressure and mass detentions on terrorism, extremism and espionage grounds and other forms of repression against journalists and other media workers, human rights defenders and civil rights activists, including against activists of the Crimean Solidarity civic initiative, which documents violations and provides humanitarian assistance to the families of victims of politically motivated prosecutions,

*Recalling* the order of the International Court of Justice of 19 April 2017 on provisional measures in the case concerning the *Application of the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and of*

*the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Ukraine v. Russian Federation)*,<sup>895</sup>

*Recalling also* the order of the International Court of Justice of 16 March 2022 on provisional measures in the case concerning *Allegations of Genocide under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Ukraine v. Russian Federation)*,<sup>896</sup>

*Recalling further* the prohibition under the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 for the occupying Power to compel protected persons to serve in its armed or auxiliary forces, including medical staff, and strongly condemning the ongoing forced conscription and mobilization to the armed forces of the Russian Federation in the temporarily controlled or occupied territories of Ukraine against the backdrop of the unprovoked aggression against Ukraine,

*Recalling* that the safety of journalists, other media workers and a free press, or other media, are essential for the realization of the rights to freedom of expression and freedom to seek, receive and impart information and the enjoyment of other human rights and fundamental freedoms, concerned about reports that journalists, media workers and citizen journalists continue to face unjustified interference with their reporting activities in the temporarily controlled or occupied territories of Ukraine, and expressing deep concern that journalists, media workers and citizen journalists have been arbitrarily arrested, detained, prosecuted, harassed and intimidated as a direct result of their reporting activities, in particular for covering developments in the temporarily controlled or occupied territories of Ukraine as well as the unprovoked Russian war of aggression against Ukraine,

*Condemning* the blocking by the Russian Federation of Ukrainian websites and television channels and the seizure of Ukrainian transmission frequencies in the temporarily controlled or occupied territories of Ukraine, as well as the use of mass media controlled by the occupying Power to incite hatred against Ukrainians, the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, Crimean Tatars, Muslims, Jehovah's Witnesses and activists and to call for atrocities against Ukrainians,

*Gravely concerned* by the documented cases in which the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation allegedly tortured or ill-treated Ukrainian citizens following their arrests, including by using beatings, electric shocks and suffocation against victims,

*Reiterating its concern* regarding military use of the temporarily controlled or occupied territories of Ukraine and their infrastructure, including civilian, in the unprovoked full-scale aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine, which entails considerable long-term negative environmental consequences in the region, impacting civilians' enjoyment of their human rights,

*Recalling* that the Russian Federation bears legal responsibility as the occupying Power for the occupied territory, and deploring the destruction of the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant, which has had catastrophic long-term humanitarian, economic, agricultural and environmental consequences in the region, and severely impacts civilians' enjoyment of their human rights, and also strongly condemning the refusal of the request of the United Nations for humanitarian access across the Dnipro River to the affected residents in the areas under the temporary control of the Russian Federation,

*Condemning* the persistent violent actions of the Russian Federation at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, including forceful seizure of control of the site, the restrictions on Ukrainian operating personnel in violation of their human rights, the placing of anti-personnel mines in some areas around the site, and other violent actions in connection with the ongoing presence of Russian military and Rosatom personnel at the site, which continue to pose serious and direct threats to the safety and security of this nuclear facility and its civilian personnel, thereby significantly raising the risk of a nuclear accident or incident, which endangers the population of Ukraine, neighbouring States and the international community,

*Condemning also* the continuous use of the temporarily controlled or occupied territories of Ukraine for missile and drone strikes across Ukraine, causing numerous civilian casualties and impacting civilian objects, including deliberate attacks against medical facilities and critical energy infrastructure,

*Gravely concerned* that attacks on Ukrainian civilian port infrastructure, means of navigation and grain terminals and the intended blockade of the ports of Ukraine, as well as threats of use of force against civilian and

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<sup>895</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 4 (A/72/4)*, chap. V, sect. A.

<sup>896</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-seventh Session, Supplement No. 4 (A/77/4)*, chap. V.



merchant vessels in the Black Sea heading to and from the ports of Ukraine, undermine critical global food supply routes, in particular to the most vulnerable regions, thus threatening global food security and access to affordable, safe and nutritious food for all those in need,

*Welcoming* the continued efforts of the Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Council of Europe, the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine and other international and regional organizations to support Ukraine in respecting, protecting and fulfilling human rights, and expressing concern over the lack of safe and unfettered access by established regional and international human rights monitoring mechanisms and human rights non-governmental organizations to the temporarily controlled or occupied territories of Ukraine,

*Strongly condemning* the forcible transfer of Ukrainian children and other civilians to the temporarily controlled or occupied territories of Ukraine and their deportation to the Russian Federation, and the separation of families and of children from legal guardians, and any subsequent change of children's personal status, adoption or placement in foster families, and efforts to indoctrinate them,

*Noting* the issuance of warrants of arrest by the International Criminal Court for Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, and Maria Lvova-Belova, Commissioner for Children's Rights in the Office of the President of the Russian Federation, on the basis that there are reasonable grounds to believe that they are responsible for the war crime of unlawful deportation of children and that of unlawful transfer of children from occupied areas of Ukraine to the Russian Federation,

*Noting also* the inclusion of the Russian armed forces and affiliated armed groups in the annex to the annual report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict, for killings of children and attacks on schools and hospitals in Ukraine,

*Commending* the efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict on the prevention of and response to conflict-related sexual violence in Ukraine,

*Acknowledging* the importance of the investigation conducted by the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine and emphasizing the role played by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in contributing to an objective appraisal of the situation of human rights in Ukraine, and in this regard welcoming the investigation by the International Criminal Court,

*Strongly condemning* the continued arbitrary detentions in the temporarily controlled or occupied territories of Ukraine, the ongoing impunity in reported cases of enforced disappearances, as well as the so-called filtration procedures, in particular in relation to displaced persons,

*Gravely concerned* that the temporary occupation of Crimea became a blueprint for a grave human rights crisis in other territories of Ukraine under temporary control or occupation by the Russian Federation,

*Affirming* that the seizure of Crimea and other territories of Ukraine by force is illegal and a violation of international law, and affirming also that control of all of the territory of Ukraine must be immediately restored to Ukraine,

1. *Condemns* the failure of the Russian Federation to comply with the repeated requests and demands of the General Assembly, as well as with the orders of the International Court of Justice of 19 April 2017 on provisional measures in the case concerning the *Application of the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Ukraine v. Russian Federation)*, and of 16 March 2022 on provisional measures in the case concerning *Allegations of Genocide under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Ukraine v. Russian Federation)*;

2. *Strongly condemns* the continuing and total disregard by the Russian Federation for its obligations under international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, regarding its legal responsibility for the occupied territory, including the responsibility to respect Ukrainian law and the rights of all civilians;

3. *Condemns in the strongest terms* the aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine in violation of Article 2 (4) of the Charter, and the use of Crimea for this aim and to support the attempted illegal annexation of the Kherson, Zaporizhzhia, Donetsk and Luhansk regions;



4. *Demands* that the Russian Federation immediately cease its war of aggression against Ukraine and unconditionally withdraw all of its military forces from the territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders;

5. *Condemns* violations and abuses of human rights law and international humanitarian law perpetrated by the Russian occupying authorities and entailing discrimination against the residents of the temporarily controlled or occupied territories of Ukraine, including Crimean Tatars, as well as Ukrainians and persons belonging to other ethnic and religious groups;

6. *Demands* that the Russian Federation respect obligations under international law with regard to respecting the Ukrainian legislation in force prior to the temporary occupation;

7. *Urges* the Russian Federation:

(a) To uphold all of its obligations under applicable international law;

(b) To fully and immediately comply with the orders of the International Court of Justice of 19 April 2017 and of 16 March 2022;

(c) To take all measures necessary to bring an immediate end to all violations and abuses of international human rights law and violations of international humanitarian law against residents of the temporarily controlled or occupied territories of Ukraine, in particular reported discriminatory measures and practices, arbitrary detentions and arrests, violations and abuses within the framework of the filtration procedures, enforced disappearances, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, sexual and gender-based violence, including to compel apprehended persons to self-incriminate or “cooperate” with law enforcement, ensure fair trial, revoke all discriminatory legislation and hold accountable those responsible for those violations and abuses by ensuring the independent, impartial and effective investigation of all allegations;

(d) To refrain from arresting or prosecuting residents of the temporarily controlled or occupied territories of Ukraine for non-criminal acts committed or opinions expressed, including in social media comments or posts, and release all residents who have been arrested or imprisoned for such acts;

(e) To respect the laws in force in Ukraine, repeal laws unlawfully imposed by the Russian Federation in the temporarily controlled or occupied territories of Ukraine that allow for forced evictions and the confiscation of private property, including land, in violation of applicable international law, and respect the property rights of all former owners affected by previous confiscations;

(f) To immediately release and allow the return to Ukraine, without preconditions, of Ukrainian citizens who were unlawfully detained, as well as those transferred or deported by the Russian Federation;

(g) To disclose the number and identity of individuals deported from the temporarily controlled or occupied territories of Ukraine to the Russian Federation and take immediate action to allow the voluntary return of such individuals to Ukraine;

(h) To end the practice of placing detainees in solitary confinement cells as a method of intimidation;

(i) To monitor and accommodate the medical needs of all Ukrainian citizens, including those unlawfully detained and convicted on politically motivated grounds in the temporarily controlled or occupied territories of Ukraine and the Russian Federation and allow the monitoring of those detainees’ state of health and conditions of detention by independent international monitors and physicians from reputable international health organizations, including the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Committee of the Red Cross, and investigate effectively all deaths in detention;

(j) To uphold the rights, in accordance with international law and until their release, of Ukrainian prisoners and detainees in the temporarily controlled or occupied territories of Ukraine and in the Russian Federation, including those on hunger strike, and encourages it to respect the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment

of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules)<sup>897</sup> and the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules).<sup>898</sup>

(k) To address ongoing impunity and ensure that those found to be responsible for violations and abuses of human rights law and violations of international humanitarian law are held accountable before an independent judiciary;

(l) To create and maintain a safe and enabling environment for journalists and media workers and citizen journalists, human rights defenders and lawyers to perform their work independently and without undue interference, including by refraining from travel bans, deportations, arbitrary arrests, detention and prosecution, and other restrictions on the enjoyment of their rights;

(m) To respect, protect and fulfil freedom of opinion and expression, which includes the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers, enable a safe and enabling environment for independent media pluralism and ensure a safe and enabling environment for civil society organizations;

(n) To respect freedom of opinion, association and peaceful assembly without discrimination on any grounds other than those permissible under international law, and freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief, without discrimination on any grounds, to lift discriminatory regulatory barriers prohibiting or limiting the activities of religious groups in the temporarily controlled or occupied territories of Ukraine, including but not limited to parishioners of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, Muslim Crimean Tatars and Jehovah's Witnesses, and to permit unimpeded access, without any undue restrictions, to places of worship as well as gatherings for prayer and other religious practices;

(o) To restore enjoyment of the rights of all individuals, without any discrimination based on origin or religion or belief, revoke the decisions that banned cultural and religious institutions, non-governmental organizations, human rights organizations and media outlets and restore enjoyment of the rights of individuals belonging to ethnic communities in the temporarily controlled or occupied territories of Ukraine, in particular ethnic Ukrainians and Crimean Tatars, including the right to freely participate in the cultural life of the community;

(p) To respect, protect and fulfil the right to be free from arbitrary or unlawful interference with a person's privacy, family, home or correspondence;

(q) To ensure that the right to freedom of opinion and expression and the rights to peaceful assembly and freedom of association can be exercised by all residents of the temporarily controlled or occupied territories of Ukraine in any form, including single-person pickets, without any restrictions other than those permissible under international law, including international human rights law, and without discrimination on any grounds, and to end the practices of abusing requirements of prior authorization for peaceful assemblies and issuing warnings or threats to potential participants in those assemblies;

(r) To refrain from criminalizing the rights to hold opinions without interference and to freedom of expression and the right to peaceful assembly and quash all penalties imposed on residents of the temporarily controlled or occupied territories of Ukraine for expressing dissenting views, including regarding the status of temporarily controlled or occupied territories of Ukraine and the unprovoked Russian war of aggression against Ukraine;

(s) To ensure the availability of education in the Ukrainian and Crimean Tatar languages, and stop the blocking of access to Ukrainian education;

(t) To respect the rights of the Indigenous Peoples of Ukraine set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, revoke immediately the decision declaring the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People an extremist organization and banning its activities, repeal the decision banning leaders of the Mejlis from entering Crimea, repeal the sentences, including in absentia, against Crimean Tatars and their leaders and immediately release those arbitrarily detained, including the leaders of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People, and refrain from maintaining or imposing limitations on the ability of the Crimean Tatars to conserve their representative institutions;

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<sup>897</sup> Resolution 70/175, annex.

<sup>898</sup> Resolution 65/229, annex.

(u) To stop the illegal drafting and mobilization of residents of the temporarily controlled or occupied territories of Ukraine into the armed forces of the Russian Federation, stop pressure aimed at compelling residents of the temporarily controlled or occupied territories of Ukraine to serve in the armed or auxiliary forces of the Russian Federation, as well as using propaganda, also targeted at children and through the education system, and ensure strict compliance with its international obligations as an occupying Power;

(v) To end also the practice of criminal prosecution of inhabitants who resist conscription and mobilization into the armed or auxiliary forces of the Russian Federation;

(w) To end the practice of deporting Ukrainian citizens from the temporarily controlled or occupied territories of Ukraine for not taking Russian citizenship, stop transferring its own civilian population to the temporarily controlled or occupied territories of Ukraine and end the practice of encouraging such transfers;

(x) To immediately and unconditionally reverse the decision to simplify the procedure for obtaining citizenship of the Russian Federation for Ukrainian orphans or children left without parental care;

(y) To provide to the relevant United Nations bodies and international organizations a comprehensive list of the names and whereabouts of all Ukrainian children who were forcibly transferred to the temporarily controlled or occupied territories of Ukraine or deported to the Russian Federation, including on those who were subsequently adopted or transferred to foster families, in order to ensure that these children are provided protection and care in accordance with international law;

(z) To cease forcible transfers or deportation of Ukraine's children and other civilians and take all necessary steps with a view to their safe return and family reunification in line with the best interests of the child and in accordance with international law;

(aa) To cooperate fully and immediately with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine, which must have safe, secure and unhindered access to the entire territory of Ukraine, including the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, and the Council of Europe on the situation of human rights in the territories of Ukraine under the control of or temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation;

(bb) To create the conditions, as well as provide the means, to allow for the voluntary, safe, dignified and unhindered return to their homes of all internally displaced persons and refugees affected by the temporary occupation of territories of Ukraine by the Russian Federation;

(cc) To stop the policy of forcibly changing the demographic, including ethnic, composition of the population and take the necessary measures aimed at halting the free migration to and settling of citizens of the Russian Federation in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine;

(dd) To ensure compliance with obligations under international law, including humanitarian law and the 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict,<sup>899</sup> regarding the preservation of monuments of the cultural heritage of Ukraine in the temporarily controlled or occupied territories of Ukraine, in particular regarding the Khan Palace in Bakhchysarai and the monument "The ancient city of Chersonese and its Chora", to prevent and stop reported illegal archaeological excavations in Crimea and other temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, and the illicit transfer of cultural property of Ukraine outside the territory of Ukraine;

8. *Calls upon* the Russian Federation to address the substantive concerns and all recommendations highlighted in the reports of the Secretary-General and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, including the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, as well as previous relevant recommendations from reports on the situation of human rights in Ukraine by the Office of the High Commissioner based on the work of the human rights monitoring mission in Ukraine established to prevent further deterioration of human rights in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine;

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<sup>899</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 249, No. 3511.

9. *Supports* the efforts of Ukraine to maintain economic, financial, political, social, informational, cultural and other ties with its citizens in the temporarily controlled or occupied territories of Ukraine in order to facilitate their access to democratic processes, economic opportunities and objective information;

10. *Calls upon* all international organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, when referring to the temporarily controlled or occupied territories of Ukraine, including the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, in their official documents, communications, publications, information and reports, including with regard to statistical data of the Russian Federation or provided by the Russian Federation, as well as those placed or used on official United Nations Internet resources and platforms, to refer to “the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, and certain areas of the Kherson, Zaporizhzhia, Donetsk and Luhansk regions, Ukraine, temporarily controlled or occupied by the Russian Federation”, and to refer to bodies of the Russian Federation and their representatives in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine as “occupying authorities of the Russian Federation”, and encourages all States and other international organizations to do the same;

11. *Calls upon* Member States to support human rights defenders in the temporarily controlled or occupied territories of Ukraine and across Ukraine and to continue advocacy for the respect of human rights, including by condemning the violations committed by the Russian Federation in the temporarily controlled or occupied territories of Ukraine at bilateral and multilateral forums;

12. *Also calls upon* Member States to engage constructively in concerted efforts, including within international frameworks and the International Crimea Platform, aimed at improving the human rights situation in the temporarily controlled or occupied territories of Ukraine, as well as to continue to use all diplomatic means to press and urge the Russian Federation to comply with its obligations under international human rights law and international humanitarian law and to grant unimpeded access to the temporarily controlled or occupied territories of Ukraine for established regional and international human rights monitoring mechanisms, in particular the human rights monitoring Mission in Ukraine and the Ukraine Monitoring Initiative of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe;

13. *Condemns* all attempts by the Russian Federation to legitimize or normalize its attempted illegal annexation of the territories of Ukraine, including the automatic imposition of citizenship of the Russian Federation, illegal election campaigns and voting, population census, forcible change of the demographic structure of the population and suppression of national identity;

14. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to support the work of the United Nations to uphold international human rights law and international humanitarian law in the territories of Ukraine temporarily controlled or occupied by the Russian Federation;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to seek ways and means, including through consultations with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and relevant regional organizations, to ensure safe and unfettered access to Crimea and other territories of Ukraine temporarily controlled or occupied by the Russian Federation by established regional and international human rights monitoring mechanisms, in particular the human rights monitoring mission in Ukraine and the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine, to enable them to carry out their mandates;

16. *Urges* the Russian Federation to ensure the proper and unimpeded access of international human rights monitoring missions and human rights non-governmental organizations to the temporarily controlled or occupied territories of Ukraine, including all places where persons may be deprived of their liberty, recognizing that the international presence and monitoring of compliance with international human rights law and international humanitarian law are of paramount importance in preventing further deterioration of the situation;

17. *Decides* to include the item entitled “The situation in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine” in the annual agenda of the General Assembly;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to remain actively seized of the matter, and to take all steps necessary, including within the Secretariat, to ensure the full and effective coordination of all United Nations bodies with regard to the implementation of the present resolution;

19. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide his good offices and pursue his discussions relating to the matter, involving all relevant stakeholders and including the concerns addressed in the present resolution;

20. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session on the progress made in the implementation of all provisions of the present resolution, including options and recommendations to improve its implementation, and to submit for consideration an interim report to the Human Rights Council at its fifty-sixth session, to be followed by an interactive dialogue, in accordance with Council resolution 53/30 of 14 July 2023;<sup>900</sup>

21. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the matter at its seventy-ninth session under the item entitled “Promotion and protection of human rights”.

## RESOLUTION 78/222

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 88 to 16, with 73 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/481/Add.3, para. 33)<sup>901</sup>

\* *In favour:* Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Nauru, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Seychelles, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Türkiye, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu

*Against:* Algeria, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burundi, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Eritrea, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Mali, Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Uzbekistan, Zimbabwe

*Abstaining:* Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belize, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Comoros, Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Philippines, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia

### 78/222. Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic

*The General Assembly,*

*Guided by* the Charter of the United Nations,

*Reaffirming* the purposes and principles of the Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights<sup>902</sup> and relevant international human rights treaties, including the International Covenants on Human Rights,<sup>903</sup>

*Reaffirming its strong commitment* to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic and to the principles of the Charter, and strongly demanding that the Syrian regime meet its responsibility to protect the Syrian population and to respect, protect and fulfil the human rights of all persons within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction,

*Deploring* the fact that March 2023 marked 12 years since the peaceful uprising and its brutal repression that led to the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic, which has had and continues to have a devastating impact on civilians,

<sup>900</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/78/53)*, chap. VII, sect. A.

<sup>901</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

<sup>902</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>903</sup> Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

including through grave violations and abuses of international human rights law and violations of international humanitarian law,

*Strongly condemning* the grave human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, the indiscriminate killing and deliberate targeting of civilians, including humanitarian workers, including those involving the continued indiscriminate use of heavy weapons and aerial bombardments, which has caused more than 500,000 fatalities, including the killing of 30,034 children, the continued widespread and systematic gross violations, as well as abuses, of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, including by the starvation of civilians as a method of warfare and the use of chemical weapons, including sarin and chlorine gas, and sulfur mustard, which are prohibited under international law, and acts of violence by the Syrian regime that foment sectarian tensions within the Syrian population,

*Welcoming* the work of the Investigation and Identification Team of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, noting its findings in its three reports to date, including most recently its report of January 2023 which found reasonable grounds to believe that the chemical weapons attack in Douma on 7 April 2018 was perpetrated by the Syrian Arab Republic and found that Russian forces were co-located at the base in the Syrian Arab Republic from which the Syrian regime launched the attack on Douma, and anticipating the publication of its reports into further chemical weapons attacks, including those perpetrated in Mari' on 1 September 2015,

*Condemning in the strongest possible terms* the repeated use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic, including the instances independently attributed by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism and the Investigation and Identification Team of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, noting that the Joint Investigative Mechanism determined that the Syrian Arab Armed Forces had been responsible for attacks that released toxic substances in 2014 and 2015 and that Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Da'esh) had used sulfur mustard in 2015 and 2016, and further concluded in October 2017 that the Syrian Arab Air Force had been responsible for the use of chemical weapons on 4 April 2017 in Khan Shaykhun, and noting also that the Investigation and Identification Team concluded in April 2020 that there were reasonable grounds to believe that the Syrian Air Force had carried out three chemical weapons attacks in Ltamenah in March 2017 and further concluded in April 2021 that there were reasonable grounds to believe the Syrian Air Force had carried out a chemical weapons attack in Saraqib in February 2018 and further concluded in January 2023 that there were reasonable grounds to believe the Syrian Arab Air Force had carried out a chemical weapons attack in Douma on 7 April 2018 and found that Russian forces were co-located at the base in the Syrian Arab Republic from which the Syrian regime launched the attack on Douma,

*Noting with grave concern* that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in a report of June 2022, has identified 306,887 civilians by full name, together with an established date of death and location, who were killed in the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic between March 2011 and March 2022 and that, of those identified, 26,727 were women and 27,126 were children, recalling also that the list compiled by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights indicates a minimum verifiable number and is certainly an undercount of the actual number of killings,

*Recalling* its demand that all parties, especially the Syrian regime, take all appropriate steps to protect civilians, including members of ethnic and religious communities,

*Reiterating* that the only sustainable solution to the current crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic is through an inclusive and Syrian-led political process, under the auspices of the United Nations, that meets the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people in line with Security Council resolution [2254 \(2015\)](#) of 18 December 2015, with a view to establishing credible, inclusive and non-sectarian governance, with the full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership of all women and youth at all levels, underlining the importance of prevention of the efforts to foment sectarian tension among Syrians, recognizing the importance of the Constitutional Committee and the Syrian Women's Advisory Board, reaffirming in this regard the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding, stressing the importance of their full, equal and meaningful participation and involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security and their role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution, and recognizing the work carried out by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria to that end,

*Expressing grave concern* that the cross-border authorizations in Security Council resolutions [2642 \(2022\)](#) of 12 July 2022 and [2672 \(2023\)](#) of 9 January 2023 have not yet been extended, noting the statement of 13 July by the Syrian Arab Republic that acknowledged the need for cross-border humanitarian assistance, and taking further note

of the decisions by the Syrian Arab Republic to consent to the use of the Bab al-Hawa crossing for six months, and the Bab al-Salamah and Ra'i crossings for an additional three months, by the United Nations and its specialized agencies for the purpose of delivering humanitarian assistance, but remaining concerned by the limited timeframe, which is insufficient, and emphasizing the need for all actors to ensure such access is sustained and unhindered as requested by humanitarian agencies, and for United Nations humanitarian operations in the country to remain guided by the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence,

*Reiterating* the urgent need to strengthen efforts to address the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, including through protection of civilians and safe, full, immediate, unimpeded and sustained humanitarian access throughout the Syrian Arab Republic to all civilians in need, including through the continuation of cross-border assistance, as recalled in Security Council resolutions [2139 \(2014\)](#) of 22 February 2014, [2165 \(2014\)](#) of 14 July 2014, [2191 \(2014\)](#) of 17 December 2014, [2258 \(2015\)](#) of 22 December 2015, [2286 \(2016\)](#) of 3 May 2016, [2393 \(2017\)](#) of 19 December 2017, [2401 \(2018\)](#) of 24 February 2018, [2449 \(2018\)](#) of 13 December 2018, [2504 \(2020\)](#) of 10 January 2020, [2533 \(2020\)](#) of 11 July 2020, [2585 \(2021\)](#) of 9 July 2021, [2642 \(2022\)](#) and [2672 \(2023\)](#),

*Welcoming* the efforts of the Special Envoy to advance United Nations efforts to achieve a sustainable political solution to the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic in line with Security Council resolution [2254 \(2015\)](#), recalling the importance of advancing the work of the Constitutional Committee and achieving tangible results, and in that regard urging all parties, particularly the Syrian regime, to engage meaningfully in the political process under the auspices of the Special Envoy and his office in Geneva, including the work of the Constitutional Committee, and to convene the next round of the Constitutional Committee as soon as possible under the auspices of the United Nations, and underlining that a political solution to the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic requires full implementation of all aspects of resolution [2254 \(2015\)](#), including the holding of free and fair elections, under the supervision of the United Nations, to the satisfaction of the governance and to the highest international standards of transparency and accountability, with all Syrians, including displaced persons, refugees and members of the diaspora, eligible to participate, as well as the establishment of a neutral and safe environment, noting that the 2021 presidential elections held in the Syrian Arab Republic were neither free, fair, nor consistent with the political process called for by the Council in its resolution [2254 \(2015\)](#),

*Reconfirming* its endorsement of the Geneva communiqué of 30 June 2012,<sup>904</sup> endorsing the joint statement on the outcome of the multilateral talks on Syria held in Vienna of 30 October 2015 and the statement of the International Syria Support Group of 14 November 2015 (the Vienna statements) in pursuit of the full implementation of the Geneva communiqué, facilitated by the Special Envoy, as the basis for a Syrian-led- and Syrian-owned political transition in order to end the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic, and stressing that the Syrian people will decide the future of the Syrian Arab Republic,

*Welcoming* the call by the Special Envoy for a complete, immediate and nationwide ceasefire throughout the Syrian Arab Republic, as endorsed by the Security Council in its resolutions [2532 \(2020\)](#) of 1 July 2020 and [2565 \(2021\)](#) of 26 February 2021, while noting with extreme concern the recent rise in hostilities in different parts of the country, and reaffirming that Member States must ensure that any measures taken to counter terrorism comply with all their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law, while continuing to support legitimate counter-terrorism operations against Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Da'esh), Al-Qaida and Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (formerly known as the Nusra Front), and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida or ISIL, and other terrorist groups, which have been designated by the Security Council,

*Reaffirming* the importance of the full implementation of the women and peace and security agenda of the Security Council, pursuant to Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) of 31 October 2000, and its nine subsequent resolutions, in this regard, and welcoming the inclusion of civil society in the political process, in particular through the Civil Society Support Room and Syrian Women's Advisory Board,

*Recognizing* that women and girls have been disproportionately affected by the crisis and conflict, and continue to be among the worst affected and on multiple grounds, including given that many women have become the main or sole breadwinners for their families, a situation that may be exacerbated by the enforced disappearance of their loved ones, while facing increased caring responsibilities and alarming levels of violence,

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<sup>904</sup> Security Council resolution [2118 \(2013\)](#), annex II.



*Noting with deep concern* the culture of persistent and pervasive impunity from within the Syrian regime for the most serious violations of international law and violations and abuses of human rights law committed during the present conflict, some of which rise to the level of war crimes and crimes against humanity, which has provided a fertile ground for further violations and abuses,

*Emphasizing* the importance of accountability for the most serious crimes in violation of international law committed during the conflict for ensuring sustainable peace,

*Recalling* all relevant resolutions on the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and the protection of United Nations personnel, including its resolution 73/137 of 14 December 2018, as well as Security Council resolutions on the protection of humanitarian personnel, including resolutions 2175 (2014) of 29 August 2014 and 2286 (2016) of 3 May 2016, the relevant statements by the President of the Security Council referring to the specific obligations under international humanitarian law to respect and protect, in situations of armed conflict, all medical personnel and humanitarian workers exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport, equipment, hospitals and other medical facilities, and to ensure that the wounded and sick receive, to the fullest extent practicable and with the least possible delay, the medical care and attention required, and condemning attacks against hospitals and places where the sick and wounded are collected, including makeshift hospitals, as well as attacks against medical personnel and humanitarian workers that are in violation of international humanitarian law,

*Expressing grave concern* at the continued indiscriminate use of force by the Syrian regime against civilians, which continues to cause immense human suffering and fomented the spread of violent extremism and violent extremist groups and which demonstrates the continuing failure of the Syrian regime to protect the population and implement the relevant resolutions and decisions of United Nations bodies and has created a safe haven and operating environment for perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity,

*Expressing grave concern also* at the remaining presence of violent extremism and violent extremist groups, terrorists and terrorist groups, and strongly condemning all violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law committed in the Syrian Arab Republic by any party to the conflict, in particular Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Da'esh), Al-Qaida-affiliated terrorist groups, armed groups and non-State actors, and also the Syrian regime and its allies,

*Expressing support* for the work carried out by the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, welcoming its reports, strongly condemning the continued lack of cooperation by the Syrian regime with the Commission of Inquiry, reiterating its decision to transmit the reports of the Commission of Inquiry to the Security Council, expressing its appreciation to the Commission of Inquiry for its briefings to members of the Security Council, and requesting that the Commission of Inquiry continue to brief the General Assembly and members of the Security Council,

*Welcoming* the reports for 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 of the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011<sup>905</sup> and their consideration by the General Assembly, noting with serious concern the observation of the Commission of Inquiry that, since March 2011, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Syrian regime has conducted widespread and systemic attacks against the civilian population amounting to war crimes and crimes against humanity, including targeted attacks on protected persons and objects, including medical facilities, and personnel and transport and blocked humanitarian convoys, as well as widespread and systematic patterns of enforced disappearances and torture in detention, arbitrary detentions, summary executions and other violations and abuses, and underscoring the need for those allegations to be examined and evidence to be collected and made available for future accountability efforts,

*Expressing grave concern* about all persons missing in the Syrian Arab Republic, including those subject to abductions, enforced disappearance and arbitrary detention, first and foremost by the Syrian regime, noting the comments of the Commission of Inquiry and the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria that at least 100,000 people are estimated to be missing in the Syrian Arab Republic, and recalling Human Rights Council resolutions 45/3

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<sup>905</sup> A/73/295, A/73/741, A/74/313, A/74/699, A/75/311, A/75/743, A/76/690 and A/77/751.

of 6 October 2020,<sup>906</sup> 48/15 of 8 October 2021<sup>907</sup> and 51/26 of 7 October 2022,<sup>908</sup> and Security Council resolutions 2254 (2015), 2139 (2014) and 2191 (2014),

*Welcoming* the establishment by the General Assembly in its resolution 77/301 of 29 June 2023 of the Independent Institution on Missing Persons in the Syrian Arab Republic to clarify the fate and whereabouts of all missing persons in the Syrian Arab Republic and to provide adequate support to victims, survivors and the families of those missing, in close cooperation and complementarity with all relevant actors, and underscoring the resolution's call for all States as well as parties to the conflict to cooperate fully with this Institution, which is humanitarian in nature, and also underscoring the resolution's call upon other relevant actors, including international institutions, victims' associations, and civil society organizations, to cooperate with the Institution,

*Strongly condemning* the reported killing of detainees in Syrian military intelligence facilities and the widespread practice of enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and the use of sexual and gender-based violence and torture in detention centres referred to in the reports of the Commission of Inquiry, including, but not limited to, Branch 215, Branch 227, Branch 235, Branch 251, the Air Force Intelligence Investigation Branch at Mazzah military airport and Saydnaya prison, including the practice of mass hangings by the regime, as well as the killing of detainees at military hospitals, including Tishrin and Harasta hospitals,

*Noting* that, consistent with Security Council resolution 2474 (2019), States bear the primary responsibility to respect and ensure the human rights of all individuals within their territory and subject to their jurisdiction and that parties to armed conflict bear the primary responsibility to take all feasible measures to account for persons reported missing as a result of hostilities and to put in place appropriate channels enabling response and communication with families on the search process,

*Urging* the Syrian regime to provide families with the remains of their relatives whose fate has been disclosed, including those who have been summarily executed, to take all appropriate measures immediately to protect the lives and rights of all persons currently detained or unaccounted for, and to clarify the fate of those who remain missing or are still in custody, in accordance with Security Council resolution 2474 (2019), many of whom still remain in detention and are highly vulnerable to disease and illness owing to overcrowded conditions and pre-existing health issues, such as widespread malnutrition and tuberculosis, despite calls from the Secretary-General, the Special Envoy and the international community for the large-scale release of detainees in the Syrian Arab Republic to mitigate the spread of the virus,

*Urging also* the Syrian authorities to share further information regarding the 344,684 detained and convicted persons who they have claimed have benefited from "amnesty laws", noting with concern reports that over 135,000 remain under arbitrary arrest, further noting the use of the Counter-terrorism Court to detain perceived political opposition figures and dissidents and confiscate their properties, and calling upon all parties to the conflict, but particularly the Syrian authorities, to cease all forms of abuse of detainees, including but not limited to torture of detainees in Syrian military intelligence facilities, physical abuses, mistreatment and sexual and gender-based violence, and to grant appropriate international monitoring bodies and medical services immediate access, without undue restrictions, to detainees and detention facilities, including all Syrian military facilities referred to in the reports of the Commission of Inquiry, highlighting the recent recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry in this regard,

*Noting* the unique impact that enforced disappearances and missing and arbitrarily detained persons has had on Syrian families, in particular women and children,

*Recalling* the statements made by the Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the special procedures of the Human Rights Council that crimes against humanity and war crimes are likely to have been committed in the Syrian Arab Republic, noting the repeated encouragement by the High Commissioner for the Security Council to refer the situation to the International Criminal Court, and regretting that a draft resolution<sup>909</sup> was not adopted notwithstanding broad support from Member States,

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<sup>906</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-fifth Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/75/53/Add.1)*, chap. III.

<sup>907</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/76/53)*, chap. VII, sect. A.

<sup>908</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/77/53)*, chap. III, sect. A.

<sup>909</sup> S/2014/348.

*Recalling also* the report of 6 April 2020 of the United Nations Board of Inquiry<sup>910</sup> into strikes that damaged and destroyed health-care facilities in the north-west of the Syrian Arab Republic, including sites whose coordinates had been recorded on the United Nations deconfliction list as a step to ensure that they would not be targeted or impacted by violence, and which in most instances examined, concluded that it was “highly probable that the strikes had been carried out by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and/or its allies” and found that health-care services were being provided at the time of some of the strikes and that there were no armed opposition groups in or near the facilities, and calling upon all parties to adhere to and comply with the deconfliction mechanism,

*Emphasizing* that the humanitarian cross-border mechanism remains an essential and life-saving channel to address the humanitarian needs of a significant portion of the population of the Syrian Arab Republic, which cannot be reached through existing operations within the Syrian Arab Republic, and emphasizing the importance of cross-line operations and that an immediate and significant improvement in cross-line access to all parts of the Syrian Arab Republic and respect for principled humanitarian action are essential to prevent further unnecessary suffering and loss of life,

*Recalling its commitment* to Security Council resolutions [2170 \(2014\)](#) of 15 August 2014, [2178 \(2014\)](#) of 24 September 2014 and [2253 \(2015\)](#) of 17 December 2015,

*Alarmed* that, according to the United Nations, an estimated 15.3 million Syrians need humanitarian assistance, and more than half of the population of the Syrian Arab Republic remains displaced from their homes, including 5.3 million refugees living in neighbouring countries and more than 6.8 million internally displaced persons inside the country, of whom women and children comprise more than two thirds, which has resulted in an influx of Syrian refugees into neighbouring countries, other countries in the region and beyond, and alarmed also at the risk the situation presents to regional and international stability,

*Calling for* the immediate repeal of Law No. 10/2018 and all similar laws, concerned about the Syrian regime’s infringement on the housing, land and property of Syrians, particularly through the dispossession of displaced Syrians’ land and property in the national legislation and similar measures, which have a significant detrimental impact on the rights of Syrians displaced by the conflict to claim their property and to return to their homes in a safe, voluntary and dignified manner when the situation on the ground allows it, and expressing concern about reports of armed groups’ abuses of Syrians’ housing, land and property rights in areas under their control,

*Expressing its abhorrence* at the death of more than 30,034 children, including 198 reportedly killed owing to torture and other ill treatment, and the many more injured since the beginning of the peaceful protests in March 2011, and at all violations and abuses committed against children, in particular by the Syrian regime, in contravention of applicable international law, including those involving their recruitment, and emphasizing that the Syrian regime and its allies must comply with their applicable international law obligations that are relevant to children, including under the Convention on the Rights of the Child<sup>911</sup> and the Optional Protocols thereto,<sup>912</sup>

*Noting with concern* that the Hawl camp currently hosts over 47,000 people, 93 per cent of whom are women and children, and roughly half of whom are children under 12 years of age who live under extremely challenging conditions,

*Calling for* the implementation of Security Council resolution [2475 \(2019\)](#) of 20 June 2019 on the situation of persons with disabilities in armed conflict, expressing serious concern regarding the disproportionate impact that armed conflict has on persons with disabilities, including abandonment, violence and lack of access to basic services, stressing the protection and assistance needs of all affected civilian populations, and emphasizing the need to consider the particular needs of persons with disabilities in humanitarian response in the Syrian conflict,

*Expressing its deep appreciation* for the significant efforts that have been made by neighbouring countries and other countries in the region to accommodate Syrians, while acknowledging the increasing financial, socioeconomic and political impact of the presence of large-scale refugee and displaced populations in those countries,

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<sup>910</sup> See [S/2020/278](#), annex.

<sup>911</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>912</sup> *Ibid.*, vols. 2171, 2173 and 2983, No. 27531.

*Welcoming* the efforts of the United Nations and the League of Arab States and all diplomatic efforts, including those of neighbouring countries, to achieve a political solution to the Syrian crisis based on the final communiqué of the Action Group for Syria of 30 June 2012 and consistent with Security Council resolution [2254 \(2015\)](#),

1. *Strongly condemns* the systematic, widespread and gross violations and abuses of international human rights law and violations of international humanitarian law committed in the Syrian Arab Republic and the indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks against the civilian population and against civilian infrastructure, in particular attacks on medical facilities and schools, which continue to claim civilian lives, and demands that all parties comply with their obligations under international human rights law and international humanitarian law as applicable;

2. *Deplores and condemns in the strongest terms* the continued armed violence by the Syrian regime against the Syrian people since the beginning of the peaceful protests in 2011, and demands that the Syrian regime immediately put an end to all attacks against civilians, take all feasible precautions to avoid, and in any event to minimize, incidental loss of civilian life, injury to civilians and damage to civilian objects and meet its responsibilities to protect the Syrian population and immediately implement Security Council resolutions [2254 \(2015\)](#), [2258 \(2015\)](#) and [2286 \(2016\)](#);

3. *Urges* all Member States to create conditions for continued negotiations for a political solution to the Syrian conflict, under the auspices of the United Nations, to this end recalls the importance of advancing the work of the Constitutional Committee, within the context of the Syrian-led, Syrian-owned and United Nations-facilitated political process, convening the next round of the Constitutional Committee as soon as possible under the auspices of the United Nations and achieving tangible results, and in that regard urges all parties to engage meaningfully in the work of the Constitutional Committee, as well as by working towards the nationwide ceasefire, to enable safe, full, immediate, unimpeded and sustained humanitarian access and to lead to the release of those arbitrarily detained and ensure the assessment of the number of people who remain in prisons, consistent with Security Council resolution [2254 \(2015\)](#), as only a durable and inclusive political solution to the conflict can bring an end to the systematic, widespread and gross violations and abuses of international human rights law and violations of international humanitarian law;

4. *Strongly condemns* the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic, demands that all parties desist from any use or preparation of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic, expresses its strong conviction that those responsible for the use of chemical weapons must be held accountable, and recalls in this regard decision C-25/DEC.9 of 21 April 2021 of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction;

5. *Welcomes* the work of the Investigation and Identification Team of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, which is authorized to identify the perpetrators of the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic, thereby making an important contribution towards the ultimate goal of holding such perpetrators to account;

6. *Demands* that the Syrian regime adhere fully to its international obligations, including the requirement that it declare in full its chemical weapons programme, with special emphasis on the need for the Syrian Arab Republic to urgently resolve the verified gaps, inconsistencies and discrepancies pertaining to its declaration in respect of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction and to eliminate its chemical weapons programme in its entirety,<sup>913</sup> and further requests that the Executive Council of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons consider additional procedures for stringent verification pursuant to article IV, paragraph 8, and article V, paragraph 10, of the Convention, in order to ensure the complete destruction of the Syrian chemical weapons programme and prevent any further use of chemical weapons;

7. *Deplores and condemns in the strongest terms* the continued widespread and systematic gross violations and abuses of human rights and fundamental freedoms and all violations of international humanitarian law by the Syrian regime, the government-affiliated militias and those who fight on their behalf, including those deliberately targeting civilians or civilian objects, attacks on schools, hospitals, civilian water stations and places of worship, indiscriminate attacks with heavy weapons, aerial bombardments, cluster munitions, ballistic missiles, barrel bombs, chemical or other weapons and other force targeting civilians, as well as the starvation of the civilian population as a method of warfare, massacres, arbitrary executions, extrajudicial killings, the killing of peaceful protesters, human

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<sup>913</sup> Security Council resolution [2118 \(2013\)](#), annex I.

rights defenders and journalists, individuals and members of communities on the basis of their religion or belief, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearances, forced displacement of members of minority groups and of those opposed to the Syrian regime, unlawful interference with access to medical treatment, failure to respect and protect medical personnel, torture, systematic sexual and gender-based violence, including rape in detention, and ill-treatment, other violations and abuses of human rights, including those of women and children, and violations of international humanitarian law;

8. *Condemns unequivocally* all attacks and violence against journalists and media workers by the Syrian regime, the government-affiliated militias and non-State armed groups, urges all parties to respect the professional independence and rights of journalists, and recalls in this regard that journalists and media workers engaged in dangerous professional missions in areas of armed conflict shall be considered civilians and shall be protected as such, provided that they take no action adversely affecting their status as civilians;

9. *Strongly condemns* all violations and abuses of human rights and all violations of international humanitarian law, including the killing and persecution of individuals and members of communities on the basis of their religion or belief, by armed non-State actors, as well as any human rights abuses or violations of international humanitarian law by non-State armed groups, including Hizbullah and those designated as terrorist groups by the Security Council;

10. *Deplores and strongly condemns* the terrorist acts and violence committed against civilians by ISIL (also known as Da'esh), Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (formerly known as the Nusra Front), Al-Qaida-affiliated terrorist groups, terrorist groups, such as Hurras al-Din, designated by the Security Council and other violent extremist groups and their continued gross, systematic and widespread abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, in particular against the human rights of women and children, and reaffirms that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, gender, ethnicity, nationality or civilization;

11. *Condemns* the reported forced displacements of the population in the Syrian Arab Republic due to repeated violations of international human rights, including forced displacement of civilians as a result of local truce agreements, as highlighted by the Commission of Inquiry, and the alarming impact thereof on the demography of the country, which amounts to a strategy of radical demographic change initiated by the Syrian regime, its allies and other non-State actors, further expresses deep concern at reports of social and demographic engineering in areas throughout the country, and calls upon all parties concerned to cease immediately all activities related to these actions, including any activities that may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity, notes that impunity for such crimes is unacceptable, reaffirms that those responsible for such breaches of international law, must be brought to justice, and supports efforts to collect evidence in view of future legal action;

12. *Emphasizes* the importance of creating conditions conducive to voluntary, safe, dignified and informed movements of internally displaced persons within the Syrian Arab Republic, and strongly urges all parties to work with the United Nations to ensure that any such movements are in line with the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement,<sup>914</sup> and that displaced persons receive the information they need to make informed and voluntary decisions about their movement and safety, and also calls upon the Syrian Arab Republic to create conditions for voluntary, safe and dignified returns;

13. *Reminds* the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic of its obligations under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,<sup>915</sup> including its obligation to take effective measures to prevent acts of torture in any territory under its jurisdiction, and calls upon all States parties to the Convention to comply with any relevant obligations under the Convention, including with respect to the obligation to extradite or prosecute contained in article 7 of the Convention;

14. *Deplores* the non-renewal of the Security Council authorization of cross-border humanitarian assistance to the Syrian Arab Republic, and in particular the veto cast on 11 July 2023 by the Russian Federation, and takes note of the resumption of United Nations life-saving humanitarian deliveries through the Bab al-Hawa crossing as from 19 September, as announced in a statement by the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General, but remains concerned by the limited timeframe, which is insufficient, and underscores that needs have increased to the highest levels since 2011, with an estimated 15.3 million Syrians in need, according to the United Nations, and that more than 6.9 million

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<sup>914</sup> E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex.

<sup>915</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1465, No. 24841.

people live in areas not under the control of the Syrian regime and 5.3 million require humanitarian assistance in the north-east and north-west, and also considers with great concern the significant effects of the earthquakes February 2023, which disproportionately affected those who are in vulnerable situations, and that cross-border assistance remains an indispensable tool to address the humanitarian needs of the population, including to deliver vaccines and supplies to combat communicable diseases, which cannot be adequately reached through existing operations within the Syrian Arab Republic;

15. *Demands* that the Syrian regime and all other parties to the conflict allow and facilitate safe, full, timely, immediate, unrestricted and sustained humanitarian access, including through the continuation of cross-border assistance;

16. *Supports* the United Nations in its endeavours for the continuation of the monitoring of all humanitarian relief consignments of the United Nations humanitarian agencies and their implementing partners to the north-west of the Syrian Arab Republic in the future, while underscoring the role of the United Nations Monitoring Mechanism for the Syrian Arab Republic in confirming the humanitarian nature of these relief consignments;

17. *Strongly condemns* the persistent and widespread use of sexual and gender-based violence, abuse and exploitation, such as in government detention centres, including those run by the intelligence agencies, reaffirms that acts of sexual and gender-based violence, when committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population, can constitute crimes against humanity, and that acts of sexual and gender-based violence in situations of armed conflict can constitute war crimes, reaffirms the need to end impunity through the prosecution of perpetrators of sexual and gender-based crimes under national and international law, stresses the need for the perpetrators of these crimes to be held accountable by national justice systems or, where applicable, international courts and tribunals, notes that such acts may constitute violations of international humanitarian law, violations of international human rights law and abuses of human rights, in this regard expresses deep concern at the prevailing climate of impunity for sexual and gender-based violence, urges all parties to the conflict, especially the Syrian regime, to immediately cease the perpetration of sexual and gender-based violence, and urges the Syrian regime to ensure that victims and survivors of sexual and gender-based violence have access to holistic support and are able to seek reparations and redress;

18. *Also strongly condemns* all violations and abuses committed against children in contravention of applicable international law, including those involving their recruitment and use, killing and maiming, rape and all other forms of sexual and gender-based violence, child, early and forced marriage, abductions, denial of humanitarian access and education for children, and attacks on civilian objects, including schools and hospitals, as well as their arbitrary arrest, unlawful detention, torture and ill-treatment and their use as human shields;

19. *Reaffirms* the Syrian regime's responsibility for the systematic use of enforced disappearances, takes note of the assessment of the Commission of Inquiry that the Syrian regime's use of enforced disappearances amounts to a crime against humanity, condemns the targeted disappearances of young men and boys and the exploitation of ceasefires as an opportunity to forcibly recruit and arbitrarily detain them, and demands that the Syrian regime comply with its obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

20. *Urges* all States as well as all parties to the conflict to cooperate fully with the victim- and survivor-centric Independent Institution on Missing Persons in the Syrian Arab Republic to help clarify the fate and whereabouts of all missing persons in the Syrian Arab Republic, in line with their obligations under international law, calls upon other relevant actors, including international institutions and civil society organizations, in particular Syrian civil society organizations, to cooperate with the new institution, recalling the crucial humanitarian imperative of allowing families to know the fate and whereabouts of their missing relatives, consistent with applicable international humanitarian law, and encourages the timely establishment and full functioning of the Institution;

21. *Encourages* all parties to the conflict to enhance their engagement with the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria to hasten the release of all arbitrarily detained persons by the Syrian regime and to make progress on the issue of missing persons;

22. *Strongly condemns* all attacks on the wounded and sick and on medical, health and humanitarian personnel, facilities and means of transport and equipment, as well as indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks on civilians, civilian objects, schools and water stations, taking place in the Syrian Arab Republic, which may constitute war crimes, as well as the intentional denial of humanitarian assistance to civilians, and demands that the Syrian



regime meet its responsibility to protect the Syrian population and act in accordance with its obligations under relevant provisions of international human rights law and international humanitarian law;

23. *Also strongly condemns* the targeting of humanitarian workers and persons engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment and hospitals and other medical facilities, which may constitute war crimes, including the attack against the deconflicted Atarib cave hospital on 21 March 2021, the terrorist attack against Al-Shifa' hospital on 12 June 2021 and the attack on emergency first responders in Atarib on 11 July 2023;

24. *Demands* that the Syrian regime cooperate fully with the Commission of Inquiry, including by granting it immediate, full, safe, unhindered and sustained access throughout the Syrian Arab Republic;

25. *Strongly condemns* the intervention in the Syrian Arab Republic of all foreign terrorist fighters and those foreign organizations and foreign forces fighting on behalf of the Syrian regime, expresses deep concern that their involvement further exacerbates the deteriorating situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, including the human rights and humanitarian situation, which has a serious negative impact on the region, and further demands that all foreign terrorist fighters, and those who are fighting in support of the Syrian regime, including all militias sponsored by foreign Governments, must immediately withdraw from the Syrian Arab Republic;

26. *Demands* that all parties immediately put an end to all violations of international human rights law, abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, recalls, in particular, the obligation under international humanitarian law to distinguish between civilians and combatants and the prohibition against indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks and all attacks against civilians and civilian objects, further demands that all parties to the conflict take all appropriate steps to protect civilians, in compliance with international law, including by desisting from attacks directed against civilian objects, such as medical centres, schools and water stations, and refrain from militarizing such facilities, seek to avoid establishing military positions in densely populated areas and enable the evacuation of the wounded and all civilians who wish to leave areas of conflict, including besieged areas, and recalls in this regard that the Syrian regime bears primary responsibility for protecting its population;

27. *Emphasizes* the need for full accountability and justice for crimes involving breaches of international law, in particular of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, some of which may constitute war crimes or crimes against humanity, committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011, through fair, transparent and independent investigations and prosecutions at the domestic or international level;

28. *Requests* the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to submit an annual report to the General Assembly, starting at its eightieth session, on the implementation of its mandate while preserving the confidential nature of its substantive work, in time for the annual presentation of the report by the Head of the Mechanism in April at a plenary meeting of the Assembly under the agenda item entitled "Prevention of armed conflict";

29. *Welcomes* efforts by the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to assist in the search for missing persons in the Syrian context, and further encourages the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to cooperate with the Independent Institution on Missing Persons in the Syrian Arab Republic to help advance efforts to clarify the fate and whereabouts of all missing persons in the Syrian Arab Republic;

30. *Also welcomes* the victim- and survivor-centred approach practised by the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism, commends its model of engagement with victim and survivor groups, as well as civil society in general, through bilateral cooperation and regular consultations, and looks forward to the plans of the Independent Institution on Missing Persons in the Syrian Arab Republic to adopt a similarly victim- and survivor-centred approach;

31. *Further welcomes* the continued funding for the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism through the programme budget, and urges the Secretary-General to include further necessary resources to address the Mechanism's significantly increased workload since 2020 and ensure the effective discharge of its mandate;

32. *Emphasizes* the need to ensure that all those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law or violations and abuses of human rights law are held to account through appropriate, fair and independent domestic or international criminal justice mechanisms, stresses the need to pursue practical steps towards this goal, for that reason encourages the Security Council to take appropriate action to ensure full accountability, noting the important role that the International Criminal Court can play in this regard in accordance with complementarity, and urges the Syrian authorities to share further information regarding reports of extrajudicial executions and other serious violations throughout the country to advance accountability efforts;



33. *Welcomes* progress made on national and international accountability efforts, and in this regard notes the conviction and sentencing in January 2022 by a court in Germany of a former director of the Syrian intelligence service for crimes against humanity as part of a widespread or systematic attack against the civilian population in the Syrian Arab Republic, noting that information from the Commission of Inquiry and the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism was used as evidence during the investigation and trial, and further welcomes that the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Canada recently initiated legal proceedings at the International Court of Justice to hold the Syrian Arab Republic accountable for torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and punishment of its own people, in breach of its obligations under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and strongly condemns retaliation and reprisals against those who cooperate with relevant mechanisms;

34. *Also welcomes* the efforts by States to investigate conduct in the Syrian Arab Republic and to prosecute crimes within their jurisdiction committed in the Syrian Arab Republic, encourages them to continue to do so and to share relevant information between States in accordance with their national legislation and international law, and also encourages other States to consider doing the same;

35. *Urgently requests* the Commission of Inquiry to present its latest reporting to the General Assembly during an interactive dialogue at its seventy-ninth session on the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic, and encourages United Nations monitoring and reporting to further document violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights, including those that may amount to crimes against humanity and war crimes, to provide recommendations to facilitate improvements in civilian protection and accountability measures, and to feature witness testimony of Syrian human rights defenders, survivors of torture and sexual and gender-based violence, former detainees, and other Syrian voices through appropriate and safe means, and where informed consent has been provided;

36. *Deplores* the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, and urges the international community to assume its responsibility for providing urgent financial support to enable the host countries and communities to respond to the growing humanitarian needs of Syrian refugees, while emphasizing the importance of burden- and responsibility-sharing;

37. *Calls upon* all members of the international community, including all donors, to fulfil their previous pledges and continue to provide much-needed support to the United Nations, its specialized agencies and other humanitarian actors to provide humanitarian and medical assistance to the millions of Syrians who are in need, including those displaced both internally and in host countries and communities;

38. *Welcomes* the efforts of those countries outside the region that have put in place measures and policies to assist and host Syrian refugees, encourages them to do more, also encourages other States outside the region to consider implementing similar measures and policies, with a view to providing Syrian refugees with protection and humanitarian assistance, acknowledges the need to improve the conditions on the ground to facilitate the return of refugees in a safe, voluntary, informed and dignified manner to their place of origin or another location of their choice, and takes note of the recent finding of the Commission of Inquiry that the Syrian Arab Republic does not yet offer a safe and stable environment for the sustainable and dignified return of refugees or for the 6.8 million displaced persons inside the country;

39. *Demands* that the Syrian regime and all other parties to the conflict ensure the full, immediate, unimpeded and sustained safe and unhindered access of the United Nations and humanitarian actors, including to besieged and hard-to-reach areas such as Rukban, that the Syrian regime cease to impede the ability of the United Nations and humanitarian actors to move through the north-east of the Syrian Arab Republic and beyond, especially in the light of the restricted humanitarian space and worsened humanitarian situation following the failure to reauthorize the Ya'rubiyah border crossing in Security Council resolutions [2504 \(2020\)](#), [2533 \(2020\)](#), [2585 \(2021\)](#), [2642 \(2022\)](#) and [2672 \(2023\)](#) and to extend for as long as humanitarian needs require the use of the Bab al-Hawa, Bab al-Salamah and Ra'i crossings and that all parties preserve the Fish Khabur border crossing and other crossing points along the Turkish borders with the Syrian Arab Republic, and allow sustained deliveries of humanitarian assistance to persons in need across the Syrian Arab Republic, including through commercial routes, consistent with Security Council resolutions [2139 \(2014\)](#), [2165 \(2014\)](#), [2191 \(2014\)](#), [2254 \(2015\)](#), [2258 \(2015\)](#), [2332 \(2016\)](#), [2393 \(2017\)](#), [2401 \(2018\)](#), [2449 \(2018\)](#), [2504 \(2020\)](#), [2533 \(2020\)](#), [2585 \(2021\)](#), [2642 \(2022\)](#) and [2672 \(2023\)](#);

40. *Strongly condemns* the reported killing of detainees in Syrian military intelligence facilities, and calls upon the Syrian regime to release all unlawfully held detainees, including women, children and the elderly, and to facilitate

information about those still in detention as well as those who died while in detention by the Syrian regime, returning their remains, with full transparency regarding what happened to these individuals, and urges the regime to immediately reverse its abhorrent use of mass detentions and torture as means of silencing and repressing political opposition and political activists, human rights defenders, lawyers, journalists and other media workers and of depriving Syrian citizens of their rights to freedom of expression and of opinion, both online and offline;

41. *Calls for* the appropriate international monitoring bodies to be granted access to detainees in all prisons and detention centres, including all military facilities referred to in the reports of the Commission of Inquiry;

42. *Demands* that all parties take all appropriate steps to protect civilians and persons hors de combat, including persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, and stresses that, in this regard, the primary responsibility to protect the population lies with the Syrian regime;

43. *Strongly condemns* the damage and destruction of the cultural and historical heritage of the Syrian Arab Republic, in particular that of Palmyra and Aleppo, and the organized looting and trafficking of Syrian cultural property, as outlined by the Security Council in its resolutions [2199 \(2015\)](#) of 12 February 2015 and [2347 \(2017\)](#) of 24 March 2017, remains alarmed by damage to cultural and historical property that occurred in Aleppo following the earthquakes of February 2023, affirms that attacks and looting intentionally directed against cultural property may amount to war crimes and a serious violation of international humanitarian law, underlines the need to bring the perpetrators of such crimes to justice, and calls upon the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, within its mandate, to review and closely monitor the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic for the preservation of cultural and historical heritage in the Syrian Arab Republic;

44. *Notes with concern* the significant increase in humanitarian needs throughout the Syrian Arab Republic, compounded by the lack of access to water and electricity, which continues to undermine the stability and security of the whole region, worsening the humanitarian situation and humanitarian actors' ability to respond to humanitarian needs;

45. *Stresses* the situation of particular concern in north-west Syrian Arab Republic, particularly Idlib, strongly condemns the attacks on civilians and first responders and civilian infrastructure where ongoing violence, including air strikes, continues to cause death and injury among civilians and first responders, as well as devastating damage to civilian infrastructure, including health-care and educational facilities, and welcomes the establishment of the United Nations Board of Inquiry mandated to investigate the destruction of and damage to facilities on the United Nations deconfliction list and United Nations-supported facilities;

46. *Expresses deep concern* in particular about violence in the north-west, including air strikes, and the impact on civilians of that violence, stresses the urgent need for the immediate cessation of military hostilities in Idlib and the surrounding areas, for the prioritization of the protection of all civilians, including those displaced, and for full, timely, immediate, unrestricted and safe humanitarian access, including cross-border access, recalls the Additional Protocol to the Memorandum on the Stabilization of the Situation in the Idlib De-escalation Area, signed by the Russian Federation and Turkey on 5 March 2020, and stresses the importance of continuing work towards preserving calm on the ground and creating the necessary conditions for the safe, dignified and voluntary returns of displaced people;

47. *Calls upon* all Member States, relevant United Nations bodies, international organizations and civil society to coordinate efforts with the Independent Institution on Missing Persons in the Syrian Arab Republic and proactively focus attention on the issue of missing persons in the Syrian Arab Republic, including those subjected to enforced disappearance, and recalls the importance of the full and meaningful participation of victims, survivors and their families in such efforts;

48. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on missing people in the Syrian Arab Republic,<sup>916</sup> supports its findings, takes note with appreciation its recommendations, and therefore requests an informal briefing from the Secretary-General before 28 February 2024;

49. *Urges* all parties to the conflict to take all appropriate steps to ensure the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel, personnel of the specialized agencies and all other personnel engaged in humanitarian relief activities, including national and locally recruited personnel, as required by international humanitarian law, without prejudice to their freedom of movement and access, stresses the need not to impede or

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<sup>916</sup> [A/76/890](#).

hinder these efforts, recalls that attacks on humanitarian workers may amount to war crimes, and notes in this regard that the Security Council has reaffirmed that it will take further measures in the event of non-compliance with its resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2234 (2015), 2258 (2015), 2286 (2016), 2393 (2017), 2401 (2018), 2449 (2018), 2585 (2021) and 2642 (2022) by any Syrian party;

50. *Urges* the international community to support the leadership and full, effective and meaningful participation of women in all efforts aimed at finding a political solution to the Syrian crisis, as envisaged by the Security Council in its resolution 1325 (2000) and all subsequent resolutions of the women and peace and security agenda;

51. *Reaffirms* that there can only be a political solution to the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic, reiterates its commitment to the national unity and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic, and urges the parties to the conflict to abstain from actions that may contribute to the continuing deterioration of the human rights, security and humanitarian situation, in order to reach a genuine political transition, based on the final communiqué of the Action Group for Syria of 30 June 2012, consistent with Security Council resolutions 2254 (2015), 2268 (2016) and 2585 (2021), that meets the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people for a civil, democratic and pluralistic State, with the full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership of all women at all levels, where there is no room for sectarianism or discrimination on ethnic, religious, linguistic, gender or any other grounds, and where all persons receive equal protection, regardless of gender, religion or ethnicity, and further demands that all parties work urgently towards the comprehensive implementation of the final communiqué, including through the establishment of an inclusive transitional governing body with full executive powers, which shall be formed on the basis of mutual consent while ensuring the continuity of governmental institutions.

#### RESOLUTION 78/223

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/482, para. 29)<sup>917</sup>

#### **78/223. Follow-up to the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice**

*The General Assembly,*

*Emphasizing* the responsibility assumed by the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice in pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolution 155 C (VII) of 13 August 1948 and General Assembly resolution 415 (V) of 1 December 1950,

*Acknowledging* that the United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice, as major intergovernmental forums, have influenced national policies and practices and promoted international cooperation in that field by facilitating the exchange of views and experience, mobilizing public opinion and recommending policy options at the national, regional and international levels,

*Recalling* its resolution 46/152 of 18 December 1991, in the annex to which Member States affirmed that the United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice should be held every five years and should provide a forum for, inter alia, the exchange of views between States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and individual experts representing various professions and disciplines, the exchange of experiences in research, law and policy development and the identification of emerging trends and issues in crime prevention and criminal justice,

*Recalling also* the applicable provisions of its resolution 56/119 of 19 December 2001,

*Recalling further* the applicable provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996,

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<sup>917</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Chair of the Committee on the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council.

*Recalling* its resolution [57/270](#) B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, in which it stressed that all countries should promote policies consistent and coherent with the commitments of major United Nations conferences and summits, emphasized that the United Nations system had an important responsibility to assist Governments in staying fully engaged in the follow-up to and implementation of agreements and commitments reached at major United Nations conferences and summits and invited the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system to further promote the implementation of the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits,

*Recalling also* its resolution [76/181](#) of 16 December 2021, in which it endorsed the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by the Fourteenth Congress, and requested the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to review the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration under the standing item on its agenda entitled “Follow-up to the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice”,

*Recalling further* its resolution [77/231](#) of 15 December 2022, in which it decided to hold the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in 2026, without prejudice to the timing of subsequent United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice and with a view to maintaining the five-year cycle of the congresses, in the light of the intensive follow-up process undertaken by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration,

*Recalling that*, in its resolution [77/231](#), it requested the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to approve at its thirty-second session the overall theme, the agenda items and the topics for the workshops of the Fifteenth Congress, recommended that, building on the experience and the success of the Fourteenth Congress, all efforts be made to ensure that the overall theme, the agenda items and the topics for the workshops of the Fifteenth Congress were interrelated and that the agenda items and workshop topics were streamlined and limited in number, and encouraged the holding of side events that were focused on and complemented the agenda items and workshops,

*Recalling also* its resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,

*Recalling further* its decisions 74/550 A of 13 April 2020 and 74/550 B of 12 August 2020, in which it decided to hold the Fourteenth Congress in 2021 instead of 2020 owing to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,

*Encouraged by* the success of the Fourteenth Congress as one of the largest and most diverse forums for the exchange of views on and experiences in research, law and policy and programme development between States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and individual experts representing various professions and disciplines,

*Praising* the Government of Japan for conducting an intensive, succinct and fruitful Fourteenth Congress, despite challenging circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and mindful of the need to constantly look for ways to further improve the work of future congresses,

*Stressing* the importance of undertaking all preparatory activities for the Fifteenth Congress in a timely and concerted manner,

*Mindful* of the Strategy for Sustainability Management in the United Nations System, 2020–2030, and best practices in the preparations for, and the organization of, the Fifteenth Congress,

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,<sup>918</sup>

1. *Reiterates its invitation* to Governments to take into consideration the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for

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<sup>918</sup> [E/CN.15/2023/11](#).

Sustainable Development<sup>919</sup> when formulating legislation and policy directives and to make every effort, where appropriate, to implement the principles contained therein in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

2. *Welcomes* the initiative of the Government of Japan to work with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and through the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in ensuring appropriate follow-up to the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration;

3. *Requests* the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in accordance with its mandate, to continue implementing the appropriate policy and operational measures for the follow-up to the Kyoto Declaration, including through the holding of intersessional thematic discussions to facilitate the sharing of information, good practices and lessons learned among Member States and relevant stakeholders, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources;

4. *Notes* the progress made thus far in the preparations for the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;

5. *Decides* that the duration of the Fifteenth Congress should not exceed eight days, including pre-Congress consultations;

6. *Also decides* that the main theme of the Fifteenth Congress shall be “Accelerating crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: protecting people and planet and achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the digital age”;

7. *Further decides* that, in accordance with its resolution 56/119, the Fifteenth Congress shall open with a high-level segment, at which States will be invited to be represented at the highest possible level, for example, by Heads of State or Government, government ministers or attorneys general, and that representatives will be given an opportunity to make statements on the topics of the Congress;

8. *Decides* that, in accordance with its resolution 56/119, the Fifteenth Congress shall adopt a single declaration, to be submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for its consideration;

9. *Also decides* that the Commission will give due consideration to the report of the Fifteenth Congress;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to encourage the participation of representatives from relevant entities of the United Nations system in the Fifteenth Congress, bearing in mind the main theme, agenda items and workshop topics of the Congress;

11. *Approves* the following provisional agenda for the Fifteenth Congress, finalized by the Commission at its thirty-second session:

1. Opening of the Congress.
2. Organizational matters.
3. Advancing innovative and evidence-based crime prevention strategies towards social, economic and environmental development.
4. Promoting people-centred, inclusive and responsive criminal justice systems in a world of continuous change.
5. Addressing and countering crime – including organized crime and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations – in new, emerging and evolving forms.
6. Working better together to elevate cooperation and partnerships, including technical and material assistance and training, at the national, regional and international levels, in crime prevention and criminal justice.
7. Adoption of the report of the Congress.

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<sup>919</sup> Resolution 76/181, annex.

12. *Decides* that the following issues shall be considered in workshops within the framework of the Fifteenth Congress:

- (a) Building resilient societies, with a focus on protecting women, children and youth: fostering engagement, education and the culture of lawfulness;
- (b) Ensuring equal access to justice for all: towards safe and secure societies while respecting the rule of law;
- (c) Getting ahead: strengthening data collection and analysis to better protect people and planet in times of new, emerging and evolving forms of crime;
- (d) Turning the digital age into an opportunity: promoting the responsible use of technologies in crime prevention and criminal justice.

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, to prepare a discussion guide for the regional preparatory meetings for the Fifteenth Congress and for the Congress itself in a timely manner in order to enable those meetings to be held as early as possible in 2025, and invites Member States to be actively involved in that process;

14. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to facilitate the organization of the regional preparatory meetings and to make available the necessary resources for the participation of the least developed countries in those meetings and in the Fifteenth Congress itself, in accordance with past practice and in consultation with Member States;

15. *Urges* participants in the regional preparatory meetings to examine the substantive items on the agenda and the topics of the workshops of the Fifteenth Congress and to make action-oriented recommendations to serve as a basis for the draft recommendations and conclusions for consideration by the Congress;

16. *Encourages* Member States to participate actively in the Fifteenth Congress by including in the composition of their delegations legal and policy experts, such as practitioners with special training and practical experience in crime prevention and criminal justice;

17. *Emphasizes* the importance of the workshops to be held within the framework of the Fifteenth Congress, and invites Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant entities to provide financial, organizational and technical support to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network for the preparations for the workshops, including the preparation and circulation of relevant background material;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to facilitate the organization of ancillary meetings of non-governmental and professional organizations participating in the Fifteenth Congress, in accordance with past practice, as well as meetings of professional and geographical interest groups, and to take appropriate measures to encourage the participation of the academic and research community in the Congress, and encourages Member States to actively participate in the above-mentioned meetings, as they provide an opportunity to develop and maintain strong partnerships with the private sector and civil society organizations;

19. *Encourages* States to undertake preparations for the Fifteenth Congress at an early stage and by all appropriate means, including, where appropriate, the establishment of national preparatory committees;

20. *Encourages* the relevant United Nations programmes, specialized agencies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as other professional organizations, to cooperate with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the preparations for the Fifteenth Congress;

21. *Requests* the Commission to accord sufficient time at its thirty-third session to reviewing the progress made in the preparations for the Fifteenth Congress, to finalize in a timely manner all outstanding organizational and substantive arrangements and to make its recommendations to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council;

22. *Welcomes with appreciation* the offer of the Government of the United Arab Emirates to host the Fifteenth Congress, to be held in 2026;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure proper follow-up to the present resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly through the Commission at its thirty-third session;



24. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

#### RESOLUTION 78/224

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/482, para. 29)<sup>920</sup>

##### 78/224. Reducing reoffending through rehabilitation and reintegration

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* the outcome of the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Kyoto, Japan, from 7 to 12 March 2021, as reflected in the report of the Congress<sup>921</sup> and in the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>922</sup>

*Reaffirming* the commitment expressed in the Kyoto Declaration to reduce reoffending through rehabilitation and social reintegration,

*Noting* the deliberations of the Fourteenth Congress under the agenda item entitled “Integrated approaches to challenges facing the criminal justice system”, during which, inter alia, the need for practical guidance for national criminal justice systems on reducing reoffending and the recommendation to develop new United Nations standards and norms on the issue of reducing reoffending were raised by some Member States,

*Noting also* the discussions held at the workshop on the topic “Reducing reoffending: identifying risks and developing solutions” and the three subtopics, as reflected in the report of Committee II of the Fourteenth Congress, in particular the encouragement given by some participants to Member States to share information on promising practices and consider the development, under the auspices of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and with the support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, of model strategies to reduce reoffending that reflect, among others, the good practices discussed during the workshop,<sup>923</sup>

*Noting further* the efforts taken by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to implement General Assembly resolution 76/182 of 16 December 2021, namely through convening, with the support of the Government of Japan, an online expert group meeting, during which a limited number of experts, participating in their individual capacity, met from 6 to 8 April 2022 to share information on promising practices and to identify a set of key elements to be considered for inclusion in draft model strategies on reducing reoffending,

*Recalling* its resolution 77/232 of 15 December 2022, in which it requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to convene a meeting of an open-ended intergovernmental expert group, with interpretation in all official languages of the United Nations, with a view to developing model strategies on reducing reoffending that could serve as useful tools for Member States, taking into consideration relevant provisions in the existing United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, current developments, research and tools, written contributions from Member States and, without prejudice, the output of the expert group meeting held from 6 to 8 April 2022,

*Recalling also* the standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice adopted or recommended by the General Assembly, including the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules),<sup>924</sup> the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules)<sup>925</sup> and the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for

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<sup>920</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Chair of the Committee on the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council.

<sup>921</sup> A/CONF.234/16.

<sup>922</sup> Resolution 76/181, annex.

<sup>923</sup> A/CONF.234/16, chap. VII, sect. B.

<sup>924</sup> Resolution 70/175, annex.

<sup>925</sup> Resolution 65/229, annex.



Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules),<sup>926</sup> and at the same time acknowledging the need for standards and norms specifically focusing on reducing reoffending,

1. *Encourages* Member States to develop comprehensive strategies or action plans to reduce reoffending through effective interventions for the rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders;
2. *Also encourages* Member States to promote a rehabilitative environment in correctional facilities, including through designing and implementing effective treatment programmes based on an individual assessment of the needs of and risks faced by offenders, and to provide offenders with access to vocational and technical training and educational programmes to support them in developing the skills necessary for reintegration;
3. *Further encourages* Member States, as appropriate and in line with domestic legislation, to take into account the relevant and appropriate United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, mainstream a gender perspective into their criminal justice systems, support the development of necessary skills among offenders in correctional facilities and facilitate working opportunities, where appropriate, to promote the social rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders;
4. *Recognizes* the benefit that may be derived from incorporating respect for cultural diversity, based on respect for the rule of law, into rehabilitation and reintegration programmes;
5. *Encourages* Member States to promote rehabilitation approaches and programmes within their judicial systems empowered to deal with specific problems, such as social or mental health issues;
6. *Also encourages* Member States to promote a rehabilitative environment in the community to facilitate the social reintegration of offenders with the active involvement of local communities, giving due regard to the need to protect society and individuals and the rights of victims and offenders;
7. *Further encourages* Member States to promote multi-stakeholder partnerships to reduce reoffending by fostering inter-agency coordination among relevant government authorities, such as employment and social welfare agencies and local governments, as well as public-private partnerships between those authorities and the community, including cooperating employers and community volunteers who support the long-term and social reintegration of offenders;
8. *Expresses appreciation* to Member States that shared with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, through written contributions, information on promising practices for possible inclusion in draft model strategies on reducing reoffending, for consideration by the open-ended intergovernmental expert group to be convened pursuant to its resolution [77/232](#);
9. *Takes note* of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat examining preliminary areas for consideration by the open-ended intergovernmental expert group;<sup>927</sup>
10. *Strongly encourages* Member States to actively participate in the meeting of the open-ended intergovernmental expert group and to include in their delegations experts from a variety of relevant disciplines;
11. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to support the efforts of Member States to reduce reoffending through the promotion of rehabilitative environments and reintegration by providing technical assistance, including material support, upon request, to Member States, in particular developing countries, taking into account their needs and priorities, as well as challenges and restrictions;
12. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes outlined in the present resolution, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

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<sup>926</sup> Resolution [45/110](#), annex.

<sup>927</sup> [E/CN.15/2023/13](#).

## RESOLUTION 78/225

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/482, para. 29)<sup>928</sup>

### **78/225. Enhancing the contributions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

*Reaffirming* its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,

*Recalling* its resolution 70/299 of 29 July 2016, in which it encouraged coherence of the General Assembly and its Main Committees, the Economic and Social Council, the specialized agencies and the functional commissions of the Council, and other intergovernmental bodies and forums with the work of the high-level political forum on sustainable development towards the follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

*Recalling also* its resolution 73/183 of 17 December 2018, in which it underlined the importance of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in actively contributing to the global follow-up to and supporting the thematic review of progress made in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals relating to its mandate,

*Recalling further* its resolution 75/290 B of 25 June 2021, in which it referred to the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit, held under the auspices of the General Assembly, marking the midpoint of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda,

*Bearing in mind* that, in the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>929</sup> the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was invited to engage with other relevant stakeholders in order to strengthen global partnership in advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda,

*Underscoring* the role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as the principal policymaking body of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice,

*Noting* the important role of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in collecting data and information relating to several indicators under the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 16,

*Noting also* that, pursuant to its decision 77/553 of 7 March 2023, the 2024 high-level political forum on sustainable development, to be held under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, will review in depth several Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 16,

1. *Recalls* the commitment made by States to contribute to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>930</sup> through their efforts in crime prevention and criminal justice, with the firm recognition that sustainable development and the rule of law are interlinked and mutually reinforcing, that crime is an impediment to sustainable development and that achieving sustainable development is an enabling factor for States to effectively prevent and combat crime;

2. *Underlines* the important role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in actively contributing to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda, within its mandate, and in contributing to the lead-up and follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals Summit held in September 2023;

3. *Welcomes* the thematic discussions on the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

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<sup>928</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Chair of the Committee on the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council.

<sup>929</sup> Resolution 76/181, annex.

<sup>930</sup> Resolution 70/1.

## V. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Third Committee

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Development, held by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice since 2021, which have also served as forums for discussing progress made in implementing the 2030 Agenda;

4. *Also welcomes* the contribution by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to the 2023 high-level debate of the General Assembly on the theme “Equal access to justice for all: advancing reforms for peaceful, just and inclusive societies”;

5. *Invites* the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to continue developing policy and awareness-raising initiatives at the global level on accelerating the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 16, on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels;

6. *Recalls* the role of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council in reflecting the integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the interlinkages between them, and in this regard invites the Commission, within its mandate, to contribute through its work towards strengthening the capacity of national institutions through international cooperation and technical and material assistance to and training for Member States, especially for the benefit of developing countries, for the balanced and integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

7. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue supporting the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, within its mandate, in activities related to the accelerated implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 16;

8. *Encourages* Member States to continue raising awareness of the work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and its relevance to the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

9. *Also encourages* Member States to accelerate, as appropriate, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through their efforts in crime prevention and criminal justice, including through the work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held in 2026;

10. *Recognizes* the fundamental role of effective international cooperation in preventing and combating crime, and to this end underlines the importance of addressing, tackling and effectively responding to international challenges and barriers, in particular measures, that hinder such cooperation, and which are not consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and obligations under international law, and in this regard urges States, consistent with their international obligations, to refrain from applying such measures;

11. *Welcomes* the cooperation of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, within its existing mandate, with other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, and encourages the Commission to further enhance its cooperation with all relevant intergovernmental bodies and forums with a view to advancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including in the follow-up to the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit;

12. *Undertakes* to enhance multidisciplinary efforts to prevent and combat crime through cooperation and coordination between law enforcement and other criminal justice institutions, and other governmental sectors, as well as to support their work, by engaging in and fostering multi-stakeholder partnerships with the private sector, civil society, academia and the scientific community, and with other relevant stakeholders as appropriate;

13. *Requests* the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to encourage Member States presenting voluntary national reviews at the high-level political forum on sustainable development to share their experiences, progress made, challenges and impediments in implementing those aspects of the 2030 Agenda that are related to the work of the Commission;

14. *Encourages* Member States to consider including information on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda related to the work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, including on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16, in their voluntary national reviews for consideration by the high-level political forum during its meeting to be held in 2024, and to share relevant information contained in those voluntary national reviews with the Commission during its thirty-third session, in 2024, including in the context of the general debate;

15. *Invites* Member States and relevant United Nations entities, international and regional organizations, the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network and other relevant

stakeholders to provide, as appropriate, to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, through its secretariat, for consideration during its thirty-third session, views on how the Commission can contribute to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 16, and requests the Commission to transmit that information along with the outcome of its consideration to the high-level political forum at its meeting in 2024, within existing reporting requirements.

#### RESOLUTION 78/226

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/482, para. 29)<sup>931</sup>

##### **78/226. Technical assistance provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime related to counter-terrorism**

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and that all acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivations, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed, and that they are to be unequivocally condemned,

*Reaffirming also* that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group,

*Stressing again* the need to strengthen international, regional and subregional cooperation to effectively prevent and combat terrorism, in particular by enhancing the national capacity of States through the provision of technical assistance, based on the needs and priorities identified by requesting States,

*Reaffirming* the responsibility of all States to uphold the Charter of the United Nations in its entirety and to fully respect the principles of sovereign equality and the territorial integrity of States and that of non-intervention in the domestic affairs of other States throughout all our efforts in preventing and combating crime,

*Emphasizing* the need to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism while fully respecting the purposes and principles of the Charter and international law,

*Recalling* the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace<sup>932</sup> and the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations,<sup>933</sup>

*Recalling also* all relevant United Nations resolutions on technical and legislative assistance in countering terrorism, particularly the most recent ones,<sup>934</sup>

*Recalling in particular* its resolution 74/175 of 18 December 2019, in which it, inter alia, called upon the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to further enhance technical assistance, upon request, for building the capacity of States parties to implement the international conventions and protocols related to counter-terrorism, as well as to follow up on the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy,<sup>935</sup> its biennial review and other relevant United Nations resolutions, and recognizing the need for capacity-building to help Member States to understand the benefits of these conventions and protocols, so as to support States that are considering becoming States parties, in line with their legal frameworks,

*Reiterating* all aspects of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the need for States to continue the full implementation of all four pillars of the Strategy, and recalling its resolution 75/291 of 30 June 2021,

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<sup>931</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Chair of the Committee on the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council.

<sup>932</sup> Resolutions 53/243 A and B.

<sup>933</sup> Resolution 56/6.

<sup>934</sup> Resolutions 72/194, 72/284, 73/174, 73/186, 73/211, 74/175 and 75/291 and Security Council resolutions 2133 (2014), 2178 (2014), 2195 (2014), 2199 (2015), 2253 (2015), 2309 (2016), 2322 (2016), 2341 (2017), 2347 (2017), 2349 (2017), 2368 (2017), 2396 (2017) and 2462 (2019).

<sup>935</sup> Resolution 60/288.

entitled “The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy: seventh review”, in which it, *inter alia*, requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue providing technical assistance to requesting States,

*Welcoming* the adoption by the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice of the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>936</sup> and in particular the actions that Member States committed to taking in order to prevent and combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General on technical assistance in implementing the international conventions and protocols related to terrorism,<sup>937</sup>

*Noting* the ongoing work under the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, and noting also the role of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as the Chair of the Working Group on Criminal Justice, Legal Responses and Countering the Financing of Terrorism,

*Noting with appreciation* the ongoing work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to support Member States in their efforts to prevent and counter terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism in the crime prevention and criminal justice context, including their efforts to address the conditions conducive to terrorism, reinforce development and social inclusion, promote the integration of the rule of law, human rights and gender equality, in a manner compliant with their obligations under domestic and international law, and reiterating that this work needs to be done in close coordination with Member States,

*Reaffirming* the primary responsibility of Member States and their respective national institutions in countering terrorism, concerned that terrorists continue to endeavour to exploit underlying conditions in some countries, such as the limited reach of Governments and lack of capacity to deliver essential services by law enforcement and security institutions, and emphasizing that enhancing the capabilities and capacities of State institutions, where applicable and upon request, to prevent and counter terrorism is a pivotal component for successful efforts against terrorism,

*Underscoring* the importance of a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, stressing the importance of relevant stakeholders, including civil society, in supporting and complementing the efforts of Member States in countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism conducive to terrorism, and in this regard encouraging the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and youth in this process,

*Reaffirming its concern* that in some cases terrorists benefit from transnational organized crime as a source of financing or logistical support, recognizing that the nature and scope of the linkages between terrorism and transnational organized crime vary by context and in some contexts are evolving in scope and scale, and emphasizing the need to coordinate efforts at the local, national, regional, subregional and international levels to respond to this challenge, in accordance with international and domestic law,

*Welcoming* the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on the issue of children affected by terrorism, including on the prevention of the involvement of children with terrorist groups and on the rehabilitation and reintegration of those children, including children associated with foreign terrorist fighters, and taking note of the *Handbook on Children Recruited and Exploited by Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups: the Role of the Justice System* and its three related training manuals, and of the road map on the treatment of children associated with terrorist and violent extremist groups developed by the Office,

*Recognizing* that Member States may face challenges in obtaining and using admissible evidence, including digital, physical and forensic evidence, including in areas affected by armed conflicts, that can be used to help prosecute and secure the convictions of foreign terrorist fighters and those supporting foreign terrorist fighters,

*Taking note* of the Global Programme on Preventing and Countering Terrorism (2022–2027) of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, which supports Member States, upon request, in preventing and countering terrorism through preventive, legal and criminal justice approaches, with a focus on the safety and protection of people,

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<sup>936</sup> Resolution 76/181, annex.

<sup>937</sup> E/CN.15/2023/5.

*Taking note also* of the independent, in-depth evaluations of projects and programmes on preventing and countering terrorism that have been undertaken by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate,

1. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the existing international conventions and protocols related to counter-terrorism, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate and in close coordination with the relevant entities of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, to continue to provide technical assistance to Member States, upon request, for adherence to and legislative incorporation of those international legal instruments;

2. *Encourages* Member States to consider becoming parties to other relevant conventions to support international cooperation in criminal matters, such as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto,<sup>938</sup> and to effectively implement relevant international instruments to which they are party and relevant United Nations resolutions, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide technical assistance to requesting States to those ends;

3. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue and enhance its assistance, upon request, related to international legal and judicial cooperation pertaining to countering terrorism, including in criminal matters related to foreign terrorist fighters, by fostering the development of strong and effective central and other relevant authorities for international cooperation in criminal matters;

4. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in collaboration with other relevant entities of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, to ensure that assistance provided to Member States in relation to preventing and countering terrorism is aligned with and relevant to the priority needs of the requesting States, taking into account their particular circumstances, including the national and regional context, as well as fully respecting applicable international law;

5. *Recognizes* the fundamental role of effective international cooperation in preventing and combating crime, including terrorism-related crimes, and to this end underlines the importance of addressing, tackling and effectively responding to international challenges and barriers, in particular measures, that hinder such cooperation, and which are not consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and obligations under international law, and in this regard urges States, consistent with their international obligations, to refrain from applying such measures;

6. *Recognizes with deep concern* the overall rise in instances of discrimination, intolerance and violence, regardless of the actors, directed against members of religious and other communities in various parts of the world, including cases motivated by Islamophobia, antisemitism, Christianophobia and prejudice against persons of any other religion or belief;

7. *Calls upon* Member States to take appropriate measures to address the new and emerging threats posed by the rise in terrorist attacks on the basis of xenophobia, racism and other forms of intolerance, or in the name of religion or belief, including through investigation, information exchange and cooperation, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide technical assistance to requesting States to those ends;

8. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate and in cooperation with Member States, other United Nations entities, regional and subregional organizations and relevant actors, to consider supporting initiatives to involve youth in the promotion of a culture of peace, tolerance and intercultural and interreligious dialogue and develop, as appropriate, an understanding of respect for human dignity, pluralism and diversity, including, as appropriate, through education programmes, as well as sports and physical activities, that could prevent and discourage their participation in acts of terrorism, violent extremism conducive to terrorism, violence, xenophobia and all forms of discrimination, and takes note of the guidance issued by the United Nations, including the technical and practical guides on preventing violent extremism through sport published by the Office;

9. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate, to continue to provide technical assistance to Member States, upon request, related to collecting, analysing, preserving, storing, using and sharing forensic and electronic evidence for the investigation and prosecution of terrorism and terrorism-related offences and related to enhancing mutual legal assistance in that regard, recalls the *Practical Guide for Requesting*

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<sup>938</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2225, 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.

*Electronic Evidence Across Borders*, developed by the Office,<sup>939</sup> and takes note of the updated Model Law on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, with new provisions on electronic evidence and the use of special investigative techniques, and related technical tools on electronic evidence and international cooperation developed by the Office;

10. *Calls upon* Member States, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other relevant United Nations entities that support capacity-building, to share best practices and technical expertise with a view to improving the collection, handling, preservation, admissibility, sharing and use of relevant information and evidence, consistent with domestic and international law, including digital evidence and information and evidence obtained in areas affected by armed conflict, in order to ensure the effective investigation and prosecution of those who have committed crimes, including foreign terrorist fighters returning and relocating to and from areas affected by armed conflict;

11. *Stresses* the importance of the development and maintenance of effective, fair, humane, transparent and accountable criminal justice systems by Member States, in accordance with domestic law and applicable international law, as a basis for any strategy to counter terrorism, bearing in mind, as appropriate, the relevant and applicable provisions of the United Nations standards and norms on crime prevention and criminal justice, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to take into account in its technical assistance to counter terrorism the elements necessary for building national capacity in order to strengthen criminal justice systems and the rule of law;

12. *Encourages* Member States to use, as appropriate, the platforms and tools developed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, including the Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime knowledge management portal, and further invites Member States to consider the use of the Office website on the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism,<sup>940</sup> to facilitate international cooperation in criminal matters related to terrorism and to provide the Office with relevant information to promote the sharing of good practices and experiences, including the contact details of and any other relevant information about designated authorities for inclusion in its repository database;

13. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in cooperation with the International Criminal Police Organization and other relevant entities of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, to continue to provide technical assistance to Member States, upon request, with a view to building their capacity to responsibly collect, record and share biometric data in order to detect and identify terrorists, including foreign terrorist fighters, in compliance with domestic and international law;

14. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate in the area of countering and preventing terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, to continue to develop specialized legal knowledge and to continue to strengthen the provision of technical assistance to Member States, upon request, on effective measures for criminal justice responses addressing the prevention of terrorism in compliance with all their obligations under applicable international law, including human rights, refugee and humanitarian law;

15. *Calls for* increased attention and action at the national and international levels to assist Member States, upon their request, to ensure that all counter-terrorism measures comply with the rule of law and applicable international law, including international human rights law, international humanitarian law and international refugee law, and encourages in this regard the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to engage with and, upon request, provide support to Member States, within its mandate, to integrate and mainstream the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms throughout its capacity-building projects and programmes across all four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy;

16. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate, to continue to provide technical assistance, upon request, to build the capacity of Member States in assessing their terrorist financing risks, effectively investigating and prosecuting cases of terrorist financing, effectively implementing asset-freezing mechanisms, strengthening their financial oversight and regulatory systems to deny terrorists the space to exploit, raise and move funds, and implementing effective inter-agency cooperation, in line with relevant international standards on countering money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, to comply with their applicable international obligations to prevent and combat the financing of terrorism;

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<sup>939</sup> In cooperation with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and the International Association of Prosecutors.

<sup>940</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2445, No. 44004.



17. *Encourages* Member States to further identify, analyse and counter any potential, existing and in some cases growing links between organized crime, illicit drug-related and other activities, fraud, money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, in order to enhance criminal justice responses to those crimes, recognizing that terrorists could benefit from organized crime as a source of financing or logistical support and that the nature and scope of the linkages between terrorism and transnational organized crime vary by context, and calls upon the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate, to support, upon request, the efforts of Member States in that regard;

18. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate, to continue to support requesting Member States in the implementation of capacity-building programmes to strengthen crime prevention and criminal justice responses to the destruction of and trafficking in cultural property by terrorists;

19. *Rejects* attempts at the justification or glorification of terrorist acts that may incite further terrorist acts, calls upon all Member States to adopt such measures as may be necessary and appropriate, and in accordance with their obligations under international law, to prohibit by law incitement to commit a terrorist act or terrorist acts, and to prevent such conduct and deny safe haven to any persons with respect to whom there is credible and relevant information giving serious reasons for considering that they have been guilty of such conduct, and calls upon the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide technical assistance in this regard to requesting States;

20. *Calls upon* Member States to strengthen efforts to improve the security and resilience of critical infrastructure and the protection of particularly vulnerable or “soft” targets, such as infrastructure and public places, as well as to develop strategies to prevent, protect against, mitigate, investigate, respond to and recover from damage from terrorist attacks, in particular in the area of civil protection, and to consider establishing or strengthening partnerships with the public and private sectors in this regard, and calls upon the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide technical assistance to Member States, upon request, with a view to strengthening their criminal justice responses as well as their strategies for reducing the risk of terrorist attacks on critical infrastructure;

21. *Also calls upon* Member States to strengthen their border management so as to effectively prevent the movement of foreign terrorist fighters and terrorist groups, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide technical assistance to that end to requesting States;

22. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate and in collaboration with, when appropriate, relevant entities of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, to continue to provide assistance to requesting Member States in addressing the threat of foreign terrorist fighters, including returning and relocating foreign terrorist fighters, where appropriate, through its capacity-building activities, with regard to enhancing their cooperation, developing relevant measures and appropriate criminal justice responses, preventing the financing, mobilization, travel, recruitment, training, organization and radicalization of foreign terrorist fighters, ensuring that any person who participates in the financing, planning, preparation or perpetration of terrorist acts or in supporting terrorist acts is brought to justice and developing and implementing appropriate criminal justice responses, in compliance with relevant obligations under international and domestic law;

23. *Notes with appreciation* the cooperation between the Office of Counter-Terrorism, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, the International Civil Aviation Organization and the Office of Information and Communications Technology of the Secretariat under the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme in providing to Member States, upon request, related technical assistance to build their legislative and operational capacity, including in establishing terrorist screening databases and collecting, processing, analysing and effectively exchanging travel data such as advance passenger information and passenger name record data, and bearing in mind in this regard the International Civil Aviation Organization standards and recommended practices on passenger name record data adopted in June 2020;

24. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue, within its mandate, to develop its specialized knowledge of the international legal framework against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism as enshrined in the relevant conventions and protocols in order to continue to provide assistance to requesting Member States in the effective legal, operational and technical implementation of these instruments, including through capacity-building;

25. *Expresses concern* at the global dissemination of terrorist content through the Internet, including materials from real-world attacks, and recognizes the importance of multi-stakeholder approaches to address such threats, which are inclusive of Governments, private entities, civil society and academia, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide technical assistance to requesting States in this regard;

26. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate and in cooperation with other relevant entities of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, to continue to support innovative measures and approaches to build the capacity of Member States, upon request, in relation to the challenges and opportunities that new technologies provide, including human rights aspects, in preventing and countering terrorism;

27. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide, upon request, technical assistance for building the capacity of Member States in the development and implementation of assistance and support programmes for victims of terrorism, including victims of gender-based violence committed by terrorists, in accordance with relevant national legislation, human rights and applicable international law, with emphasis on the particular needs of women and children, and takes note in this regard of the *Model Legislative Provisions to Support the Needs and Protect the Rights of Victims of Terrorism*, developed by the Office together with the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Office of Counter-Terrorism;

28. *Further requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to support requesting Member States, in accordance with relevant national legislation, in preventing the involvement of children in armed and terrorist groups and in ensuring that children alleged to have, accused of having or recognized as having infringed the law, particularly those who are deprived of their liberty, children who are victims and witnesses of crime, and children born of sexual violence committed by armed and terrorist groups are treated in a manner consistent with their rights, dignity and needs, including for psychosocial support, in accordance with national legislation as well as applicable international law, in particular the obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>941</sup> for States parties to the Convention, with the best interests of the child as a primary consideration, and, bearing in mind relevant applicable international standards on the rights of the child in the administration of justice in this regard, urges Member States, in accordance with their national law, to consider relevant measures to effectively reintegrate children formerly associated with armed groups, including terrorist groups;

29. *Encourages* the efforts of Member States, including through their competent agencies, to engage, where appropriate, with relevant actors, including religious authorities and community leaders with relevant expertise, in crafting and delivering effective counter-narratives and in countering narratives used by terrorists and their supporters, underlines that Member States, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, religious bodies and the media have an important role to play in promoting tolerance and facilitating understanding, inclusive dialogue and respect for religious and cultural diversity and human rights, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide, within its mandate, technical assistance to requesting States;

30. *Calls upon* all Member States, given the complex global security context today, to highlight the important roles of women in preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism, while avoiding their instrumentalization, and encourages the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in cooperation with other relevant entities of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, to assist Member States, upon request, in mainstreaming gender perspectives into criminal justice responses to terrorism in order to prevent the recruitment of women and girls as terrorists and to promote the full protection of women and girls from any form of exploitation or violence perpetrated by terrorists, consistent with their obligations under human rights law, also taking into account, as appropriate, inputs from relevant stakeholders, including civil society, and notes with appreciation the efforts of the Office in this regard;

31. *Encourages* civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to engage, as appropriate, in efforts to enhance the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, including through interaction with Member States and the United Nations system, encourages Member States and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue engagement with civil society in accordance with its mandate, to support the role of civil society actors in the design, implementation and monitoring of the Strategy, and encourages Member States to create and maintain an enabling environment for civil society, including a legal framework that protects and promotes human rights, in accordance with international human rights law;

32. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, through its programmatic work on addressing prison challenges, to continue to support requesting Member States in taking appropriate measures, in line with domestic law, to maintain a safe and humane environment in prisons, taking into consideration the United Nations

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<sup>941</sup> Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.

Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules),<sup>942</sup> develop tools that can help to address radicalization to violence and terrorist recruitment and develop risk assessments to evaluate the susceptibility of prisoners to terrorist recruitment and radicalization to violence, and in facilitating the dissemination of information on approaches and promising practices pertaining to the prevention of radicalization to violence and terrorist recruitment of individuals in prisons;

33. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate and upon request, to provide support to Member States in building their own capacity for the evaluation of programmes and projects and facilitate the exchange of experiences and knowledge from the evaluations relating to preventing and countering terrorism;

34. *Expresses its appreciation* to Member States that have supported the technical assistance activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, including through financial contributions, and invites Member States to consider making additional, sustainable voluntary financial contributions and providing in-kind support, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations, in particular in view of the need for enhanced, effective and coordinated delivery of technical assistance on criminal justice responses to prevent and counter terrorism;

35. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with sufficient resources to carry out activities, within its mandate, to assist Member States, upon request, in the implementation of the relevant elements of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy;

36. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

#### RESOLUTION 78/227

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/482, para. 29)<sup>943</sup>

#### 78/227. Equal access to justice for all

*The General Assembly,*

*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 that are indivisible and integrated and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development, in which it recognized that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, and in which it committed to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner,

*Recalling* Sustainable Development Goal 16, to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, and bearing in mind that the 2030 Agenda, inter alia, envisaged a world of universal respect for human rights and human dignity, the rule of law, justice, equality and non-discrimination,

*Recognizing* the importance of providing technical assistance and capacity-building, upon request, to Member States, in particular developing countries, to support their efforts in crime prevention and criminal justice, including in the area of access to justice,

*Recalling* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>944</sup> which affirms that all are equal before the law and all are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law, and that all are entitled to equal protection against

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<sup>942</sup> Resolution 70/175, annex.

<sup>943</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Chair of the Committee on the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council.

<sup>944</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).

any discrimination in violation of the Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination, and which also enshrines the key principles of equality before the law and the presumption of innocence, as well as the right to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, along with all the guarantees necessary for the defence of anyone charged with a penal offence, other minimum guarantees and the entitlement to be tried without undue delay,

*Recalling also* the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>945</sup> adopted by the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Kyoto, Japan, from 7 to 12 March 2021, in which Member States undertook to contribute to achieving the 2030 Agenda through efforts in crime prevention and criminal justice, with the firm recognition that sustainable development and the rule of law are interlinked and mutually reinforcing, that crime is an impediment to sustainable development and that achieving sustainable development is an enabling factor for States to effectively prevent and combat crime,

*Recalling further* paragraph 48 of the Kyoto Declaration, in which Member States endeavoured to ensure equal access to justice and application of the law to all, including vulnerable members of society, regardless of their status, including by taking appropriate measures to ensure treatment with respect and without discrimination or bias of any kind by criminal justice institutions,

*Taking note* of all relevant United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, in particular the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials,<sup>946</sup> the Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary,<sup>947</sup> the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct,<sup>948</sup> the Istanbul Declaration on Transparency in the Judicial Process and the measures for effective implementation of the Istanbul Declaration,<sup>949</sup> the Guidelines on the Role of Prosecutors,<sup>950</sup> the Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers,<sup>951</sup> the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power,<sup>952</sup> the basic principles on the use of restorative justice programmes in criminal matters,<sup>953</sup> the United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems,<sup>954</sup> the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules),<sup>955</sup> the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules),<sup>956</sup> the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (the Beijing Rules)<sup>957</sup> and the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules),<sup>958</sup>

*Recalling* the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>959</sup> the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>960</sup> the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>961</sup> the International Convention on the

<sup>945</sup> Resolution 76/181, annex.

<sup>946</sup> Resolution 34/169, annex.

<sup>947</sup> *Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Milan, 26 August–6 September 1985: report prepared by the Secretariat* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.IV.1), chap. I, sect. D.2, annex.

<sup>948</sup> E/CN.4/2003/65, annex; see also Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/23, annex.

<sup>949</sup> A/73/831-E/2019/56, annexes I and II.

<sup>950</sup> *Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Havana, 27 August–7 September 1990: report prepared by the Secretariat* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.91.IV.2), chap. I, sect. C.26, annex.

<sup>951</sup> Ibid., chap. I, sect. B.3, annex.

<sup>952</sup> Resolution 40/34, annex.

<sup>953</sup> Economic and Council resolution 2002/12, annex.

<sup>954</sup> Resolution 67/187, annex.

<sup>955</sup> Resolution 45/110, annex.

<sup>956</sup> Resolution 65/229, annex.

<sup>957</sup> Resolution 40/33, annex.

<sup>958</sup> Resolution 70/175, annex.

<sup>959</sup> Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

<sup>960</sup> Ibid.

<sup>961</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,<sup>962</sup> the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,<sup>963</sup> and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,<sup>964</sup>

*Underscoring* the role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as the principal policymaking body of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, and underscoring also the primary role and responsibility of Member States in defining their policies in enhancing the functioning of their criminal justice systems to ensure equal access to justice for all,

*Recalling* Economic and Social Council resolution 2019/22 of 23 July 2019, in which Member States, inter alia, recognized that certain members of society, such as children, victims of violence and individuals with special needs, are to be accorded additional protection and are more vulnerable when in contact with the criminal justice system,

*Emphasizing* the importance of respecting cultural diversity when designing and implementing policies and programmes relevant to access to justice, in accordance with national legislation,

*Recognizing* that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has severely affected the functioning of criminal justice systems and access to justice, especially for the poor and people in vulnerable situations,

*Affirming* the need to eradicate violence, discrimination and intolerance against people in vulnerable situations, Indigenous Peoples and local communities,

*Recognizing* that the primary responsibility for crime prevention and criminal justice, including mainstreaming a gender perspective, rests with Member States,

*Recognizing also* the different challenges in accessing justice faced by people living in rural and isolated areas and the need to adopt policies and programmes that are responsive to those challenges,

*Recalling* the mandate of the International Independent Expert Mechanism to Advance Racial Justice and Equality in Law Enforcement, which includes coordinating its work and strengthening its engagement with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and making recommendations on the concrete steps needed to ensure access to justice for Africans and people of African descent subjected to excessive use of force and other human rights violations by law enforcement officials,

*Recognizing* that access to legal aid is an essential element of fair, humane and efficient criminal justice systems that are based on the rule of law and that it is a foundation for the enjoyment of other rights, including the right to a fair trial, as a precondition to exercising such rights and an important safeguard that ensures fairness and public trust in the criminal justice process and can contribute to the progressive realization of economic, social and cultural rights,

*Recognizing also* the importance of training criminal justice practitioners, such as police, lawyers and judges, to carry out their responsibilities in a non-discriminatory manner,

*Recalling* Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 27/6 of 18 May 2018, entitled “Restorative justice”,

*Underlining* the importance of effective international cooperation, carried out in a technical and impartial manner and to the fullest extent possible, in line with the obligations of States under international law and domestic legislation, and underlining also in this respect the importance of strengthening law enforcement cooperation and the exchange of information, as well as facilitating the procedures related to international cooperation, including, inter alia, mutual legal assistance requests and extradition, as appropriate and consistent with domestic law and applicable international obligations, to contribute to access to justice,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Our Common Agenda”,<sup>965</sup>

1. *Notes with concern* that challenges to access to justice in criminal justice systems undermine the rule of law, the achievement of safe and secure societies, and the right to equal treatment before the law;

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<sup>962</sup> Ibid., vol. 660, No. 9464.

<sup>963</sup> Ibid., vol. 2515, No. 44910.

<sup>964</sup> Ibid., vol. 1465, No. 24841.

<sup>965</sup> A/75/982.

2. *Emphasizes* the right of equal access to justice for all, including people in vulnerable situations, and the importance of awareness-raising concerning legal rights, and in this regard commits to taking all necessary steps to provide fair, transparent, effective, non-discriminatory and accountable services that promote access to justice for all, including legal aid;
3. *Takes note* of the thematic discussion on enhancing the functioning of the criminal justice system to ensure access to justice and to realize a safe and secure society, held during the thirty-second session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which provided an opportunity for Member States, international organizations and civil society to exchange viewpoints on this matter;
4. *Recalls* its decision to hold a high-level debate on the theme “Equal access to justice for all: advancing reforms for peaceful, just and inclusive societies”, and invites the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to consider the outcomes of that debate;
5. *Encourages* Member States, in accordance with their domestic legislation and within their capacity, to ensure equal access to justice and application of the law to all, including by taking effective measures that are informed by relevant data, such as data on age and gender;
6. *Also encourages* Member States to collect and use quantitative and qualitative data, disaggregated by relevant factors, to ensure that criminal justice policies and programmes are informed by all available and relevant evidence and data;
7. *Further encourages* Member States to explore cross-sectoral, multidisciplinary, multi-stakeholder, holistic and integrated partnerships, strategies and approaches at the national level when developing measures to reduce inequities in the criminal justice system, and to advance equal access to justice and equal treatment before the law for all, including through restorative justice programmes;
8. *Encourages* Member States to promote the use of technology that fosters inclusive and equitable access to justice, including by addressing the challenges that the use of such technologies may pose for people in vulnerable situations;
9. *Also encourages* Member States to, as appropriate, employ different models of legal aid, and to consider effective ways to provide access to legal aid to ensure access to justice for all, without discrimination of any kind;
10. *Further encourages* Member States, in accordance with their domestic law, to promote and implement policies aimed at guaranteeing access to justice for people in vulnerable situations without sufficient means, through timely, effective, adequately resourced and affordable and, whenever possible, free legal aid promoted by the State with the appropriate support of relevant academic institutions;
11. *Affirms* the importance that certain members of society, such as children, persons with disabilities, those in vulnerable situations and victims of violence be given additional protection in order to access justice systems;
12. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue developing technical tools and training material based on United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice and to provide technical and material assistance to Member States, upon request, to ensure access to justice for all;
13. *Welcomes* the increased cooperation and coordination between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other United Nations agencies in the area of equal access to justice;
14. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to convene a meeting of experts, nominated by Member States, during the intersessional period, with interpretation into all official languages of the United Nations, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, with a view to sharing information on challenges, lessons learned, best practices and enabling factors needed to enhance the functioning of criminal justice systems to ensure equal access to justice for all;
15. *Recognizes* the fundamental role of effective international cooperation in preventing and combating crime, and to this end underlines the importance of addressing, tackling and effectively responding to international challenges and barriers, in particular measures, that hinder such cooperation, and which are not consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and obligations under international law, and in this regard urges States, consistent with their international obligations, to refrain from applying such measures;

16. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its thirty-fourth session on the meeting of experts and on the implementation of the present resolution;

17. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes described above, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

#### RESOLUTION 78/228

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/482, para. 29)<sup>966</sup>

#### 78/228. Improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons

*The General Assembly,*

*Reiterating its strong condemnation* of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, which constitutes an offence and a serious threat to human dignity and physical integrity, human rights and sustainable development,

*Reiterating its concern* that, despite sustained measures taken at the international, regional and national levels, trafficking in persons remains one of the grave challenges facing the international community, which also impairs the enjoyment of human rights and needs a more concerted collective and comprehensive international response,

*Bearing in mind* that all States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish perpetrators of trafficking in persons and to protect and assist victims, and that not doing so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the victims,

*Recognizing* that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic was one of the greatest global challenges in the history of the United Nations, and recognizing also that the disruption and devastation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has brought urgency to strengthening international cooperation to prevent, prepare for and respond to pandemics and other health emergencies, taking into account lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and other health emergencies to effectively combat trafficking in persons,

*Recalling* the adoption by the General Assembly of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>967</sup> and recalling also the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals on eliminating all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation,<sup>968</sup> on taking immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and trafficking in persons and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms,<sup>969</sup> and on ending abuse and exploitation of, trafficking in and all forms of violence against and torture of children,<sup>970</sup>

*Recalling also* the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,<sup>971</sup> as well as its supplementing Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children,<sup>972</sup> which provided the definition of the crime of trafficking in persons, welcoming the twentieth anniversary of the entry into force of each instrument, and further acknowledging the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of

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<sup>966</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, China, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Guatemala, Haiti, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malawi, Mali, Mexico, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Zimbabwe.

<sup>967</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>968</sup> Target 5.2.

<sup>969</sup> Target 8.7.

<sup>970</sup> Target 16.2.

<sup>971</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

<sup>972</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2237, No. 39574.



the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography<sup>973</sup> and the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery,<sup>974</sup>

*Taking note* of the adoption of the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), of the International Labour Organization,<sup>975</sup> which requires its members that ratify the Convention to take immediate and effective measures to secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour as a matter of urgency, and of the Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29), of the International Labour Organization, which recognizes that trafficking in persons for the purposes of forced or compulsory labour is the subject of growing international concern,

*Recalling* the adoption of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons by the General Assembly in its resolution [64/293](#) of 30 July 2010, and underlining the importance of its full implementation,

*Reaffirming* that the Global Plan of Action was developed:

(a) To promote universal ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, as well as other relevant international instruments that address trafficking in persons, and to reinforce the implementation of existing instruments against trafficking in persons,

(b) To help Member States to reinforce their political commitments and legal obligations to prevent and combat trafficking in persons,

(c) To promote comprehensive, coordinated and consistent responses at the national, regional and international levels to counter trafficking in persons,

(d) To promote a human rights-based, gender- and age-sensitive approach in addressing all factors that make people vulnerable to trafficking in persons and strengthening the criminal justice response, which are necessary to prevent trafficking in persons, protect its victims and prosecute its perpetrators,

(e) To raise awareness within the United Nations system and also among States and other stakeholders, such as the private sector, civil society and the international and national mass media, and the public at large,

(f) To foster cooperation and coordination among all relevant stakeholders, including Member States, international organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector, and within various entities of the United Nations system, taking into account existing best practices and lessons learned,

*Recalling* its resolutions [61/180](#) of 20 December 2006, [63/194](#) of 18 December 2008, [64/178](#) of 18 December 2009, [67/190](#) of 20 December 2012, [68/192](#) of 18 December 2013, [70/179](#) of 17 December 2015, [72/195](#) of 19 December 2017, [74/176](#) of 18 December 2019 and [76/186](#) of 16 December 2021 on improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons and its other relevant resolutions on trafficking in persons,<sup>976</sup>

*Recalling also* its resolutions [71/322](#) of 8 September 2017, [73/189](#) of 17 December 2018, [75/195](#) of 16 December 2020 and [77/236](#) of 15 December 2022, entitled “Strengthening and promoting effective measures and international cooperation on organ donation and transplantation to prevent and combat trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal and trafficking in human organs”,

*Recalling further* Economic and Social Council resolutions [2017/18](#) of 6 July 2017 and [2021/25](#) of 22 July 2021 on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action and previous Council resolutions on trafficking in persons,

*Recalling* Human Rights Council resolution [44/4](#) of 16 July 2020, entitled “Trafficking in persons, especially women and children: strengthening human rights through enhanced protection, support and empowerment of victims of trafficking, especially women and children”,<sup>977</sup> and other relevant resolutions of the Council on trafficking in persons,

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<sup>973</sup> Ibid., vol. 2171, No. 27531.

<sup>974</sup> Ibid., vol. 266, No. 3822.

<sup>975</sup> Ibid., vol. 2133, No. 37245.

<sup>976</sup> Resolutions [49/166](#), [50/167](#), [51/66](#), [52/98](#), [53/116](#), [55/67](#), [58/137](#), [59/166](#), [61/144](#), [63/156](#), [65/190](#), [67/145](#), [69/149](#), [71/167](#), [73/146](#), [76/158](#) and [77/194](#).

<sup>977</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-fifth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/75/53)*, chap. V, sect. A.

*Recalling also* Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 32/1 of 27 May 2023, entitled “Taking action against trafficking in persons in business operations, public procurement and supply chains for goods and services”,<sup>978</sup> resolution 27/2 of 18 May 2018, entitled “Preventing and combating trafficking in persons facilitated by the criminal misuse of information and communications technologies”,<sup>979</sup> resolution 27/3 of 18 May 2018, entitled “Improving the protection of children against trafficking in persons, including by addressing the criminal misuse of information and communications technologies”,<sup>980</sup> and resolution 27/4 of 18 May 2018, entitled “Strengthening measures against trafficking in persons”,<sup>981</sup> and the other relevant resolutions of the Commission on trafficking in persons,

*Welcoming* the adoption of the 2021 Political Declaration on the Implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons on 22 November 2021 at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the appraisal of the Global Plan of Action,<sup>982</sup> in which Member States reiterated, in the strongest possible terms, the importance of strengthening collective action to end trafficking in persons,

*Taking note* of the reference to preventing, countering and combating trafficking in persons and to the vulnerabilities of children in the context of addressing trafficking in persons in the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Kyoto, Japan, from 7 to 12 March 2021,<sup>983</sup>

*Recalling* the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, adopted at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 19 September 2016,<sup>984</sup> in which States declared that they would, with full respect for their obligations under international law, vigorously combat trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling with a view to their elimination, including through targeted measures to identify victims of trafficking in persons or those at risk of trafficking, provide support for the victims of trafficking in persons and work to prevent trafficking in persons among those affected by displacement,

*Recognizing* that further work is required both to better understand the link between migration and trafficking in persons and to develop more effective responses to eliminate the risk of trafficking in persons in the migration process in order to, inter alia, further efforts to protect migrant workers from all forms of violence, discrimination, exploitation and abuse,

*Recognizing also* the important role of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons in fostering coordination and cooperation in the global fight against trafficking in persons, within the existing mandates of its members<sup>985</sup> and partners,<sup>986</sup>

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<sup>978</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2023, Supplement No. 10 (E/2023/30)*, chap. I, sect. C.

<sup>979</sup> *Ibid.*, 2018, *Supplement No. 10 (E/2018/30)*, chap. I, sect. C.

<sup>980</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>981</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>982</sup> Resolution 76/7, annex.

<sup>983</sup> Resolution 76/181, annex.

<sup>984</sup> Resolution 71/1.

<sup>985</sup> The Council of the Baltic Sea States, the Department of Peace Operations of the Secretariat, the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs of the Secretariat, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the International Labour Organization, the International Organization for Migration, the International Telecommunication Union, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Organization of American States, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations University, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the World Bank.

<sup>986</sup> The Council of Europe, the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children and the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences.

*Recognizing further* that the Inter-Agency Coordination Group, within its mandate, contributes to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, taking note with appreciation of the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as coordinator of the Coordination Group, as well as the activities of the members of the Coordination Group acting on a rotational basis as Chair of the working group of the Coordination Group, and encouraging the more robust participation of all members of the Coordination Group,

*Taking note with appreciation* of the work of the 2021 Co-Chairs of the Inter Agency Coordination Group, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, including the provision of a joint submission to support the appraisal of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, the convening of the high-level event on trafficking in persons and sustainable procurement on 27 September 2021 in virtual format, and of the third meeting of the Coordination Group at the level of principals of the relevant United Nations agencies and organizations,

*Taking note with appreciation also* of the work of the 2022 Co-Chairs of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, including the convening of the fourth meeting of the Coordination Group at the level of principals of the relevant United Nations agencies and organizations, the provision of the joint call to action entitled “A world in crisis: global humanitarian crises and conflicts increase human trafficking concerns” and of the joint statement entitled “Use and abuse of technology”, and the contribution to the Progress Declaration of the International Migration Review Forum, held at United Nations Headquarters from 17 to 20 May 2022,<sup>987</sup>

*Taking note with appreciation further* of the work of the 2023 Co-Chairs of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group, the International Organization for Migration and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, including the 2023 priorities on addressing trafficking in persons in humanitarian settings, including conflicts, as well as preventing and combating child trafficking,

*Taking note with appreciation* of the thematic focus of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on trafficking in persons and technology, trafficking in persons in humanitarian settings, including conflicts, addressing vulnerability to trafficking in persons, trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal, the relationship between migration and trafficking in persons, preventing trafficking in persons in public procurement, the non-punishment of trafficking victims, and taking note of the work of the Coordination Group to strengthen coordination among its members and partners as well as with other organizations and institutions, including non-governmental actors, civil society, victims and survivors,<sup>988</sup> the private sector and trade unions, and of the continued implementation by the Coordination Group of its Plan of Action, endorsed at the principal-level meeting on 15 December 2020, as well as the efforts of the Coordination Group to increase the visibility of its work,

*Recalling* that the Inter-Agency Coordination Group was established to foster cooperation among relevant United Nations agencies and other international organizations involved in combating trafficking in persons in countries around the world using, to the extent possible, mechanisms already in place at the regional and national levels, and to share information, experiences and good practices relating to the activities of the partner agencies to counter trafficking with Governments, international and regional organizations and other relevant bodies,

*Emphasizing* the central role of the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the global fight against trafficking in persons, particularly in providing technical assistance to Member States, upon their request, to implement the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, by making use of existing capacity-building tools, lessons learned from Member States and expertise available in other international organizations,

*Expressing concern* about the increasing reports of trafficking in persons in sport, which often involves transnational organized crime groups exploiting people in vulnerable situations, especially children, and in this regard recognizing the need to address the knowledge gap around this issue through support for and engagement in data-gathering on trafficking in persons in sport in order to ensure that responses are evidence-based,

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<sup>987</sup> Resolution 76/266, annex.

<sup>988</sup> The term “survivor” or “survivors” is not defined in the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, but in some Member States it is used to acknowledge that victims of trafficking in persons can recover or have recovered from the trauma that they have endured.

## V. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Third Committee

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*Recognizing* the need to continue to foster a global partnership against trafficking in persons among all stakeholders and the need to continue to work towards an enhanced comprehensive and coordinated approach to prevent and combat trafficking and to protect and assist victims of trafficking in persons through the appropriate national, regional and international mechanisms,

*Recognizing also* the importance of bilateral, subregional, regional and international cooperation mechanisms and initiatives, including information exchanges on good practices and mutual legal assistance, where appropriate, of Governments and of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to address the crime of trafficking in persons, especially women and children,

*Taking note with appreciation* of the different initiatives of Member States, promoted in the United Nations to contribute to the global fight against trafficking in persons,<sup>989</sup>

*Recalling* that trafficking in persons is fuelled by high profits for traffickers and demand that fosters all forms of exploitation, with trafficking in persons disproportionately affecting women and girls, who are particularly vulnerable to trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation,

*Stressing* the need to take appropriate measures to ensure access to justice and protections for victims in criminal justice processes, including measures to ensure that identified victims of trafficking in persons are not penalized for having been trafficked and that they do not suffer from victimization as a result of actions taken by government authorities, communities and families,

*Recognizing* that broad international cooperation between Member States and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations is essential for effectively countering the threat of trafficking in persons and other contemporary forms of slavery,

*Recognizing also* that victims of trafficking are often subject to multiple forms of discrimination and violence, including on the grounds of gender, age, disability, ethnicity, culture and religion, as well as national or social origin, and that these forms of discrimination may themselves fuel trafficking in persons, and that women and children without nationality or without birth registration are particularly vulnerable to trafficking in persons,

*Recognizing further* the potential of the Internet and other information and communications technologies to prevent and combat trafficking in persons and to assist victims, stressing the need for increased support for technology-based solutions to identifying cases and victims of trafficking and for increased law enforcement cooperation in this regard to address the new challenges generated by the rapid development of the Internet and other information and communications technologies,

*Expressing concern* about the continual use and adaptation of information and communications technologies, including the Internet, social media and online platforms by the perpetrators of trafficking in persons to facilitate trafficking in persons, including in the context of emergencies, for the purpose of recruitment, exploitation, especially of women and children, controlling victims, avoiding detection, investigation and prosecution, and transferring the profits of the criminal activity,

*Stressing* the need to promote the establishment of common frameworks, where relevant, for aligning activities and defining and assessing progress, to build a voluntary, robust and shared evidence base of effective programmes and practices to combat trafficking in persons, as well as to promote and protect the rights of victims of trafficking in persons and to reintegrate victims into the community, including by making use, where appropriate, of the Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking<sup>990</sup> and the commentary thereon developed by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Guidelines on the Protection of Child Victims of Trafficking developed by the United Nations Children's Fund, the assessment toolkit "Trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal" developed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the *Toolkit for Guidance in Designing and Evaluating Counter-Trafficking Programmes* developed by the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons,

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<sup>989</sup> Such as, inter alia, Alliance 8.7; Finance Against Slavery and Trafficking; the call to action to end forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking; the principles to guide government action to combat human trafficking in global supply chains; and the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime.

<sup>990</sup> [E/2002/68/Add.1](#).

*Welcoming* the efforts of Member States, United Nations agencies, international organizations, civil society organizations, the private sector and financial institutions to address the problem of trafficking in persons, including women and children as the most vulnerable group, and emphasizing the urgent need for them to further enhance their efforts and cooperation to build the evidence base, including by sharing their knowledge and best practices as widely as possible,

*Affirming* that capacity-building is a very important component in combating trafficking in persons, and in this regard stressing the need to intensify international cooperation to combat trafficking in persons, including through bilateral and regional initiatives to enhance judiciary prosecutor's offices and law enforcement cooperation and training, as well as technical assistance for countries aimed at strengthening their ability to prevent and combat all forms of trafficking, including supporting their development programmes,

*Taking note* of the Khartoum process and its Declaration adopted in Khartoum on 16 October 2014 during the Regional Ministerial Conference on Human Trafficking and Smuggling in the Horn of Africa, coordinated by the African Union, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration, which aimed to strengthen national, regional and international cooperation and build capacities in the African countries to combat trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling,

*Taking note also* of the Third Work Plan for a Comprehensive Response to Trafficking in Persons in the Western Hemisphere 2023–2028, adopted by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States at its fifty-third regular session, held in Washington, D.C., from 21 to 23 June 2023,

*Recalling* the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration<sup>991</sup> and the Global Compact on Refugees,<sup>992</sup> and taking note of the adoption by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women of its general recommendation No. 38 (2020) on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration,<sup>993</sup>

*Recognizing* that the Global Plan of Action and the establishment of the United Nations voluntary trust fund for victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, established in compliance with the Global Plan of Action, aim at raising awareness of the situation of victims of trafficking in persons and at providing them with humanitarian, legal and financial aid through established channels of assistance, such as governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

*Reaffirming* the importance of humanitarian, legal and financial aid to victims of trafficking in persons, including through governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, including the United Nations voluntary trust fund for victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, managed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations voluntary trust fund on contemporary forms of slavery, managed by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the International Organization for Migration Global Assistance Fund,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>994</sup>

*Taking note also* of the report of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children,<sup>995</sup> as well as the reports of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences,<sup>996</sup> and of the Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material,<sup>997</sup>

*Recognizing* that, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention is established to improve the capacity of States parties to combat transnational organized crime and to promote and review the implementation of the Convention, including the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and in this regard

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<sup>991</sup> Resolution 73/195, annex.

<sup>992</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/73/12 (Part I) and A/73/12 (Part II))*, part II.

<sup>993</sup> CEDAW/C/GC/38.

<sup>994</sup> A/78/119.

<sup>995</sup> A/78/172.

<sup>996</sup> A/78/161.

<sup>997</sup> A/78/137.



taking note of resolutions 10/1 of 16 October 2020, entitled “Launch of the review process of the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto”, and 10/3, also of 16 October 2020, entitled “Effective implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime”, adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth session, held in Vienna from 12 to 16 October 2020,<sup>998</sup> and of resolution 11/5 of 21 October 2022, entitled “Implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime”, adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh session, held in Vienna from 17 to 21 October 2022,<sup>999</sup>

*Recalling* the request made to the Secretary-General by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/293 to include, within existing reporting obligations to the Assembly under the item on crime prevention and criminal justice, a section on the implementation by the United Nations system of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons,

1. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to, as a matter of priority, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, taking into consideration the central role of those instruments in the fight against trafficking in persons, and also urges States parties to those instruments to fully and effectively implement their obligations;

2. *Urges* Member States and other stakeholders mentioned in the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons,<sup>1000</sup> and invites the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, within their respective mandates, to continue to contribute to the full and effective implementation of the Global Plan of Action, including by means of strengthening cooperation and improving coordination among themselves in achieving that goal;

3. *Calls upon* Governments to closely follow developments in the area of international protection of victims of trafficking in persons in order to protect the human rights of such persons and to ensure compliance with international humanitarian law and international human rights law;

4. *Recalls* the holding of the high-level meetings of the General Assembly during its sixty-seventh session, from 13 to 15 May 2013, during its seventy-second session, on 27 and 28 September 2017, and during its seventy-sixth session, on 22 and 23 November 2021, to appraise the progress achieved in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, which, inter alia, reiterated strong political will to take decisive concerted action against trafficking in persons;

5. *Also recalls* its decision, in its resolution 68/192, to appraise, from within existing resources, on a four-year basis starting at its seventy-second session, the progress achieved in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action in order to assess achievements, gaps and challenges, including in the implementation of the relevant legal instruments, and therefore reiterates its decision, in its resolution 76/186, to convene a high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the progress achieved in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action at its eightieth session, after the general debate, but no later than December 2025;

6. *Reaffirms its request* to the Secretary-General and to the President of the General Assembly, in close cooperation and coordination with Member States, to take all appropriate measures to arrange the high-level meeting;

7. *Recalls* its decision to designate 30 July as the World Day against Trafficking in Persons, to be observed annually, and, while welcoming events held by Member States, United Nations agencies, other international organizations and civil society at the international, regional and national levels to mark the World Day, invites all

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<sup>998</sup> See CTOC/COP/2020/10, sect. I.A.

<sup>999</sup> See CTOC/COP/2022/9, sect. I.A.

<sup>1000</sup> Resolution 64/293.

stakeholders to continue to observe the World Day in order to raise awareness of trafficking in persons and the situation of the victims of this crime and for the promotion and protection of their rights;

8. *Expresses solidarity with and compassion for* victims and survivors of trafficking in persons, and calls for the full respect of their human rights and the provision of appropriate victim-centred, trauma-informed, gender-responsive and age-sensitive care and assistance, where applicable, including interpretation and sign language, where appropriate, to victims of trafficking, and services for their rehabilitation or recovery, as appropriate, in cooperation with civil society and other relevant partners;

9. *Expresses support* for the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, reaffirms its request to the Secretary-General to provide adequate support to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and invites Member States to make voluntary contributions to the Office for the purpose of providing assistance to Member States upon request;

10. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to cooperate with relevant international organizations outside the United Nations system and to invite such organizations and interested Member States to participate, when appropriate, in the meetings of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons and to keep Member States informed of the schedule of and the progress made by the Coordination Group;

11. *Takes note* of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group Plan of Action, endorsed on 15 December 2020, as well as of the first regional consultation on trafficking in persons in Eastern Africa, held in virtual format on 7 and 8 February 2022;

12. *Welcomes* the fourth and fifth meetings of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group at the level of principals, held in virtual format on 2 December 2022 and on 8 November 2023, which reinforced the vital role of inter-agency partnership in tackling trafficking in persons, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as coordinator of the Coordination Group, to continue to convene such meetings of the Coordination Group at the level of principals on a regular basis, and in this context takes note of the engagement of the European Union Anti-Trafficking Coordinator with the Coordination Group, and encourages the Coordination Group to engage with relevant regional and international organizations from other regions;

13. *Also welcomes* the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children and the United Nations University as the newest members of the Coordination Group, and further welcomes the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences as the newest partner of the Coordination Group;

14. *Invites* regional and international organizations, within their mandates, to join and consider co-chairing, along with a United Nations agency, the Inter-Agency Coordination Group to strengthen the exchange of expertise and regional experiences and thus enhance international cooperation in combating trafficking in persons and assisting the victims of this crime;

15. *Takes note* of the ongoing process undertaken by the Inter-Agency Coordination Group to conduct studies on emerging trends in the field of trafficking in persons, and to ensure that information-sharing among relevant agencies and between countries is done in accordance with international and national legal frameworks and takes into account privacy and confidentiality;

16. *Invites* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in its capacity as coordinator of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group, and other relevant agencies of the United Nations system to further strengthen their activities related to the implementation of relevant international instruments and the Global Plan of Action to drive greater progress in eliminating trafficking in persons, and invites Member States and other international and bilateral donors to provide voluntary contributions to the Office for these purposes, in accordance with the policies, rules and procedures of the United Nations;

17. *Calls upon* Member States to take into consideration new methods of recruiting those at risk of being subjected to trafficking in persons, such as the misuse of the Internet by traffickers, in particular for recruiting children, to take measures to develop targeted awareness-raising campaigns, including for law enforcement, front-line service providers and at-risk industries, to identify the signs of trafficking in persons and to develop specialized training for law enforcement and criminal justice practitioners;



18. *Encourages* Member States to take, consistent with domestic law, legislative or other measures, where appropriate, to facilitate the detection, by Internet service and access providers or other relevant entities, of child sexual exploitation and child abuse materials related to offences involving trafficking in children, as required by domestic frameworks and to ensure, in compliance with domestic law, the reporting of such materials to the relevant authorities and their removal by Internet service and access providers or other relevant entities, including in conjunction with law enforcement in the investigation and prosecution;

19. *Invites* Member States to address the social, economic, cultural, political and other factors that make people vulnerable to trafficking in persons, such as poverty, unemployment, inequality, humanitarian emergencies, including armed conflicts and natural disasters, sexual violence, gender discrimination and social exclusion and marginalization, as well as a culture of tolerance towards violence against women, youth and children;

20. *Recognizes* that in armed conflicts trafficking in persons can be prevalent, and in this regard calls upon Member States to ensure the comprehensive application of international humanitarian law, international criminal law, international human rights law and international refugee law, in accordance with respective obligations, to trafficking in persons in conflict situations for all purposes of exploitation, and to both internal and cross-border trafficking in persons, in order to ensure accountability, prevent impunity and provide effective access to justice for trafficked persons;

21. *Expresses deep concern* about the increasing links between armed groups, including terrorist groups, and trafficking in persons, involving the coercion of victims, in particular women and girls, into forced marriages, sexual slavery, forced pregnancy, forced labour, domestic servitude and sexual exploitation, and subjecting men and boys to forced labour or act as combatants;

22. *Encourages* Member States to seek to address trafficking in persons in global supply chains, including by considering the development of common public procurement standards, compliance requirements or codes of conduct and by harmonizing frameworks, in line with domestic legislation, including those guiding anti-trafficking efforts and sustainable procurement;

23. *Calls upon* Member States, international organizations, civil society organizations, the private sector and financial institutions, through partnerships, as appropriate, to increase and support prevention efforts in countries of origin, transit and destination by focusing domestically and globally on the demand and supply chains that foster all forms of trafficking and the goods and services produced as a result of trafficking in persons and to consider cooperating to organize awareness-raising campaigns, programmes to facilitate the identification of victims of trafficking and the provision of assistance to those victims;

24. *Stresses* the need to intensify the efforts to prevent irregular migration and create and strengthen pathways for safe, orderly and regular migration to reduce the exposure of people on the move to trafficking in persons, and in this regard encourages Member States to take legislative or other measures to prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration by strengthening capacities and international cooperation to investigate, prosecute and penalize trafficking in persons, discouraging demand that fosters exploitation leading to trafficking, and ending impunity of trafficking networks;

25. *Encourages* Member States to cooperate on issues concerning trafficking in persons with the Inter-Agency Coordination Group;

26. *Also encourages* Member States to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, as well as with other relevant special procedures, including the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, the Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material, and the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences;

27. *Calls upon* Member States to continue their efforts to criminalize trafficking in persons in all its forms, including the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs, especially concerning children and persons with disabilities, and to condemn these practices and to investigate, prosecute and penalize traffickers and intermediaries while providing victim-centred, trauma-informed, gender- and age-sensitive protection and assistance to the victims of trafficking with full respect for their human rights, and invites Member States to continue to support those United Nations agencies and international organizations that are actively involved in victim protection;

28. *Also calls upon* Member States to take measures to support family reunification for victims of trafficking in persons, where safe and appropriate, especially when those are children, taking into consideration the best interests of the child;

29. *Notes* the second consultative meeting on strengthening partnerships with national rapporteurs and relevant mechanisms on trafficking in persons, held in Bangkok on 21 and 22 May 2014, co-hosted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the establishment of an informal network of such mechanisms located all over the world to address trafficking in persons in a consistent manner and to exchange information and best practices built on different national experiences, requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue its efforts to collect information on national efforts to combat trafficking in persons, as well as on relevant national mechanisms, to make up-to-date information available to Member States, and invites Member States to host consultative meetings between relevant national mechanisms on trafficking in persons that continue transnational dialogue and the exchange of information on common challenges;

30. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in its capacity as fund manager of the United Nations voluntary trust fund for victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, to continue to encourage contributions by States and all other relevant stakeholders to the trust fund;

31. *Welcomes* the biennial publication of the *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*, prepared by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, looks forward to the next such report, to be produced by the Office in 2024, pursuant to the Global Plan of Action, supports the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime trafficking in persons data capacity-building programme, and strongly encourages Member States to provide to the Office evidence-based internationally standardized data on patterns, flows and forms of trafficking in persons, including for the purpose of the removal of organs and in the context of sport, based on the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes;

32. *Encourages* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Children's Fund and the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons in coordination with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to consider updating, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, respectively the Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking and the commentary thereon, the Guidelines on the Protection of Child Victims of Trafficking and the *Toolkit for Guidance in Designing and Evaluating Counter-Trafficking Programmes* of the Coordination Group;

33. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its eightieth session, including recommendations on measures to bring greater urgency to and improve the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons.

## RESOLUTION 78/229

Adopted at the 50th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/482, para. 29)<sup>1001</sup>

### **78/229. Strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity**

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* its resolutions 46/152 of 18 December 1991, 60/1 of 16 September 2005, 67/1 of 19 September 2012, 69/193 and 69/196 of 18 December 2014, 70/178 and 70/182 of 17 December 2015, 71/209 of 19 December

<sup>1001</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), North Macedonia, Norway, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

2016, [72/196](#) of 19 December 2017, [73/186](#) of 17 December 2018, [74/177](#) of 18 December 2019, [75/196](#) of 16 December 2020, [76/187](#) of 16 December 2021 and [77/237](#) of 15 December 2022,

*Reaffirming* also its resolutions relating to the urgent need to strengthen international cooperation and technical assistance in promoting and facilitating the ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto,<sup>1002</sup> the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,<sup>1003</sup> the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,<sup>1004</sup> the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,<sup>1005</sup> the United Nations Convention against Corruption<sup>1006</sup> and all the international conventions and protocols against terrorism,

*Welcoming* the results achieved by the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Kyoto, Japan, from 7 to 12 March 2021,<sup>1007</sup> including the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>1008</sup>

*Welcoming* also the follow-up process to the Kyoto Declaration by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, including the organization of thematic discussions on the four pillars of the Declaration,

*Reaffirming* its resolution [78/223](#) of 19 December 2023 on the follow-up to the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and the decision that the main theme of the Fifteenth Congress should be “Accelerating crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: protecting people and planet and achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the digital age”,

*Underscoring* the role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as the principal policymaking body of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, reaffirming its resolution [73/183](#) of 17 December 2018 and its resolution [78/225](#) of 19 December 2023 on enhancing the contributions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in which Member States were encouraged to accelerate, as appropriate, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through their efforts in crime prevention and criminal justice, including through the work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held in 2026,

*Reaffirming* its resolution [73/185](#) of 17 December 2018 on the rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Expressing its grave concern* about the negative effects of transnational organized crime on development, peace, stability and security and human rights, about the increasing vulnerability of States to such crime and about the growing degree of penetration of criminal organizations and their financial and economic resources into the economy,

*Expressing concern* at the involvement of organized criminal groups, as well as the substantial increase in the volume, rate of transnational occurrence and range of criminal offences related to crimes that affect the environment, including trafficking in wildlife, precious metals, stones and other minerals in some parts of the world, and their potential use as a source of funding for organized crime, other relevant criminal activities and terrorism,

*Deeply concerned* about the growing links, in some cases, between forms of transnational organized crime and terrorism, recognizing that countering transnational organized crime and terrorism is a common and shared responsibility, and in this respect recalling its resolution [74/175](#) of 18 December 2019 and reaffirming its resolution [78/226](#) of 19 December 2023 on technical assistance provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime related to counter-terrorism,

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<sup>1002</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2225, 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.

<sup>1003</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

<sup>1004</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

<sup>1005</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

<sup>1006</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

<sup>1007</sup> See [A/CONF.234/16](#).

<sup>1008</sup> Resolution [76/181](#), annex.

*Convinced* that the rule of law and development are strongly interrelated and mutually reinforcing and that the advancement of the rule of law at the national and international levels, including through crime prevention and criminal justice mechanisms, is essential for sustained and inclusive economic growth and sustainable development and the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, and in this respect reaffirming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>1009</sup> which, inter alia, includes the commitment to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, and in this respect recalling its resolution 70/299 of 29 July 2016 on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda at the global level,

*Emphasizing* that transnational organized crime must be addressed with full respect for the principle of the sovereignty of States and in accordance with the rule of law as part of a comprehensive response to promote durable solutions through the promotion of human rights and more equitable socioeconomic conditions,

*Encouraging* Member States to develop and implement, as appropriate, comprehensive, evidence-based crime prevention policies, national and local strategies and action plans based on an understanding of the multiple factors that contribute to crime and to address such factors in a holistic manner, in close cooperation with all stakeholders, including civil society, and in this respect stressing that social development and the promotion of the rule of law, including equal access to justice and the fostering of a culture of lawfulness while respecting cultural identities, in accordance with the Kyoto Declaration, should be integral elements of strategies to foster crime prevention and economic development in all States,

*Recalling* its resolution 74/172 of 18 December 2019 on Education for Justice and the rule of law in the context of sustainable development,

*Welcoming* the adoption by the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption of resolution 9/8 of 17 December 2021 on promoting anti-corruption education, awareness-raising and training,<sup>1010</sup> in which the Conference recognized the fundamental role of education in the prevention of and fight against corruption and called upon States parties to continue their efforts to promote anti-corruption educational and training programmes for young people; and invited States parties, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their domestic law, with a view to promoting the active participation of civil society and the media, to undertake public information activities that contribute to promoting public knowledge of anti-corruption laws and regulations and non-tolerance of corruption,

*Concerned* about violence in urban areas, including armed violence fuelled by the accessibility of trafficked firearms, and recognizing the need for inclusive measures to address urban safety and the prevention of related crime and violence in an integrated, participatory and cross-sectoral manner,

*Reaffirming* its commitment and strong political will in support of effective, fair, humane and accountable criminal justice systems and the institutions comprising them, encouraging the effective participation and inclusion of all sectors of society, thus creating the conditions needed to advance the wider United Nations agenda, and recognizing the responsibility of Member States to uphold human dignity, all human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular for those affected by crime, including young people and women, and those who may be in contact with the criminal justice system, including vulnerable members of society, regardless of their status, who may be subject to multiple and aggravated forms of discrimination, and to prevent and counter hate crimes, as well as crimes motivated by intolerance or discrimination of any kind,

*Taking note* of Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 25/2 of 27 May 2016 on promoting legal aid, including through a network of legal aid providers,<sup>1011</sup> in which the Commission encouraged Member States to adopt or strengthen legislative or other measures to ensure that effective legal aid, including for victims of crime, is provided consistent with their domestic legislation and in line with the United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems,<sup>1012</sup> and which also contributes to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda,

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<sup>1009</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>1010</sup> See CAC/COSP/2021/17, sect. I.A.

<sup>1011</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2016, Supplement No. 10 (E/2016/30)*, chap. I, sect. D.

<sup>1012</sup> Resolution 67/187, annex.

*Recognizing* the important role of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in providing assistance to Member States, upon request, in their use and application of the United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 67/187 of 20 December 2012,

*Reaffirming* its resolution 78/227 of 19 December 2023 on equal access to justice for all, in which Member States were encouraged to explore cross-sectoral, multidisciplinary, multi-stakeholder, holistic and integrated partnerships, strategies and approaches at the national level when developing measures to reduce inequities in the criminal justice system, and to advance equal access to justice and equal treatment before the law for all, including through restorative justice programmes,

*Deeply concerned* about the negative impact of corruption on development and on the enjoyment of human rights, and recognizing the universal importance of good governance, transparency, integrity and accountability, thus calling for a zero-tolerance approach to corruption and more effective measures to prevent and counter corruption in all its forms, including bribery, as well as measures to prevent the laundering of proceeds of corruption and other forms of crime,

*Bearing in mind* its resolution 77/235 of 15 December 2022 on preventing and combating corrupt practices and the transfer of proceeds of corruption, facilitating asset recovery and returning such assets to legitimate owners, in particular to countries of origin, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption,

*Welcoming* the progress made with regard to the second cycle of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and stressing the importance of full participation by States parties in the Mechanism with a view to the conclusion of the second review cycle and the efforts to consider the renewal of the Mechanism and the effective implementation of the Convention in all its aspects by all States parties, and drawing attention to the urgent need for progress in the first review phase of the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto to unlock its benefits, including provisions of technical assistance, exchange of experiences and lessons learned among States parties through their participation in the review process,

*Taking note* of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the United Nations Development Programme *Manual on Corruption Surveys* and the development of methodological tools, standards and guidelines that can support countries in producing comparable and up-to-date statistics on corruption, including in the context of Sustainable Development Goal implementation, and welcoming in this regard resolution 8/10 of 20 December 2019 of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption on measurement of corruption,<sup>1013</sup>

*Bearing in mind* that, pursuant to chapter V of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the return of assets is one of the main objectives, an integral part and a fundamental principle of the Convention and that the States parties to the Convention shall afford one another the widest measure of cooperation and assistance in that regard, and welcoming in this regard resolution 9/7 of 17 December 2021 of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption on enhancing the use of beneficial ownership information to facilitate the identification, recovery and return of proceeds of crime,<sup>1014</sup>

*Recognizing* that, thanks to their nearly universal adherence and wide scope of application, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime<sup>1015</sup> and the United Nations Convention against Corruption offer fundamental legal bases for international cooperation to support the investigation and prosecution of crimes covered by those Conventions, including for extradition, mutual legal assistance and confiscation and asset recovery, and that they provide effective mechanisms that should be further implemented and utilized in practice,

*Reaffirming* the political declaration entitled “Our common commitment to effectively addressing challenges and implementing measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation”, adopted by

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<sup>1013</sup> See CAC/COSP/2019/17, sect. I.B.

<sup>1014</sup> See CAC/COSP/2021/17, sect. I.A.

<sup>1015</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

the General Assembly at its thirty-second special session, held at United Nations Headquarters from 2 to 4 June 2021,<sup>1016</sup>

*Welcoming* the twentieth anniversary of the adoption, by its resolution 58/4 of 31 October 2003, of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and celebrating 20 years since the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime entered into force on 29 September 2003, followed by the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,<sup>1017</sup> on 25 December 2003, the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,<sup>1018</sup> on 28 January 2004, and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,<sup>1019</sup> on 3 July 2005,

*Recognizing* the efforts of the Group of 20 in countering corruption at both the global and the national levels, taking note with appreciation of the anti-corruption initiatives outlined in the Leaders' Declaration of the Summit of the Group of 20, held in New Delhi on 9 and 10 September 2023, and urging the Group of 20 to continue to engage other States Members of the United Nations and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in its work in an inclusive and transparent manner to ensure that initiatives of the Group of 20 complement or strengthen the work being undertaken by the United Nations system,

*Stressing* the importance of strengthened international cooperation, based on the principles of common and shared responsibility and in accordance with international law, to effectively address the world drug problem, dismantle illicit networks and counter transnational organized crime, including money-laundering, illicit financial flows, smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons, illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, including diversion, loss and theft of firearms, crimes that affect the environment and other forms of organized crime, all of which threaten national security and undermine sustainable development and the rule of law, and stressing also in this respect the importance of law enforcement cooperation and exchange of information, in accordance with international law, as well as of designated central authorities and effective points of contact dedicated to facilitating the procedures related to international cooperation, including for extradition and mutual legal assistance requests, as well as the importance of the coordinating role of relevant regional networks,

*Inviting* Member States to mainstream youth perspectives in their crime prevention and criminal justice strategies, as appropriate, including strategies on reducing reoffending through rehabilitation and reintegration, with a focus on youth needs, vulnerabilities and empowering youth to become active agents of positive change in their communities, in line with the provisions of the Kyoto Declaration,

*Welcoming* the high-level debate of the General Assembly held on 15 June 2023 on the theme "Equal access to justice for all: advancing reforms for peaceful, just and inclusive societies", and taking note of the summary of the discussion prepared by the President of the General Assembly, in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and transmitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and to all Member States,

*Noting* the important contribution that public-private sector cooperation can make in efforts to prevent and combat criminal activities, such as transnational organized crime, corruption, cybercrime and terrorism, and recalling in this regard resolution 6/5 of 6 November 2015 of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the Saint Petersburg statement on promoting public-private partnership in the prevention of and fight against corruption,<sup>1020</sup>

*Reaffirming* the commitments made by Member States in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted on 8 September 2006,<sup>1021</sup> and its successive biennial reviews, in particular in its resolution 77/298 of 22 June 2023, in which it encouraged Member States and United Nations entities to strengthen and better coordinate

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<sup>1016</sup> Resolution S-32/1, annex.

<sup>1017</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2237, No. 39574.

<sup>1018</sup> *Ibid.* vol. 2241, No. 39574.

<sup>1019</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2326, No. 39574.

<sup>1020</sup> See CAC/COSP/2015/10, sect. I.

<sup>1021</sup> Resolution 60/288.



their actions against terrorism and to prevent and combat violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism, including through technical assistance provided to Member States upon their request, and highlighting in this respect the work of the Office of Counter-Terrorism, established through its resolution 71/291 of 15 June 2017, and that of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities on strengthening the capability of the United Nations system to assist Member States in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy,

*Highlighting* the importance of its resolutions on measures to eliminate international terrorism and on the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism adopted at its seventy-third to seventy-sixth sessions,

*Expressing concern* that terrorists may benefit from transnational organized crime in some regions, including from trafficking in arms, drugs and cultural property, as well as trafficking in persons and in human organs, and from the illicit trade in natural resources, including oil, and in oil products, modular refineries and related material, precious metals, stones and other minerals, charcoal and wildlife, as well as from kidnapping for ransom and other crimes, including extortion, money-laundering and bank robbery, emphasizing the need to enhance cooperation at the national, subregional, regional and international levels to strengthen responses to this challenge, and condemning the destruction of cultural heritage perpetrated by terrorist groups in some countries,

*Recalling* its resolution 66/177 of 19 December 2011 on strengthening international cooperation in combating the harmful effects of illicit financial flows resulting from criminal activities, in which it urged States parties to the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the United Nations Convention against Corruption to apply fully the provisions of those Conventions, in particular measures to prevent and combat money-laundering, including by criminalizing the laundering of proceeds of transnational organized crime, as well as measures to enhance national confiscation regimes and international cooperation, including in asset recovery, and recalling also its resolution 77/154 of 14 December 2022, in which, inter alia, it reiterated its deep concern about the impact of illicit financial flows, in particular those caused by tax evasion, corruption and transnational organized crime, on the economic, social and political stability and development of societies, and especially on developing countries,

*Noting with concern* the misuse of virtual assets and related payment methods by criminal individuals and transnational organized crime groups to raise, move, store and utilize funds, including the proceeds of crime, as well as the potential use of emerging payment methods, such as prepaid cards and mobile payments or virtual assets, by terrorists and terrorist groups,

*Taking into consideration* all resolutions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the relevant resolutions of the Economic and Social Council, in particular those relating to the strengthening of international cooperation, as well as to the technical assistance and advisory services of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the fields of crime prevention and criminal justice, promotion and reinforcement of the rule of law, including equal access to justice, and reform of criminal justice institutions, including with regard to the implementation of technical assistance to Member States in improving systems for collecting and analysing data on crime prevention and criminal justice at all levels,

*Recognizing* the progress made by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the delivery of advisory services and technical assistance to requesting Member States in the areas of crime prevention, including youth crime prevention through sport, and criminal justice reform, data and information analysis, preventing and countering organized crime, corruption, piracy and transnational organized crime committed at sea, illicit financial flows, money-laundering, economic and financial crimes, including fraud, as well as tax and corporate crimes, cybercrime, criminal misuse of the Internet and other information and communications technologies as well as such misuse for terrorist purposes, crimes that affect the environment, such as illicit trafficking in wildlife, including, inter alia, flora and fauna as protected by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora,<sup>1022</sup> in timber and timber products, in hazardous waste and in precious metals, stones and other minerals, as well as, inter alia, poaching, direct and indirect trade in oil and refined oil products with organized criminal and terrorist groups, counterfeiting in trademark goods, match-fixing, trafficking in cultural property and artefacts, kidnapping, smuggling of migrants, organ trafficking, trafficking in persons, including the support and protection, as appropriate, of victims,

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<sup>1022</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 993, No. 14537.



their families and witnesses, illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, drug trafficking and trafficking in falsified medical products, as well as terrorism, including progress in tackling the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters, including those who are returning and relocating, and preventing chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism, and terrorist attacks on the basis of xenophobia, racism and other forms of intolerance, or in the name of religion or belief, as well as in the area of international cooperation, with special emphasis on extradition and mutual legal assistance and the international transfer of sentenced persons,

*Welcoming* the adoption by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime of an integrated approach to programming and to technical assistance delivery, in accordance with its Strategy 2021–2025, at the global, regional, subregional and national levels, through the continuous linkages between the normative, operational and research components of its mandate, and based on continuing consultations and partnerships at the national, regional and global levels, particularly on its implementation, and focused on ensuring that the Office responds in a sustainable and coherent manner to the priorities of Member States,

*Reiterating its concern* regarding the overall financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, welcoming the extension of the mandate of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the Office, and inviting the working group to consider possible implementation of management tools to increase productivity and to help to create a dynamic organization, where appropriate,

*Welcoming* Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 26/3 of 26 May 2017 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into crime prevention and criminal justice policies and programmes and into efforts to prevent and combat transnational organized crime,<sup>1023</sup>

*Reiterating its condemnation* of all forms of violence against women and girls, noting with deep concern the prevalence of violence against women and girls and the obstacles to their access to justice, and in this respect reaffirming its resolutions 65/228 of 21 December 2010, 71/170 of 19 December 2016, 72/149 of 19 December 2017, 73/148 of 17 December 2018, 75/161 of 16 December 2020 and 77/193 of 15 December 2022, recalling the resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council addressing various aspects of violence against women and girls of all ages, and recalling also the agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-seventh session, which addressed the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls,<sup>1024</sup>

*Expressing deep concern* about the gender-related killing of women and girls, recalling its relevant resolutions,<sup>1025</sup> recognizing the key role of law enforcement and the criminal justice system in preventing and responding to the gender-related killing of women and girls, including by ending impunity for such crimes, and noting in this respect paragraph (d) of Statistical Commission decision 53/113 of 11 March 2022,<sup>1026</sup>

*Noting* the significance of the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice<sup>1027</sup> as a way to assist countries in strengthening their national crime prevention and criminal justice capacities to respond to all forms of violence against women and girls,

*Recalling* its resolution 69/194 of 18 December 2014, by which it adopted the United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, convinced of the importance of preventing youth crime, including through sports, supporting the rehabilitation of young offenders and their reintegration into society, protecting in particular child victims of all forms of violence, including those in contact with the law and witnesses, including efforts to prevent their revictimization, and addressing the needs of children of prisoners, stressing that such responses should take into account the human rights and best interests of children and young people, consistent with the obligations of the States parties under relevant international

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<sup>1023</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2017, Supplement No. 10 (E/2017/30)*, chap. I, sect. D.

<sup>1024</sup> *Ibid.*, 2013, *Supplement No. 7 (E/2013/27)*, chap. I, sect. A.

<sup>1025</sup> Resolutions 68/191 and 70/176.

<sup>1026</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2022, Supplement No. 4 (E/2022/24)*, chap. I, sect. C.

<sup>1027</sup> Resolution 65/228, annex.

instruments, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child<sup>1028</sup> and the Optional Protocols thereto,<sup>1029</sup> and noting other relevant United Nations standards and norms in juvenile justice, where appropriate,

*Recalling also* its resolution [77/233](#) of 15 December 2022 on strengthening national and international efforts, including with the private sector, to protect children from sexual exploitation and abuse,

*Recalling further* its resolutions [74/170](#) of 18 December 2019 and [76/183](#) of 16 December 2021, entitled “Integrating sport into youth crime prevention and criminal justice strategies”, reaffirming the importance of multisectoral partnerships for youth crime prevention and the role of sport, and bearing in mind the primary role and responsibility of Member States in that regard,

*Taking note* of the publication of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime *Global Report on Corruption in Sport* to support the effective implementation of resolution 8/4 of 20 December 2019 of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption on safeguarding sport from corruption,<sup>1030</sup> in which the Conference recognized the importance of protecting children and young people in sport from potential exploitation and abuse so as to ensure a positive experience and a safe environment that supports their healthy development,

*Emphasizing* the importance of international instruments and United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice related to the treatment of prisoners, in particular women and juveniles,

*Recalling* its resolutions [70/146](#) of 17 December 2015, [74/143](#) of 18 December 2019 and [77/209](#) of 15 December 2022, in which it reaffirmed that no one shall be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,

*Stressing* the importance of the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials<sup>1031</sup> and the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials,<sup>1032</sup> which are voluntary United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice that emphasize, inter alia, efficient and human rights-based policing,

*Recalling* its resolution [65/229](#) of 21 December 2010 on the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules), and in this regard encouraging the efforts of Member States to implement the Bangkok Rules,

*Welcoming* the adoption, by its resolution [70/175](#) of 17 December 2015, of the revision to the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, as the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), and reaffirming its resolution [72/193](#) of 19 December 2017, in which, inter alia, Member States were encouraged to endeavour to improve conditions of imprisonment and to promote the practical application of the Nelson Mandela Rules as the universally acknowledged and updated minimum standards for the treatment of prisoners, to use the Rules as a guide in the development of prison laws, policies and practices, to continue exchanging good practices and identifying challenges faced in the practical application of the Rules and to share their experiences in dealing with those challenges,

*Welcoming also* Economic and Social Council resolution [2017/19](#) of 6 July 2017 on promoting and encouraging the implementation of alternatives to imprisonment as part of comprehensive crime prevention and criminal justice policies,

*Reiterating its strong condemnation* of trafficking in persons, which constitutes a serious crime and a grave offence to human dignity and physical integrity, a violation or abuse of human rights and a challenge to sustainable development and requires the implementation of a comprehensive approach that includes measures to prevent such trafficking, to punish the traffickers and to identify and protect the victims and survivors of such trafficking, and a robust criminal justice response that also seeks to ensure the non-punishment of victims of trafficking in persons for crimes committed as a direct consequence of their exploitation or for crimes they were compelled to commit, and

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<sup>1028</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>1029</sup> *Ibid.*, vols. 2171, 2173 and 2983, No. 27531.

<sup>1030</sup> See [CAC/COSP/2019/17](#), sect. I.B.

<sup>1031</sup> Resolution [34/169](#), annex.

<sup>1032</sup> See *Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Havana, 27 August–7 September 1990: report prepared by the Secretariat* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.91.IV.2), chap. I, sect. B.

recalling the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and its resolutions [71/167](#) of 19 December 2016, [72/195](#) of 19 December 2017, [73/146](#) of 17 December 2018, [74/176](#) of 18 December 2019, [75/158](#) of 16 December 2020 and [76/186](#) of 16 December 2021,

*Bearing in mind* its resolutions [73/189](#) of 17 December 2018, [75/195](#) of 16 December 2020 and [77/236](#) of 15 December 2022 on strengthening and promoting effective measures and international cooperation on organ donation and transplantation to prevent and combat trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal and trafficking in human organs,

*Reaffirming* its resolutions [72/1](#) of 27 September 2017 and [76/7](#) of 22 November 2021, by which it adopted political declarations on the implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons,

*Underlining* that Member States need to recognize that the crime of smuggling of migrants and the crime of trafficking in persons are distinct crimes and require separate and complementary legal, operational and policy responses, while recognizing that smuggled migrants might also become victims of trafficking in persons and therefore require appropriate protection and assistance, and recalling its resolutions [69/187](#) of 18 December 2014, [70/147](#) of 17 December 2015, [72/179](#) of 19 December 2017, [74/148](#) of 18 December 2019 and [76/172](#) of 16 December 2021, in which it called upon all Member States to protect and assist migrants, including migrant children and youth, as well as Economic and Social Council resolutions [2014/23](#) of 16 July 2014, [2015/23](#) of 21 July 2015, [2017/18](#) of 6 July 2017 and [2021/25](#) of 22 July 2021 and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 30/1 of 21 May 2021,<sup>1033</sup>

*Reaffirming* its resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, in which it, inter alia, committed to taking immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour,

*Recalling* its resolution [71/1](#) of 19 September 2016, by which it adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, which addresses the issue of large movements of refugees and migrants,

*Stressing* the importance for Member States to take legislative or other measures to prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration by strengthening capacities and international cooperation to investigate, prosecute and penalize trafficking in persons, discouraging demand that fosters exploitation leading to trafficking, and ending impunity of trafficking networks,

*Stressing also* the need to take appropriate measures to ensure access to justice and protections for victims in criminal justice processes, including measures to ensure that identified victims of trafficking in persons are not penalized for having been trafficked and that they do not suffer from victimization as a result of actions taken by government authorities, communities and families,

*Welcoming* the work of the United Nations voluntary trust fund for victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, established in accordance with the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, adopted by its resolution [64/293](#) of 30 July 2010, as well as the important contribution of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons, within its mandate, to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, and of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children,

*Concerned* at the growing involvement of terrorist and organized criminal groups in all forms and aspects of trafficking in cultural property and related offences, and alarmed by the destruction of cultural heritage perpetrated by terrorist groups, which is linked to trafficking in cultural property in some countries and to financing of terrorist activities,

*Recognizing* the indispensable role of crime prevention and criminal justice responses in combating all forms and aspects of trafficking in cultural property and related offences in a comprehensive and effective manner, and underlining the importance of the technical assistance provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime aimed at supporting the implementation of the International Guidelines for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

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<sup>1033</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2021, Supplement No. 10 (E/2021/30)*, chap. I, sect. D.

Responses with Respect to Trafficking in Cultural Property and Other Related Offences<sup>1034</sup> and at facilitating operational cooperation against all forms of trafficking in cultural property, including through the practical assistance tool developed to that end,

*Welcoming* Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 27/5 of 18 May 2018<sup>1035</sup> and resolution 11/4 of 21 October 2022 of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,<sup>1036</sup> which focused on the need to strengthen international cooperation to prevent and counter trafficking in cultural property, including through judicial cooperation and mutual legal assistance, and noting the efforts of Member States to implement General Assembly resolutions 68/186 of 18 December 2013, 69/196, 73/130 of 13 December 2018 and 76/16 of 6 December 2021,

*Affirming* that the destruction of cultural heritage, which is representative of the diversity of human culture, erases the collective memories of a nation, destabilizes communities and threatens their cultural identity, and emphasizing the importance of cultural diversity and pluralism as well as freedom of religion and belief for achieving peace, stability, reconciliation and social cohesion, and recalling in this respect its resolutions 73/130 and 76/16,

*Taking note* of the launch of the Co-Action against Trafficking in Cultural Heritage (CATCH) initiative to be jointly implemented by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), in accordance with their mandates, to, inter alia, raise awareness, strengthen law enforcement capacities and enhance international cooperation to combat trafficking in cultural property,

*Reaffirming* the intrinsic value of biological diversity and its various contributions to sustainable development and human well-being, and recognizing that wild fauna and flora in their many beautiful and varied forms are an irreplaceable part of the natural systems of the Earth which must be protected for this generation and the generations to come,

*Reaffirming also* its resolution 76/185 of 16 December 2021, as well as resolutions 10/6 of 16 October 2020<sup>1037</sup> and 11/3 of 21 October 2022<sup>1038</sup> of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime on preventing and combating transnational organized crime that affect the environment, and resolution 8/12 of 20 December 2019<sup>1039</sup> of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, on preventing and combating corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment,

*Taking note* of the *World Wildlife Crime Report: Trafficking in Protected Species*, prepared by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in 2020,

*Emphasizing* that the protection of wildlife must be part of a comprehensive approach to achieving poverty eradication, food security, sustainable development, including the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, economic growth, social well-being and sustainable livelihoods,

*Expressing deep concern* about crimes that affect the environment, including illicit trafficking in endangered and, where applicable, protected species of wild fauna and flora, in timber and timber products, in hazardous waste and other wastes, illegal mining and crimes in the fisheries sector, as well as, inter alia, poaching, and emphasizing the need to prevent and combat such crimes by strengthening coordinated action to eliminate, prevent and combat corruption and disrupt illicit networks and also by coordinating international cooperation, capacity-building, criminal justice responses and law enforcement efforts,

*Recognizing* the legal framework provided by and the important role of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora as the primary mechanism for regulating international trade in species of wild fauna and flora listed in its appendices,

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<sup>1034</sup> Resolution 69/196, annex.

<sup>1035</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2018, Supplement No. 10 (E/2018/30)*, chap. I, sect. C.

<sup>1036</sup> See CTOC/COP/2022/9, sect. I.A.

<sup>1037</sup> See CTOC/COP/2020/10, sect. I.A.

<sup>1038</sup> See CTOC/COP/2022/9, sect. I.A.

<sup>1039</sup> See CAC/COSP/2019/17, sect. I.B.

*Recalling* the adoption of its resolutions [71/326](#) of 11 September 2017, [73/343](#) of 16 September 2019, [75/311](#) of 23 July 2021 and [77/325](#) of 25 August 2023 on tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife, and welcoming Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolutions 28/3 of 24 May 2019<sup>1040</sup> and 31/1 of 20 May 2022,<sup>1041</sup> and taking note of the report pursuant to Commission resolution 31/1 submitted to the Commission at its thirty-second session in May 2023 compiling responses received from Member States,

*Concerned* at the growing trend of cybercrime and the misuse of information and communications technologies in multiple forms of crime, and recalling its resolutions [73/187](#) of 17 December 2018, [74/173](#) of 18 December 2019, [74/247](#) of 27 December 2019 and [75/282](#) of 26 May 2021, as well as Economic and Social Council resolutions [2019/19](#) and [2019/20](#) of 23 July 2019,

*Stressing* the need to enhance coordination and cooperation among Member States in combating cybercrime, including by providing technical assistance to developing countries, upon request, to improve national legislation and enhance the capacity of national authorities to deal with cybercrime in all its forms, including its prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution, emphasizing in this context the role that the United Nations, in particular the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, plays, and reaffirming the importance of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in the use of information and communications technologies,

*Deeply concerned* about the increasing harm caused by, and the negative impact of, illicitly manufactured and trafficked firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, and about the links of such trafficking with other forms of transnational organized crime, including drug trafficking, as well as terrorism, and noting that reducing the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition is one of the major components of the efforts to reduce the power of transnational organized criminal groups and the violence that accompanies their activities, and noting the adoption of Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 65/2 of 18 March 2022, entitled “Strengthening international cooperation to address the links between illicit drug trafficking and illicit firearms trafficking”,<sup>1042</sup>

*Noting* international efforts to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in conventional arms, in particular in small arms and light weapons, as demonstrated by the adoption in 2001 of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects,<sup>1043</sup> the entry into force in 2005 of the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and the entry into force in 2014 of the Arms Trade Treaty,<sup>1044</sup> and noting also the common themes and complementary character of these instruments,

*Recalling* its resolution [77/71](#) of 7 December 2022, as well as all previous resolutions on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons,

*Taking note* of the development of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Guidelines on the Investigation and Prosecution of Firearms Offences, as well as the research study on addressing the linkages between illicit arms, organized crime and armed conflict published by the Office with the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research,

*Welcoming* the 2019 Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem, adopted during the ministerial segment of the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs,<sup>1045</sup> in which Member States committed to accelerating, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility, the full implementation of the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,<sup>1046</sup> the Joint

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<sup>1040</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2019, Supplement No. 10 (E/2019/30)*, chap. I, sect. D.

<sup>1041</sup> *Ibid.*, 2022, *Supplement No. 10 (E/2022/30)*, chap. I, sect. C.

<sup>1042</sup> *Ibid.*, *Supplement No. 8 (E/2022/28)*, chap. I, sect. B.

<sup>1043</sup> *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, New York, 9–20 July 2001 (A/CONF.192/15)*, chap. IV, para. 24.

<sup>1044</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 3013, No. 52373.

<sup>1045</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2019, Supplement No. 8 (E/2019/28)*, chap. I, sect. B.

<sup>1046</sup> *Ibid.*, 2009, *Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.



## V. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Third Committee

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Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action<sup>1047</sup> and the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016,<sup>1048</sup> aimed at achieving all commitments, operational recommendations and aspirational goals set out therein,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General prepared pursuant to resolution [77/237](#);<sup>1049</sup>

2. *Reaffirms* its resolution [70/1](#), entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, which, inter alia, includes the commitment to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels;

3. *Underlines* the important role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in actively contributing to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda, within its mandate, and in contributing to the follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals Summit held in September 2023;

4. *Calls upon* all Member States, when appropriate, to take into consideration the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted at the high-level segment of the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Kyoto, Japan, from 7 to 12 March 2021, when formulating legislation and policy directives, and to make every effort, where appropriate, to implement the principles contained therein in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide technical assistance, upon request, to Member States;

5. *Encourages* Member States to promote the integrity, accountability, honesty and responsibility of criminal justice practitioners and institutions through specialized and appropriate training, and the application of codes or standards of conduct, and in this context notes the work of the Global Judicial Integrity Network aimed at strengthening judicial integrity;

6. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the international conventions and protocols related to terrorism, and urges States parties to those conventions and protocols to make efforts towards their effective implementation, particularly with regard to preventing and combating transnational organized crime, including cybercrime;

7. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto represent the most important tools of the international community for fighting transnational organized crime, including cybercrime, notes with appreciation that the number of States parties has reached 192, which is a significant indication of the commitment shown by the international community to combating transnational organized crime, and recalls in this respect resolution 10/4 of 16 October 2020 of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,<sup>1050</sup> in which the Conference emphasized the continued relevance of the Convention, including in countering new, emerging and evolving forms of transnational organized crime, and urges States parties to make, consistent with their national legislation, the widest possible use of the Convention as a legal basis for international cooperation in criminal matters, taking note in this respect of the relevant United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime digest of cases, which was released in October 2021;

8. *Recognizes* that technical assistance and economic development are fundamental to ensuring the effective implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, and recalls in this regard article 30 of the Convention;

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<sup>1047</sup> Ibid., 2014, *Supplement No. 8 (E/2014/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

<sup>1048</sup> Resolution [S-30/1](#), annex.

<sup>1049</sup> [A/78/264](#).

<sup>1050</sup> See [CTOC/COP/2020/10](#), sect. I.A.

9. *Urges* States parties to actively participate in the review process of the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, in accordance with resolution 10/1 of 16 October 2020 of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,<sup>1051</sup> including by ensuring that the focal points and experts are nominated in a timely manner and that voluntary contributions are made to ensure that the Secretariat can effectively support the process, as well as to implement observations emanating therefrom, including, where appropriate, by requesting technical assistance from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to this end;

10. *Encourages* States parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime to submit case law, legislation and other relevant responses to the knowledge management portal known as Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime;

11. *Welcomes* the resolutions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth, ninth, tenth and eleventh sessions, held in Vienna from 17 to 21 October 2016, from 15 to 19 October 2018, from 12 to 16 October 2020 and from 17 to 21 October 2022, respectively, to promote greater use of the Convention by central and other competent authorities in extradition and mutual legal assistance and to enhance the effectiveness of these authorities and to strengthen, as appropriate, the implementation of the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;

12. *Encourages* Member States to implement the commitments made in the political declaration entitled “Our common commitment to effectively addressing challenges and implementing measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation”, adopted at the thirty-second special session of the General Assembly, held at United Nations Headquarters from 2 to 4 June 2021;

13. *Urges* States parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption to continue to provide full support to the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the Convention adopted by the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, welcomes the progress made under the second cycle of the Review Mechanism and calls upon States parties to ensure the timely conclusion of the second review cycle and to participate in preparations for the next review phase, and further notes with appreciation that the number of States parties has reached 190, which is a significant indication of the commitment shown by the international community to combating corruption and related crimes;

14. *Also urges* States parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption to increase their efforts and to take measures to prevent and counter corruption, with the necessary focus on, among others, acts of corruption that involve vast quantities of assets, without undermining their commitment to preventing and countering corruption at all levels and in all forms, calls upon States parties to the Convention to take measures to ensure that legal and natural persons are held accountable for corruption offences, including when they involve bribery and vast quantities of assets, in accordance with the Convention, and notes with appreciation the creation of regional anti-corruption hubs by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to better support States parties in these endeavours;

15. *Takes note* of progress made in operationalizing the Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities under the auspices of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and encourages States to participate in and make best use of this network, as appropriate;

16. *Welcomes* the progress achieved by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption in the implementation of their respective mandates, and calls upon States parties to give full effect to the resolutions adopted by those bodies, including providing information regarding compliance with the treaties;

17. *Encourages* Member States, in accordance with their domestic law, to strengthen the capacity of their respective criminal justice systems to investigate, prosecute and punish crime, while supporting an accessible, effective, fair, humane, transparent and accountable criminal justice system and protecting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of defendants, as well as the rights and legitimate interests of victims and witnesses, and to adopt and reinforce measures to ensure access to effective legal aid in criminal justice systems, as called for in its resolution 78/227 on equal access to justice for all;

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<sup>1051</sup> Ibid.



## V. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Third Committee

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18. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide technical assistance to Member States, upon request, including, inter alia, in the field of international cooperation in criminal matters, to strengthen the rule of law, also taking into account the work undertaken by other United Nations entities, within existing mandates, as well as regional and bilateral efforts, and to continue to ensure coordination and coherence, including through the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group;

19. *Calls for* greater coordination and coherence among United Nations entities and with stakeholders, including donors, host countries and recipients of capacity-building, in countering transnational organized crime;

20. *Reiterates* the importance of providing the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme with sufficient, stable and predictable funding for the full implementation of its mandates;

21. *Encourages* all States to have national and local action plans for crime prevention in order to take into account, in a comprehensive, integrated and participatory manner, inter alia, factors that place certain populations and places at higher risk of victimization and/or of offending, and to ensure that such plans are based on the best available evidence and good practices, and stresses that crime prevention should be considered an integral element of strategies to foster social and economic development in all States, in accordance with the commitments contained in General Assembly resolutions 70/1 and 70/299;

22. *Recommends* that Member States adopt multisectoral crime prevention policies and programmes for youth and increase their meaningful and inclusive participation therein, including through sport and education, taking into consideration their varying needs, and safeguard their well-being, recognizing that youth may face specific challenges and risk factors that make them particularly vulnerable to crime, all forms of violence, terrorism and victimization, and in this respect recalls its resolutions 74/170 and 76/183, entitled “Integrating sport into youth crime prevention and criminal justice strategies”, Economic and Social Council resolution 2016/18 of 26 July 2016, entitled “Mainstreaming holistic approaches in youth crime prevention”, and further recalls the provision of the Kyoto Declaration on empowering youth by organizing social, educational, cultural, recreational, sports-related youth programmes and youth forums;

23. *Takes note* of the launch of the Sport against Crime: Outreach, Resilience, Empowerment (SC:ORE) initiative for at-risk youth developed jointly by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with the International Olympic Committee to integrate sport into youth crime prevention initiatives, and requests the Office to continue, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources and in close consultation with Member States, its relevant efforts;

24. *Invites* Member States to consider policy recommendations identified in the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime *Global Report on Corruption in Sport*, where appropriate, to address risks to people in vulnerable situations, in particular children and young athletes, posed by corruption in sport, with a view to promoting fair competition, healthy lives and principles of integrity and to creating an atmosphere of intolerance towards corruption in sport;

25. *Takes note* of the progress made under the Global Resource for Anti-Corruption Education and Youth Empowerment (GRACE) initiative by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and requests the Office to continue, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources and in close consultation with Member States, its efforts to develop educational materials on fighting corruption and on the rule of law, and enhance cooperation with and build the capacity of relevant criminal justice authorities and educational institutions;

26. *Encourages* States to continue to build on the discussions of important forums such as the high-level debate of the General Assembly held on 15 June 2023 on the theme “Equal access to justice for all: advancing reforms for peaceful, just and inclusive societies”, and urges the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to facilitate sharing information on challenges, lessons learned, best practices and enabling factors needed to enhance the functioning of criminal justice systems to ensure equal access to justice for all;

27. *Invites* the President of the General Assembly, in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and with the involvement of relevant stakeholders, to hold, within existing resources and during the seventy-eighth session, a high-level debate on the theme “Crime prevention and sustainable development through sports” and to prepare a summary of the discussion for transmission to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and to all Member States;

28. *Also invites* the President of the General Assembly, in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and with the involvement of relevant stakeholders, to hold, within existing resources and during the seventy-ninth session, a high-level debate on the theme “A second chance: addressing the global prison challenge”, to mark the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) by its resolution 70/175, and to prepare a summary of the discussion for transmission to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and to all Member States;

29. *Urges* Member States, in cooperation with the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, to develop national, subregional, regional and international strategies, with the support of relevant international organizations, as appropriate, and other necessary measures, including the establishment, in accordance with international obligations and domestic legislation, of designated central and competent authorities and effective points of contact dedicated to facilitating the procedures related to international cooperation, including for extradition and mutual legal assistance requests, in order to effectively address transnational organized crime; to strengthen all forms of cooperation in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Corruption for asset recovery, in particular chapter V, with the cooperation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its existing mandate; and to inform accordingly the Office about existing or updated contact details of such authorities and points of contact to facilitate international cooperation as appropriate;

30. *Reaffirms* the importance of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme in promoting effective action to strengthen international cooperation in crime prevention and criminal justice, as well as of the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the fulfilment of its mandate in crime prevention and criminal justice, including providing to Member States, upon request and as a matter of high priority, technical cooperation, advisory services and other forms of assistance, and coordinating with and complementing the work of all relevant and competent United Nations bodies and offices in respect of all forms of organized crime, including piracy and transnational organized crime committed at sea, cybercrime, criminal misuse of the Internet and other information and communications technologies as well as such misuse for terrorist purposes, the misuse of new information technologies to abuse and exploit children, trafficking in cultural property and artefacts, illicit financial flows, money-laundering, economic and financial crimes, including fraud, as well as tax and corporate crimes, match-fixing, counterfeiting in trademark goods, illicit trafficking in endangered species of wild fauna and flora and other crimes that affect the environment, such as trafficking in timber, hazardous waste, precious metals, stones and other minerals, drug trafficking, kidnapping, trafficking in persons, including the support and protection, as appropriate, of victims and survivors, their families and witnesses, organ trafficking, smuggling of migrants and illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, direct and indirect trade in oil and refined oil products with organized criminal and terrorist groups, as well as corruption and terrorism;

31. *Encourages* Member States to collect relevant information and to further identify, analyse and counter any existing, growing or potential links, in some cases, between transnational organized crime, the illicit access to, trafficking in and diversion of firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, illicit drug-related activities, money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, in order to enhance criminal justice responses to those crimes, and calls upon the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its relevant mandates, to support, upon request, the efforts of Member States in that regard;

32. *Calls upon* Member States to strengthen cooperation at the international, regional, subregional and bilateral levels to counter the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, including those who are returning and relocating, including through enhanced operational and timely information-sharing, logistical support, as appropriate, and capacity-building activities, such as those provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to share and adopt best practices to identify foreign terrorist fighters, to prevent the travel of foreign terrorist fighters from, into or through Member States, to prevent the financing, mobilization, recruitment and organization of foreign terrorist fighters, to prevent and counter violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism, to enhance efforts to implement prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies, taking into account gender and age dimensions, and to ensure that any person who participates in the financing, planning, preparation or perpetration of terrorist acts or in the supporting of terrorist acts is brought to justice, in compliance with obligations under international law, as well as applicable domestic law, and requests the Office to continue to provide technical assistance, upon request, in this regard in cooperation and coordination with the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities;

33. *Calls upon* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to further enhance technical assistance, upon request, for building the capacity of Member States to become party to and implement the international conventions

and protocols related to counter-terrorism, including through targeted programmes and the training of relevant criminal justice and law enforcement officials, upon request, and the development of technical tools, publications and programmes, within its mandate, and in this respect takes note with appreciation of the development of the Global Programme on Preventing and Countering Terrorism of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, which enables the Office to pursue partnership-based and people-centred technical assistance in support of Member States' requests for technical assistance on the international conventions and protocols against terrorism;

34. *Calls upon* Member States to address the threat posed by radicalization to terrorism in prisons, and calls upon the United Nations, especially the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to continue to support Member States in this regard in cooperation and coordination with the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities;

35. *Urges* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to increase collaboration with intergovernmental, international and regional organizations that have transnational organized crime mandates, as appropriate, in order to share best practices, foster cooperation and take advantage of their unique and comparative advantage;

36. *Reaffirms* the importance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and its country and regional offices in building capacity at the local level in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, and urges the Office to consider regional vulnerabilities, projects and impacts in the fight against transnational organized crime in all its forms, in particular in developing countries, when deciding to close and allocate offices, with a view to maintaining an effective level of support to national and regional efforts in those areas;

37. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with adequate resources to support, in an effective manner, efforts towards the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 and the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and to discharge its functions as the secretariat of the conferences of the parties to the conventions, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as well as the United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice, in accordance with its mandate, and requests the Secretariat to continue to provide support to the Commissions within their respective mandates, enabling them to actively contribute, as appropriate, to the global follow-up and the thematic review of progress made by Member States in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals as set forth in resolutions 70/299, and 72/305 of 23 July 2018 and its resolution 78/225 on enhancing the contributions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

38. *Urges* all Member States to provide the fullest possible financial and political support to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime by widening its donor base and increasing voluntary contributions, in particular general-purpose contributions, so as to enable it to continue, expand, improve and strengthen, within its mandates, its research, operational and technical cooperation activities;

39. *Expresses concern* regarding the overall financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, emphasizes the need to provide the Office with adequate, predictable and stable resources and to ensure their cost-effective utilization, and requests the Secretary-General, also considering the extension of the mandate of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the Office, to continue to report, within existing reporting obligations, on the financial situation of the Office and to continue to ensure that the Office has sufficient resources to carry out its mandates fully and effectively;

40. *Invites* States and other interested parties to make further voluntary contributions to the United Nations voluntary trust fund for victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and to the United Nations voluntary trust fund on contemporary forms of slavery;

41. *Calls upon* Member States to intensify national and international efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination, including racism, religious intolerance, xenophobia and gender-related discrimination by, inter alia, raising awareness, developing educational materials and programmes and considering, where appropriate, drafting and enforcing legislation against discrimination, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue providing technical assistance and capacity-building, upon request, to Member States in support of such efforts and urges Member States to provide extrabudgetary resources for these purposes;

42. *Emphasizes* the importance of protecting those in vulnerable situations, regardless of their status, who may be subject to multiple and aggravated forms of discrimination, and in that regard expresses its concern about the increase in the activities of transnational and national organized criminal groups and others who profit from crimes against migrants, especially women and children, without regard for dangerous and inhumane conditions and in flagrant violation of national laws and international law;

43. *Calls upon* Member States to ensure equal access to justice for all, in order to reach the relevant Sustainable Development Goals and to follow up on the provisions of the Kyoto Declaration and its resolution [78/227](#) on equal access to justice for all;

44. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to develop technical tools and training material based on United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice and to continue to provide technical and material assistance to Member States, upon request, to ensure access to justice for all;

45. *Calls upon* Member States to implement, when appropriate, the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), bearing in mind their spirit and purpose, and to intensify their efforts to address the challenge of prison overcrowding through appropriate criminal justice reforms, which should include, where appropriate, a review of penal policies and practical measures to reduce pretrial detention, to enhance the use of non-custodial sanctions and measures and to improve access to legal aid to the extent possible, bearing in mind the United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide technical assistance to Member States, upon request, in this respect;

46. *Reaffirms* its resolutions [76/182](#) of 16 December 2021, [77/232](#) of 15 December 2022 and [78/224](#) of 19 December 2023 on reducing reoffending through rehabilitation and reintegration, and encourages Member States to promote a rehabilitative environment in correctional facilities and multi-stakeholder partnerships to reduce reoffending by fostering inter-agency coordination among relevant government authorities;

47. *Emphasizes* the need for all Member States to promote, where appropriate, cooperation on the transfer of sentenced persons to serve the rest of their sentences in their own countries, conclude bilateral or multilateral agreements or arrangements in this regard as necessary, taking into consideration the rights of sentenced persons and issues relating to consent, rehabilitation and reintegration, as appropriate, and raise awareness among these prisoners about the availability of such measures;

48. *Invites* Member States to mainstream a gender perspective into their criminal justice systems, including by the use of non-custodial measures for women, when appropriate, and by improving the treatment of women prisoners, taking into consideration the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules),<sup>1052</sup> and by developing and implementing national strategies and plans to promote the full protection of women and girls from all acts of violence and to strengthen the crime prevention and criminal justice response to the gender-related killing of women and girls, in particular by taking measures to support the practical capacity of Member States to prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish all forms of such crime, and welcomes in this respect the practical tools recommended by the open-ended intergovernmental expert group on gender-related killing of women and girls at its meeting held in Bangkok from 11 to 13 November 2014;

49. *Also invites* Member States to integrate child- and youth-related issues into their criminal justice reform efforts, recognizing the importance of protecting children from all forms of violence, exploitation and abuse, consistent with the obligations of parties under relevant international instruments, and to develop comprehensive child-sensitive justice policies focused on the best interests of the child, consistent with the principle that the deprivation of liberty of children should be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time;

50. *Recognizes* the efforts made by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to assist Member States in developing their abilities and strengthening their capacity to prevent and combat kidnapping, and requests the Office to continue to provide technical assistance, upon request, with a view to fostering international cooperation, in particular mutual legal assistance, aimed at countering effectively this growing serious crime;

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<sup>1052</sup> Resolution [65/229](#), annex.

51. *Calls upon* Member States to consider ratifying or acceding to, and for States parties to effectively implement, the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, to reinforce international cooperation for preventing and combating the smuggling of migrants and for the prosecution of smugglers, in accordance, as appropriate, with article 6 of the Protocol and with national laws and legislation, while effectively protecting the rights and respecting the dignity of smuggled migrants, consistent with the principles of non-discrimination and other applicable obligations under relevant international law, taking into account the special needs of women, children, especially when unaccompanied, and persons with disabilities and older persons, and in collaboration with international organizations, civil society and the private sector, and in this regard calls upon the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue its technical assistance to Member States in accordance with the Protocol;

52. *Takes note* of the first *Global Study on Smuggling of Migrants* published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as well as of its global Observatory on Smuggling of Migrants, and encourages Member States to promote the reliable collection of relevant data and research, at the national and, as appropriate, the regional and international levels, invites the Office to systematically collect data and information from Member States on migrant smuggling routes, the *modi operandi* of migrant smugglers and the role of transnational organized crime, and invites Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for this purpose;

53. *Encourages* Member States to ensure that, in investigating and prosecuting trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants, the concurrent undertaking of financial investigations is a standard practice, with a view to tracing, freezing and confiscating proceeds acquired through those crimes, and to consider trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants to be predicate offences of money-laundering;

54. *Takes note* of the periodical publication by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime of the *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*, recognizes that the Global Report on Trafficking in Persons is a useful resource facilitating information-sharing on the nature, scope and trends of trafficking in persons, as well as *modi operandi* of traffickers, and encourages Member States to submit to the Office information on patterns, forms and flows of trafficking in persons for purposes of compiling future global reports;

55. *Emphasizes* the importance of preventing and combating all forms of trafficking in persons, and in this regard expresses its concern about the activities of transnational and national organized criminal groups and others who profit from such crimes, including for the purpose of organ removal, and calls upon Member States to consider ratifying or acceding to, and for States parties, in accordance with their obligations, to fully and effectively implement the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, as well as to strengthen national efforts to combat all forms of trafficking in persons and to protect and assist the victims of trafficking in accordance with all relevant legal obligations and in collaboration with international organizations, civil society and the private sector, and in this regard calls upon the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue its technical assistance to Member States in accordance with the Protocol;

56. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to enhance its technical assistance to Member States, upon request, to strengthen international cooperation in preventing and combating terrorism, including the phenomenon of travelling, returning and relocating foreign terrorist fighters, especially with regard to extradition and mutual legal assistance, and its financial sources, through the facilitation of the ratification and implementation of the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism, in close consultation and cooperation with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism (the Counter-Terrorism Committee) and its Executive Directorate, as well as to contribute to the work of the Office of Counter-Terrorism, established in accordance with resolution 71/291, and of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities, and invites Member States to provide the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with appropriate resources for its mandate;

57. *Urges* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide, within its mandate, technical assistance to Member States, upon their request, to combat money-laundering and the financing of terrorism through the Global Programme against Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism, in accordance with United Nations-related instruments and international standards, including, where applicable, standards and relevant initiatives of regional, interregional and multilateral organizations and intergovernmental bodies against money-laundering, inter alia and as appropriate, the Financial Action Task Force, in accordance with national legislation;



58. *Notes with appreciation* the progress made by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in coordination with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other institutions, on the development of a methodology to produce estimates of the total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows, and encourages the Office, within its relevant mandates and in cooperation with Member States, to continue its work on studying illicit financial flows related to criminal activities, in line with this methodology;

59. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide, upon request and without prejudice to the competence of the Office of Counter-Terrorism as set out in the report of the Secretary-General of 3 April 2017,<sup>1053</sup> technical assistance for building the capacity of Member States in the development and implementation of assistance and support programmes for victims of terrorism, including victims of gender-based violence committed by terrorists, in accordance with relevant national legislation, human rights and applicable international law, with emphasis on the particular needs of women and children, and takes note in this regard of the *Model Legislative Provisions to Support the Needs and Protect the Rights of Victims of Terrorism*, developed by the Office together with the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Office of Counter-Terrorism;

60. *Encourages* Member States to enhance the effectiveness of countering criminal threats to the tourism sector, including terrorist threats, through, when appropriate, the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other relevant international organizations, in cooperation with the World Tourism Organization and the private sector;

61. *Affirms* that attacks intentionally directed against buildings dedicated to religion, education, art, science or charitable purposes, or historic monuments, or hospitals and places where the sick and wounded are collected, may amount to war crimes, stresses the importance of holding accountable perpetrators of attacks intentionally directed against the above-mentioned buildings, provided that they are not military objectives, and calls upon all States to take appropriate action to this end within their jurisdiction in accordance with applicable international law;

62. *Urges* States parties to consider using the international cooperation provisions of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the United Nations Convention against Corruption, in applicable and appropriate cases, to investigate and prosecute the smuggling of commercial goods;

63. *Urges* States parties to make effective use of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime for broad cooperation in preventing and combating all forms and aspects of trafficking in cultural property and related offences, including money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, especially in returning such confiscated proceeds of crime or property to their legitimate owners, in accordance with article 14, paragraph 2, of the Convention;

64. *Encourages* States parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime to promptly notify countries of origin when objects that may be cultural property removed from their territory are identified, and to exchange information and statistical data on all forms and aspects of trafficking in cultural property and related offences, and reaffirms in this regard the importance of the International Guidelines for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses with Respect to Trafficking in Cultural Property and Other Related Offences, as adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/196 on the International Guidelines, and resolution 11/4 of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, entitled “Strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to protect cultural property, especially with regard to its trafficking in any situations, including in the context of all armed conflicts and natural disasters”;

65. *Urges* Member States to introduce effective national and international measures to prevent and combat illicit trafficking in cultural property, including publicizing legislation, international guidelines and related technical background documents, and offering special training for police, customs and border services, and invites Member States to make trafficking in cultural property and related offences, including stealing from and looting of archaeological and other cultural sites, a serious crime, as defined in article 2 (b) of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;

66. *Also urges* Member States to take decisive steps at the national level to prevent, combat and eradicate the illegal trade in wildlife, on both the supply and demand sides, including by strengthening the legislation necessary for the prevention, investigation and prosecution of such illegal trade, as well as by strengthening enforcement and

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<sup>1053</sup> [A/71/858](#).

criminal justice responses, in accordance with national legislation and international law, acknowledging that the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime can provide valuable technical assistance in this regard;

67. *Calls upon* Member States to make illicit trafficking in protected species of wild fauna and flora and other crimes that affect the environment, such as trafficking in wildlife, timber and hazardous waste, involving organized criminal groups a serious crime in accordance with their national legislation and with article 2 (b) of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;

68. *Also calls upon* Member States to develop or amend national legislation, as necessary and appropriate, in accordance with fundamental principles of their domestic law, so that crimes that affect the environment falling within the scope of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime are treated as predicate offences, as defined in the Convention and as mandated in its article 6, for the purposes of money-laundering offences and are actionable under domestic legislation on proceeds of crime, so that assets derived from crimes that affect the environment can be seized, confiscated and disposed of;

69. *Encourages* States parties to provide one another with the broadest possible cooperation, including mutual legal assistance, in preventing, investigating and prosecuting transnational organized crimes that affect the environment and related offences covered by the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto;

70. *Calls upon* Member States to take appropriate and effective measures to prevent and combat trafficking in timber, hazardous waste and other wastes, precious metals, stones and other minerals by organized criminal groups, including, where appropriate, the adoption and effective implementation of the necessary legislation for the prevention, investigation and prosecution of such crimes;

71. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, within its mandate, and in cooperation with relevant competent intergovernmental organizations, to provide technical assistance and capacity-building to Member States, upon request, for the purposes of supporting their efforts to effectively prevent and combat crimes that affect the environment, as well as corruption and money-laundering related to such crimes;

72. *Strongly encourages* Member States, in accordance with their national legislation, to improve and enhance the collection, quality, availability and analysis of data on crimes that affect the environment, consider undertaking national statistical capacity-building in this regard and share such data on a voluntary basis with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, consistent with its mandate, in order to strengthen research and analysis on global trends and patterns in crimes that affect the environment, including trafficking in wildlife, and to improve the effectiveness of strategies aimed at preventing and combating them;

73. *Encourages* Member States to continue to support the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in providing tailor-made technical assistance, within its existing mandate, to enhance the capacity of affected States, upon their request, to combat piracy and other forms of crime committed at sea, including by assisting Member States in creating an effective law enforcement response and strengthening their judicial capacity;

74. *Notes with appreciation* the past work, results and recommendations of the open-ended intergovernmental Expert Group to Conduct a Comprehensive Study on Cybercrime, a useful forum for practitioners to exchange best practices and experiences;

75. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen their efforts in preventing and combating cybercrime and all forms of criminal misuse of information and communications technologies, and to enhance international cooperation involving electronic evidence in this regard;

76. *Also encourages* Member States to strengthen their efforts in preventing and combating all forms of child sexual exploitation and abuse, and in this regard reiterates its request to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide technical assistance and capacity-building activities, upon request, in preventing and combating child sexual exploitation and abuse, both online and offline;

77. *Notes with appreciation* the progress of the work of the Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes, including the holding of the Ad Hoc Committee's fourth, fifth and sixth negotiating sessions from 9 to 20 January, from 11 to 21 April and from 21 August to 1 September 2023, respectively, encourages Member States



to continue to engage in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee, and further encourages the participation of relevant stakeholders, in line with the road map and mode of work of the Ad Hoc Committee approved at its first session;

78. *Notes* that, where applicable and without prejudice to the positions of non-States parties, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition are among the principal legal instruments to prevent and combat the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms and their parts and ammunition;

79. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to assist Member States, upon request, in combating the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, and to support them in their efforts to address the links with other forms of transnational organized crime, through, inter alia, legislative assistance, technical support, improved data collection and analysis and strengthened national statistical systems, and in this respect invites Member States to provide the Office with relevant information and, consistent with domestic law, suitably disaggregated data;

80. *Encourages* Member States to implement resolution 11/6 of 21 October 2022 of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, entitled “Strengthening international cooperation to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition”,<sup>1054</sup> as well as Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 65/2, entitled “Strengthening international cooperation to address the links between illicit drug trafficking and illicit firearms trafficking”;

81. *Urges* Member States to exchange good practices and experiences of practitioners who are involved in combating illicit trafficking in firearms and to consider the use of available tools, including marking and record-keeping, to facilitate the tracing of firearms and, where possible, their parts and components and ammunition, in order to enhance criminal investigations into illicit trafficking in firearms;

82. *Urges* States parties to the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition to reinforce their control measures in line with the Protocol and other relevant international legal instruments to which they are party, and seek the support and cooperation of manufacturers, dealers, importers, exporters, brokers and commercial carriers of firearms, their parts and components and ammunition with a view to increasing the effectiveness of import, export and transit controls, including, where appropriate, border controls, and of police and customs transborder cooperation, and takes note of the first United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime *Global Study on Firearms Trafficking*;

83. *Notes* the results of the tenth meeting of the Working Group on Firearms, held in Vienna from 3 to 5 May 2023, and invites States parties to take measures, as appropriate and consistent with their domestic laws, to implement the recommendations resulting from the Working Group meetings, in order to contribute to strengthening international cooperation against the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms;

84. *Calls upon* Member States to intensify all efforts to address the world drug problem, based upon the principle of common and shared responsibility and through a comprehensive and balanced approach, including through more effective bilateral, regional and international cooperation among judicial and law enforcement authorities, in accordance with international law, to counter the involvement of organized criminal groups in illicit drug production and trafficking and related criminal activities and to take steps to reduce the violence that accompanies drug trafficking;

85. *Recommends* that Member States, as appropriate to their national contexts, adopt a comprehensive and integrated approach to crime prevention and criminal justice reform, based on baseline assessments, regular data collection and analysis, and focusing on all sectors of and linkages within the justice system, and develop crime prevention policies, strategies and programmes, including ones that focus on early prevention by using multidisciplinary and participatory approaches, in close cooperation with all stakeholders, including civil society, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide technical assistance, upon request, to Member States for this purpose;

86. *Reiterates its invitation* to Member States to gradually adopt the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes and to strengthen national statistical systems of criminal justice, requests the United Nations

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<sup>1054</sup> See [CTOC/COP/2022/9](#), sect. I.A.

Office on Drugs and Crime, within its existing mandate, to continue to strengthen the regular collection, analysis and dissemination of accurate, reliable, timely and comparable data and information, including, as appropriate, real time data, and data disaggregated by sex, age and other relevant criteria, and strongly encourages Member States to share such data and information with the Office;

87. *Takes note* of the global studies on the smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons, trafficking in firearms and intentional homicide, including on the gender-related killing of women and girls, that have been produced by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and thus provide data-driven analyses in support of policy development at the national and international levels, and requests the Office to continue to develop, in close cooperation with Member States, technical and methodological tools and trend analyses and studies to enhance knowledge of crime trends and support Member States in designing appropriate responses in specific areas of crime, in particular in their transnational dimension and in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals, taking into account the need to make the best possible use of existing resources;

88. *Encourages* Member States to take relevant measures, as appropriate to their national contexts, to ensure the diffusion, use and application of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, including the consideration and, where they deem it necessary, dissemination of existing manuals, handbooks and capacity-building material, including e-learning training materials, developed and published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

89. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in collaboration and close consultation with Member States and within existing resources, to continue to support the enhancement of capacity and skills in the field of forensic sciences, including the setting of standards, and the development of technical assistance material for training, such as manuals, compilations of useful practices and guidelines and scientific and forensic reference material, for law enforcement officials and prosecution authorities, and to promote and facilitate the establishment and sustainability of regional networks of forensic science providers in order to enhance their expertise and capacity to support criminal justice proceedings and prevent and combat transnational organized crime;

90. *Welcomes* the Kyoto Declaration, and requests the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in accordance with its mandate, to continue to implement the appropriate policy and operational measures for the follow-up to the Kyoto Declaration, including through the holding of intersessional thematic discussions to facilitate the sharing of information, good practices and lessons learned among Member States and relevant stakeholders, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources;

91. *Calls upon* all Member States to actively participate in the follow-up to the Kyoto Declaration by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and to be actively engaged in the preparations for the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in 2026;

92. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth and eightieth sessions on the implementation of the mandates of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, reflecting also emerging policy issues and possible responses;

93. *Decides* to consider the question of strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity, at its eightieth session.

#### RESOLUTION 78/234

Adopted at the 50th (resumed) plenary meeting, on 22 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 110 to 16, with 39 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/478, para. 33)<sup>1055</sup>

\* *In favour:* Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius,

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<sup>1055</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by Cuba (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China) and the Russian Federation.

Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe

*Against:* Australia, Austria, Canada, Croatia, Czechia, France, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Nauru, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Slovakia, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Abstaining:* Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia, South Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tonga, Ukraine

**78/234. A global call for concrete action for the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* all its previous resolutions on the comprehensive follow-up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference,<sup>1056</sup> in particular its resolutions [66/144](#) of 19 December 2011, [67/155](#) of 20 December 2012, [76/226](#) of 24 December 2021 and [77/205](#) of 15 December 2022, as well as its resolutions [75/314](#) of 2 August 2021 and [76/1](#) of 22 September 2021, and in this regard underlining the imperative need for their full and effective implementation,

*Recalling also* the suffering of the victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and the need to honour their memory,

*Calling upon* States to honour the memory of victims of the historical injustices of slavery, the slave trade, including the transatlantic slave trade, colonialism and apartheid,

*Stressing* that the outcome of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance has the same status as the outcomes of all the major United Nations conferences, summits and special sessions in the human rights and social fields, and that the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action remains a solid basis and the only instructive outcome of the World Conference, which prescribes comprehensive measures for combating all the scourges of racism and adequate remedies for victims, and noting with concern the lack of effective implementation thereof,

*Expressing deep concern* at emerging obstacles to the enjoyment of the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief<sup>1057</sup> and at instances of intolerance, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons based on religion or belief, inter alia, the increasing number of related acts of violence, and recalling that the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action calls upon States, in opposing all forms of racism, to recognize the need to counter antisemitism, anti-Arabism and Islamophobia worldwide,

*Alarmed* at the global rise in hate speech, constituting incitement to racial discrimination, hostility and violence, stressing the importance of addressing it, in accordance with international law, and in this regard welcoming the observance of 18 June as the International Day for Countering Hate Speech<sup>1058</sup> and noting the issuance of the United Nations Guidance Note on Addressing and Countering COVID-19-related Hate Speech on 11 May 2020,

*Underlining* the need to promote tolerance, inclusion and respect for diversity and the need to seek common ground among and within civilizations in order to address common challenges to humanity that threaten shared values, universal human rights and the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, through cooperation, partnership and inclusion,

<sup>1056</sup> See [A/CONF.189/12](#) and [A/CONF.189/12/Corr.1](#), chap. I.

<sup>1057</sup> Universal Declaration of Human Rights, art. 18 (see resolution [217 A \(III\)](#)).

<sup>1058</sup> Resolution [75/309](#).

*Alarmed* at the spread in many parts of the world of various racist extremist movements based on ideologies that seek to promote nationalist, right-wing agendas and racial superiority, and stressing that these practices fuel racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

*Deploring* the ongoing and resurgent scourges of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in many regions of the world, often targeting migrants and refugees, as well as people of African descent, expressing concern that some political leaders and parties have supported such an environment, and in this context expressing its support for migrants and refugees in the context of the severe discrimination that they may face,

*Reaffirming* the necessity of eliminating racial discrimination against migrants, including migrant workers, in relation to issues such as employment, social services, including education and health, and access to justice, and that their treatment must be in accordance with international human rights instruments and free from racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

*Deploring* the recent incidents of excessive use of force and other human rights violations by law enforcement officers against peaceful demonstrators defending the rights of Africans and of people of African descent, and recalling Human Rights Council resolutions [44/20](#) of 17 July 2020,<sup>1059</sup> [47/21](#) of 13 July 2021,<sup>1060</sup> [48/18](#) of 11 October 2021,<sup>1061</sup> [51/32](#) of 7 October 2022<sup>1062</sup> and [54/27](#) of 12 October 2023,<sup>1063</sup>

*Stressing* that law enforcement officials, in the performance of their duties, shall respect and protect human dignity and maintain and uphold the human rights of all persons,

*Recognizing* the multiple and aggravated forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, which may exacerbate individuals' experiences with police violence,

*Recognizing also* that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, as well as apartheid, have deep negative impacts on the enjoyment of human rights, and therefore require a united and comprehensive response from States,

*Expressing concern* at the disruption to economies and societies caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and its negative impact on the enjoyment of human rights around the world, disproportionately affecting certain individuals, including those facing racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, which the pandemic has highlighted and exposed, including underlying deep and long-standing structural inequalities and fundamental problems in various areas of social, economic, civil and political life, and its exacerbation of existing inequalities, and recalling that systemic and structural racism and racial discrimination further exacerbate inequality in access to health care and treatment, leading to racial disparities in health outcomes and a higher rate of mortality and morbidity among individuals and groups facing racial discrimination,

*Noting with concern* the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the existing inequalities within our societies and regretting that, in that context, persons belonging to racial and ethnic minorities and to other groups, including Asians and people of Asian descent, especially women and girls, have been victims of racist violence, threats of violence, discrimination and stigmatization,

*Recalling* the three Decades for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination previously declared by the General Assembly, and regretting that the Programmes of Action for those Decades were not fully implemented and that their objectives have yet to be attained,

*Noting* that 10 December 2023 will mark the seventy-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights<sup>1064</sup> and that 25 June 2023 marked the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,<sup>1065</sup> and stressing in this regard the importance of fully integrating the matter

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<sup>1059</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-fifth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/75/53)*, chap. V, sect. A.

<sup>1060</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/76/53)*, chap. VII, sect. A.

<sup>1061</sup> *Ibid.*, *Supplement No. 53A (A/76/53/Add.1)*, chap. IV, sect. A.

<sup>1062</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/77/53/Add.1)*, chap. III, sect. A.

<sup>1063</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/78/53/Add.1)*, chap. III, sect. A.

<sup>1064</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>1065</sup> [A/CONF.157/24 \(Part I\)](#), chap. III.

of combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance into these commemorations and their implementation,

*Stressing* in this respect the need to also address negative stereotypes, stigmatization and the assigning of identity based on race as essential in the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

*Reiterating* that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and have the potential to contribute constructively to the development and well-being of their societies, and that any doctrine of racial superiority is scientifically false, morally condemnable, socially unjust and dangerous and must be rejected, together with theories that attempt to determine the existence of separate human races,

*Underlining* the intensity, magnitude and organized nature of slavery and the slave trade, including the transatlantic slave trade, and the associated historical injustices, as well as the untold suffering caused by colonialism and apartheid, and that Africans and people of African descent, Asians and people of Asian descent and Indigenous Peoples continue to be victims, and acknowledging that the ongoing effects must be remedied,

*Acknowledging* the efforts and initiatives undertaken by States to prohibit racial discrimination and racial segregation and to engender the full enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, as well as civil and political rights,

*Emphasizing* that, despite efforts in this regard, millions of human beings continue to be victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including their contemporary forms and manifestations, some of which manifest in violent forms,

*Welcoming* the efforts made by civil society in support of the follow-up mechanisms in the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action,

*Recalling* the appointment of the five independent eminent experts by the Secretary-General on 16 June 2003, pursuant to General Assembly resolution [56/266](#) of 27 March 2002, with the mandate to follow up on the implementation of the provisions of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and to make appropriate recommendations thereon,

*Underlining* the primacy of the political will, international cooperation and adequate funding at the national, regional and international levels needed to address all forms and manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance for the successful implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action,

*Recalling* its resolution [2142 \(XXI\)](#) of 26 October 1966, in which it proclaimed 21 March as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination,

*Recalling also* its resolution [62/122](#) of 17 December 2007, in which it designated 25 March as the annual International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade,

*Recalling further*, in the above context, the erection of the permanent memorial for the victims of slavery and the slave trade, including the transatlantic slave trade, the *Ark of Return*, based on the theme “Acknowledge the tragedy, consider the legacy, lest we forget”,

*Welcoming* the call upon all the former colonial Powers for reparations, consistent with paragraphs 157 and 158 of the Durban Programme of Action, to redress the historical injustices of slavery and the slave trade, including the transatlantic slave trade,

*Recognizing and affirming* that the global fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and all their abhorrent and contemporary forms and manifestations is a matter of priority for the international community,

## I

### International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

1. *Reaffirms* the paramount importance of universal adherence to and the full and effective implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,<sup>1066</sup> adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution [2106 A \(XX\)](#) of 21 December 1965, in addressing the scourges of racism and racial discrimination;
2. *Calls upon* States that have not done so to accede to and/or ratify the Convention, and States parties to consider making the declaration under article 14 of the Convention;
3. *Calls upon* all States that have not yet done so, and consistent with paragraph 75 of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, to consider withdrawing their reservations to article 4 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;
4. *Underlines*, in the above context, that the provisions of the Convention do not respond effectively to contemporary manifestations of racial discrimination, in particular in relation to xenophobia and related intolerance, which is recognized as the rationale behind the convening of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in 2001;
5. *Takes note* of the acknowledgement by the Human Rights Council and its subsidiary structures of the existence of both procedural and substantive gaps in the Convention, which must be filled as a matter of urgency, necessity and priority;
6. *Expresses its concern* at the lack of progress in the elaboration of complementary standards to the Convention to fill existing gaps through the development of new normative standards aimed at combating all forms of contemporary and resurgent scourges of racism;
7. *Recalls* Human Rights Council resolution [34/36](#) of 24 March 2017,<sup>1067</sup> in which the Council requested the Chair-Rapporteur of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of Complementary Standards to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination to ensure the commencement of the negotiations on the draft additional protocol to the Convention criminalizing acts of a racist and xenophobic nature during the tenth session of the Ad Hoc Committee, and takes note of the report of the thirteenth session of the Committee in this regard;
8. *Requests* the Chair-Rapporteur of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of Complementary Standards to present a progress report to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session;

## II

### International Decade for People of African Descent

9. *Recalls* the proclamation of the International Decade for People of African Descent, as contained in its resolution [68/237](#) of 23 December 2013, and the celebratory launch of the Decade on 10 December 2014;
10. *Also recalls* the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent, as adopted in its resolution [69/16](#) of 18 November 2014;
11. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent, through its resolution [75/314](#) of 2 August 2021, which determines its mandate and composition, as a consultative mechanism for people of African descent and other relevant stakeholders and as a platform for improving the safety and quality of life and livelihoods of people of African descent, as well as an advisory body to the Human Rights Council;
12. *Also welcomes* the convening of the first two sessions of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent and the large participation of civil society and people of African descent from around the world;
13. *Notes with concern* the limited resources available in support of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent;

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<sup>1066</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 660, No. 9464.

<sup>1067</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/72/53)*, chap. IV, sect. A.



14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to enhance the operational and programmatic support provided to the Permanent Forum secretariat, in particular to fully support the mandate of the Permanent Forum, including in the logistical organization of the annual session;

15. *Requests* the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action to devote at least half of its annual session to the elaboration of a draft United Nations declaration on the promotion and full respect of the human rights of people of African descent, and also requests the Intergovernmental Working Group to present a status report on the elaboration of the draft declaration to be considered by the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session;<sup>1068</sup>

16. *Invites* the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent and the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, in accordance with their respective mandates, to contribute to the elaboration of a draft United Nations declaration on the promotion and full respect of the human rights of people of African descent;

17. *Recalls* the draft programme of action for the International Decade for People of African Descent as an instructive framework in which all the initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life of people of African descent are anchored and which, if adopted, would contribute to the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent;

18. *Also recalls* that the Secretary-General will convene a final assessment of the Decade, to take place within the framework of a high-level international event, marking the closure of the Decade in 2024;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly, before the end of its eightieth session, on practical steps to be taken to make a Second International Decade effective;

20. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to take into consideration the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent, drafted by the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and adopted in resolution 69/16, and the theme of the International Decade for People of African Descent, “People of African descent: recognition, justice and development”, with a view to proclaiming the decade starting in 2025 the Second International Decade for People of African Descent;

21. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent<sup>1069</sup> and on a global call for concrete action for the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action;<sup>1070</sup>

22. *Acknowledges and profoundly regrets* the untold suffering and evils inflicted on millions of men and women and children as a result of slavery, the slave trade, the transatlantic slave trade, colonialism, apartheid, genocide and past tragedies, noting that some States have taken the initiative to apologize and have paid reparations, where appropriate, for grave and massive violations committed, further calls upon those that have not yet expressed remorse or presented apologies to find some way to contribute to the restoration of the dignity of victims, and calls upon all the relevant States that have not already done so to dispense reparatory justice, contributing to the development and recognition of the dignity of the affected States and their people;

23. *Takes note* of the report of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent,<sup>1071</sup> invites the Human Rights Council, through the Chair of the Working Group, to continue to submit a report on the work of the Working Group to the General Assembly, and in this regard invites the Chair of the Working Group to engage in an interactive dialogue with the Assembly under the item entitled “Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance” at its seventy-ninth session;

24. *Takes note with appreciation* of the proclamation of 31 August as the International Day for People of African Descent, and invites all Member States, all organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, the private sector and academia, as well as civil society, to observe the

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<sup>1068</sup> See resolution 69/16.

<sup>1069</sup> A/78/317.

<sup>1070</sup> A/78/197.

<sup>1071</sup> A/78/277.



International Day for People of African Descent in an appropriate manner, in accordance with its resolution [75/170](#) of 16 December 2020;

25. *Stresses* that everyone, including people and communities of African descent, should be able to participate in an inclusive manner and guide the design and implementation of processes that contribute to halting, reversing and repairing the lasting consequences and ongoing manifestations of systemic racism, and notably acknowledges the important role that young people have played and should continue to play in these processes;

26. *Encourages* States to examine the extent and impact of systemic racism and to adopt effective legal, policy and institutional measures that address racism beyond a summation of individualized acts, recommends that progress be measured according to indicators grounded in impact rather than intent, and further calls for the recognition of the impact of racial discrimination and inequality experienced by children and youth of African descent in all areas of life, including the administration of justice, law enforcement, education, health, family life and development;<sup>1072</sup>

27. *Welcomes* the establishment of an international independent expert mechanism, comprising three experts with law enforcement and human rights expertise, aimed at furthering transformative change for racial justice and equality in the context of law enforcement globally, especially where relating to the legacies of colonialism and the transatlantic slave trade in enslaved Africans, to investigate the responses of Governments to peaceful anti-racism protests and all violations of international human rights law and to contribute to accountability and redress for victims;

28. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Department of Global Communications of the Secretariat to continue awareness-raising efforts and public information campaigns in support of the International Decade for People of African Descent through the use of social networks and digital media, including the wide distribution of user-friendly, concise and accessible versions of material in this regard;

### III

#### Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

29. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide the resources necessary for the effective fulfilment of the mandates of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, the Group of Independent Eminent Experts on the Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of Complementary Standards and the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent, and in this regard to ensure the participation of experts in each session of those follow-up mechanisms in order to provide advice on the specific issues under discussion and assist the mechanisms in their deliberations and the adoption of action-oriented recommendations in relation to the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action;

30. *Recalls* Human Rights Council resolutions [43/1](#) and [47/21](#), and also recalls the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the promotion and protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Africans and of people of African descent against excessive use of force and other human rights violations by law enforcement officers and the annex thereto, entitled “Four-point Agenda towards Transformative Change for Racial Justice and Equality”, submitted pursuant to resolution [43/1](#);<sup>1073</sup>

31. *Stresses* the importance of consolidating all efforts aimed at combating racism under a single anti-racial discrimination unit, including on the issues of racial equality and justice;

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<sup>1072</sup> See [A/77/294](#).

<sup>1073</sup> [A/HRC/47/53](#).

#### IV

##### **Group of Independent Eminent Experts on the Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action**

32. *Welcomes* the report of the Group of Independent Eminent Experts on the Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action on its eighth session,<sup>1074</sup> and in this regard notes that the session was held from 8 to 12 August 2022;

33. *Recalls* its resolution [77/205](#) and the recommendations contained therein with regard to the Group of Independent Eminent Experts, and further agrees to limit the tenure of the Eminent Experts to four years, which may be renewed once, and that the current Experts will continue to serve until the appointment of new Experts is finalized;

34. *Also recalls* the request to the Secretary-General to appoint the five Eminent Experts, one from each region, from among candidates proposed by the President of the Human Rights Council, after consultation with the regional groups, in line with the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action<sup>1075</sup> and paragraph 13 of resolution [56/266](#), by the end of 2023;

35. *Requests* the five regional groups to nominate a candidate for appointment to the Group of Independent Eminent Experts in a timely fashion;

#### V

##### **Trust fund for the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination**

36. *Recalls* the establishment by the Secretary-General, in 1973, of the trust fund for the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination as a funding mechanism that has been utilized for the implementation of the activities of the three Decades for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination declared by the General Assembly, and in this regard appreciates the fact that the trust fund has also been utilized for the subsequent programmes and operational activities transcending the three Decades;

37. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include, in his report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session, a section outlining the progress in the implementation of paragraph 18 of its resolution [68/151](#) of 18 December 2013 regarding the revitalization of the trust fund for the purpose of ensuring the successful implementation of the activities of the International Decade for People of African Descent and enhancing the effectiveness of the comprehensive follow-up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action;

38. *Strongly appeals* to all Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and individuals, as well as other donors in a position to do so, to contribute generously to the trust fund, and to that end requests the Secretary-General to continue to undertake appropriate contacts and initiatives to encourage contributions;

#### VI

##### **Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance**

39. *Takes note* of the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,<sup>1076</sup> and encourages the Special Rapporteur, within her mandate, to continue to focus on the issues of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and incitement to hatred, which impede peaceful coexistence and harmony within societies, and to submit reports in this regard to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly;

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<sup>1074</sup> See [A/78/535](#).

<sup>1075</sup> [A/CONF.189/12](#), para. 191 (b).

<sup>1076</sup> [A/78/302](#).

40. *Reiterates its previous requests* to the Special Rapporteur to consider examining national models of mechanisms that measure racial equality and their value added in the eradication of racial discrimination and to report on such challenges, successes and best practices in her next report, and expresses concern at the lack of progress in this regard;

## VII

### Commemoration of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

41. *Takes note with appreciation* of the adoption of a political declaration aimed at mobilizing political will at the national, regional and international levels for the full and effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and its follow-up processes during a one day high-level meeting of the General Assembly, on 22 September 2021, commemorating the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, under the theme “Reparations, racial justice and equality for people of African descent”,<sup>1077</sup>

42. *Emphasizes* the critical importance of increasing public support for the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and the participation of civil society and other relevant stakeholders in its realization, and requests the United Nations system to strengthen its awareness-raising campaigns to increase the visibility of the message of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, its follow-up mechanisms and the work of the United Nations in the fight against racism;<sup>1078</sup>

43. *Invites* Member States, United Nations entities, international and regional organizations, civil society, including non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders to organize and support various high-visibility initiatives, aimed at effectively increasing awareness at all levels, to commemorate the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action;

44. *Requests* the Secretary-General to establish a programme of outreach, with the involvement of Member States and United Nations funds and programmes, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to appropriately commemorate the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action;

45. *Calls upon* Member States and the United Nations system to intensify efforts to widely distribute copies of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, and encourages efforts to ensure its translation and wide dissemination;

46. *Expresses its appreciation* for the continuing work of the mechanisms mandated to follow up on the World Conference and the Durban Review Conference;

## VIII

### Follow-up and implementation activities

47. *Acknowledges* the guidance and leadership role of the Human Rights Council, and encourages it to continue to oversee the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and the outcome documents of the Durban Review Conferences, including the commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action;

48. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to provide the Human Rights Council with all the support necessary for it to achieve its objectives in this regard;

49. *Welcomes* the further consideration by the Human Rights Council, at its fifty-fourth session, of the question of a multi-year programme of activities to provide for the renewed and strengthened outreach activities needed to inform and mobilize the global public in support of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and to strengthen awareness of the contribution that they have made in the struggle against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, in consultation with Member States, national human rights institutions, relevant civil society organizations and United Nations agencies, funds and programmes;

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<sup>1077</sup> Political declaration entitled “United against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance” (resolution 76/1).

<sup>1078</sup> See Human Rights Council resolution 51/32; see also A/77/233.

50. *Also welcomes* the efforts undertaken by the Human Rights Council, through its Advisory Committee, in preparing a study on appropriate ways and means of assessing the situation regarding racial equality, while identifying possible gaps and overlaps;

51. *Further welcomes* the commemorative event held on 21 March 2023 to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination;

52. *Takes note with appreciation* of the commemorative plenary meeting of the General Assembly held on 27 March 2023 to mark the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, on the theme “Fighting slavery’s legacy of racism through transformative education”;

53. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

54. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Human Rights Council to continue to convene annual commemorative meetings of the Assembly and the Council during the commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, with the appropriate focus and themes, and in this context encourages the participation of eminent personalities active in the struggle against racial discrimination, Member States and civil society organizations in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Assembly and the Council, respectively;

55. *Decides* to remain seized of this priority matter at its seventy-ninth session under the item entitled “Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance”.

#### RESOLUTION 78/235

Adopted at the 50th (resumed) plenary meeting, on 22 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee ([A/78/481/Add.2](#), para. 139)<sup>1079</sup>

#### 78/235. Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution [55/105](#) of 4 December 2000 concerning regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights,

*Recalling also* its resolutions [55/34](#) B of 20 November 2000 and [55/233](#) of 23 December 2000, section III of its resolution [55/234](#) of 23 December 2000, and its resolutions [56/253](#) of 24 December 2001 and [75/254](#) A to C of 31 December 2020,

*Recalling further* its resolutions [58/176](#) of 22 December 2003, [59/183](#) of 20 December 2004, [60/151](#) of 16 December 2005, [61/158](#) of 19 December 2006, [62/221](#) of 22 December 2007, [63/177](#) of 18 December 2008, [64/165](#) of 18 December 2009, [66/162](#) of 19 December 2011, [68/174](#) of 18 December 2013, [70/167](#) of 17 December 2015, [72/187](#) of 19 December 2017, [74/162](#) of 18 December 2019 and [76/171](#) of 16 December 2021 on the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa,

*Recalling* that the World Conference on Human Rights recommended that more resources be made available for the strengthening of regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights under the programme of technical cooperation in the field of human rights of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,<sup>1080</sup>

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<sup>1079</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Belarus, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cameroon (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Economic Community of Central African States), China, Costa Rica, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Haiti, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Qatar, Senegal, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda and United Republic of Tanzania.

<sup>1080</sup> See [A/CONF.157/24 \(Part I\)](#), chap. III.

## V. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Third Committee

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*Recalling also* the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,<sup>1081</sup>

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>1082</sup>

*Noting* the holding of the fifty-second, fifty-third, fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth ministerial meetings of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, in Libreville from 22 to 26 November 2021, in Yaoundé from 30 May to 4 June 2022, in Kintélé, Congo, from 12 to 16 January 2023, and in Sao Tome from 15 to 19 May 2023,

*Noting also* the operationalization of a far-reaching organizational change initiative in the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights with a view to better integrating work at Headquarters and in the field,<sup>1083</sup>

*Noting further* the security and humanitarian situation in the subregion, and in particular the challenges created by indiscriminate attacks and massive abuses of human rights by terrorist groups, including Boko Haram, against the civilian population in many countries of the Central African subregion and in the Lake Chad basin countries,

*Noting* that the effective presence of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the countries covered and continued dialogue with the authorities have generated an increased number of requests for assistance from States,

*Mindful* of the vastness and diversity of the needs in the field of human rights within the subregion, and taking into account the need for sufficient funding for the Centre to fully realize its significant function and crucial role in the subregion,

*Noting with concern* the negative effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the liquidity crisis of the Secretariat on the capacity of the Centre to deliver on some of its mandate,

*Emphasizing* the importance of sustainable development towards the enjoyment of all human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights, as well as civil and political rights, and stressing the importance of strengthening the work of the Centre in the area of economic, social and cultural rights,

1. *Welcomes* the activities of the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa at Yaoundé;
2. *Notes with satisfaction* the support provided to the Centre by the host country;
3. *Also notes with satisfaction* the increasing activities of the Centre and the improved cooperation between the Centre and the States members of the Economic Community of Central African States, and in this regard encourages the Centre, in delivering and reporting its activities, to give equal consideration to all of the countries covered and to all human rights, including civil and political as well as economic, social and cultural rights;
4. *Encourages* the Centre to take into account the requested activities, needs and demands of the countries of the subregion in the implementation of the strategic thematic priorities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;
5. *Notes with satisfaction* the engagement of the Centre in the area of human rights in development and in the economic sphere, through advocacy and the provision of guidance to States, private sector companies and businesses in the subregion, with a view to strengthening commitments to protect and/or respect human rights, and encourages the Centre to increase its support in this field;
6. *Requests* the Centre to enhance its work, within its mandate, in order to effectively assist all countries in Central Africa in promoting and protecting economic, social and cultural rights and addressing inequalities, bearing in mind that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated;
7. *Encourages* the Centre to continue to strengthen its cooperation and invest in relations with subregional organizations and bodies, including the African Union, the Economic Community of Central African States, the

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<sup>1081</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 36, addendum (A/56/36/Add.1).*

<sup>1082</sup> [A/78/298](#).

<sup>1083</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 36 (A/70/36)*, chap. III.

## V. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Third Committee

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United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa and the United Nations country teams, as well as with the peacekeeping missions of the subregion;

8. *Encourages* the Regional Representative and Director of the Centre to continue to hold regular briefings for the ambassadors of Central African States based in Geneva and Yaoundé, as well as in countries of the subregion during visits of the Regional Representative, with the aim of exchanging information on the activities of the Centre and charting its direction;

9. *Notes* the efforts of the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to ensure the full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly<sup>1084</sup> in order to provide sufficient funds and human resources for the missions of the Centre;

10. *Also notes* the Secretary-General's appeal to Member States in his report [A/78/298](#) to increase the regular budget allocations to the Centre, in particular in terms of human resources and funding for technical cooperation activities to assist the Centre in contributing to bolstering national human rights protection systems and to advancing progress towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals<sup>1085</sup> in Central Africa;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner for Human Rights to strengthen the capacity of the Centre, including through human resources from within the subregion, and to enhance support for the Centre so as to enable it to achieve greater results on the ground in terms of strengthening national human rights systems and moving more rapidly towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in Central Africa;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its eightieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including data on the evolution of the human and financial resources of the Centre since its establishment.

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<sup>1084</sup> Resolutions [61/158](#), [62/221](#), [63/177](#), [64/165](#), [72/187](#) and [74/162](#).

<sup>1085</sup> See resolution [70/1](#).



## VI. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Fifth Committee\*

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\* Unless otherwise stated, the draft resolutions recommended in the reports were submitted by the Chair or another officer of the Bureau of the Committee.

**RESOLUTION 78/2**

Adopted at the 16th plenary meeting, on 5 October 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/383, para. 7)

**78/2. Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations: requests under Article 19 of the Charter**

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* chapter V of the report of the Committee on Contributions on its eighty-third session,<sup>1</sup>

*Reaffirming* the obligation of Member States under Article 17 of the Charter of the United Nations to bear the expenses of the Organization as apportioned by the General Assembly,

1. *Reaffirms* its role in accordance with the provisions of Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations and the advisory role of the Committee on Contributions in accordance with rule 160 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly;

2. *Also reaffirms* its resolution 54/237 C of 23 December 1999;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to bring to the attention of Member States the deadline specified in resolution 54/237 C, including through an early announcement in the *Journal of the United Nations* and through direct communication;

4. *Urges* all Member States requesting exemption under Article 19 of the Charter to submit as much information as possible in support of their requests and to consider submitting such information in advance of the deadline specified in resolution 54/237 C so as to enable the collation of any additional detailed information that may be necessary;

5. *Agrees* that the failure of the Comoros, Sao Tome and Principe and Somalia to pay the full minimum amount necessary to avoid the application of Article 19 of the Charter was due to conditions beyond their control;

6. *Decides* that the Comoros, Sao Tome and Principe and Somalia shall be permitted to vote in the General Assembly until the end of its seventy-eighth session.

**RESOLUTION 78/242**

Adopted at the 50th (resumed) plenary meeting, on 22 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/644, para. 6)

**78/242. Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 52/212 B of 31 March 1998 and its decision 57/573 of 20 December 2002,

*Recalling also* its resolutions 77/253 A of 30 December 2022 and 77/253 B of 30 June 2023,

*Having considered*, for the period ended 31 December 2022, the financial reports and audited financial statements and the reports of the Board of Auditors on the United Nations,<sup>2</sup> the International Trade Centre,<sup>3</sup> the United Nations University,<sup>4</sup> the United Nations Development Programme,<sup>5</sup> the United Nations Capital Development Fund,<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 11 (A/78/11).*

<sup>2</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 5, vol. I (A/78/5 (Vol. I)).*

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. III (A/78/5 (Vol. III)).

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. IV (A/78/5 (Vol. IV)).

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 5A (A/78/5/Add.1).

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 5B (A/78/5/Add.2).

the United Nations Children's Fund,<sup>7</sup> the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East,<sup>8</sup> the United Nations Institute for Training and Research,<sup>9</sup> the voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,<sup>10</sup> the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme,<sup>11</sup> the United Nations Population Fund,<sup>12</sup> the United Nations Human Settlements Programme,<sup>13</sup> the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,<sup>14</sup> the United Nations Office for Project Services,<sup>15</sup> the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women),<sup>16</sup> the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals<sup>17</sup> and the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund,<sup>18</sup> the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the concise summary of the principal findings and conclusions contained in the reports of the Board of Auditors for the annual financial period 2022,<sup>19</sup> the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors contained in its reports on the United Nations<sup>20</sup> and on the United Nations funds and programmes<sup>21</sup> for the year ended 31 December 2022, the report of the Chief Executive of Pension Administration and the Representative of the Secretary-General for the investment of the assets of the Fund on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors contained in its report for the year ended 31 December 2022 on the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund<sup>22</sup> and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,<sup>23</sup>

1. *Takes note* of the audit opinions and findings, and endorses the recommendations, contained in the reports of the Board of Auditors;

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

3. *Reaffirms* that the Board of Auditors shall be completely independent and solely responsible for the conduct of audits;

4. *Decides* to consider further the report of the Board of Auditors on the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals under the agenda item relating to the Mechanism;

5. *Also decides* to consider further the report of the Board of Auditors on the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund under the agenda item relating to the Pension Fund;

6. *Commends* the Board of Auditors for the continued high quality of its reports and the streamlined format thereof;

7. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors contained in its reports for the year ended 31 December 2022 on the United Nations and on the United Nations funds and programmes;

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<sup>7</sup> Ibid., *Supplement No. 5C* (A/78/5/Add.3).

<sup>8</sup> Ibid., *Supplement No. 5D* (A/78/5/Add.4).

<sup>9</sup> Ibid., *Supplement No. 5E* (A/78/5/Add.5).

<sup>10</sup> Ibid., *Supplement No. 5F* (A/78/5/Add.6).

<sup>11</sup> Ibid., *Supplement No. 5G* (A/78/5/Add.7).

<sup>12</sup> Ibid., *Supplement No. 5H* (A/78/5/Add.8 and A/78/5/Add.8/Corr.1).

<sup>13</sup> Ibid., *Supplement No. 5I* (A/78/5/Add.9).

<sup>14</sup> Ibid., *Supplement No. 5J* (A/78/5/Add.10).

<sup>15</sup> Ibid., *Supplement No. 5K* (A/78/5/Add.11).

<sup>16</sup> Ibid., *Supplement No. 5L* (A/78/5/Add.12).

<sup>17</sup> Ibid., *Supplement No. 5O* (A/78/5/Add.15).

<sup>18</sup> Ibid., *Supplement No. 5P* (A/78/5/Add.16).

<sup>19</sup> A/78/215.

<sup>20</sup> A/78/333.

<sup>21</sup> A/78/333/Add.1.

<sup>22</sup> A/78/323.

<sup>23</sup> A/78/578.

8. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General and the executive heads of the funds and programmes of the United Nations to ensure full implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors and the related recommendations of the Advisory Committee in a prompt and timely manner, to continue to hold programme managers accountable for the non-implementation of recommendations and to effectively address the root causes of the problems highlighted by the Board;

9. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to provide in his reports on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors a full explanation for the delays in the implementation of the recommendations of the Board, in particular those recommendations not yet fully implemented that are two or more years old;

10. *Also reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to indicate in future reports an expected time frame for the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, as well as the priorities for their implementation and the office holders to be held accountable;

11. *Notes* the findings of the Board of Auditors regarding cost-recovery resources, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to report detailed information on this question in his budget reports, both for regular and for peacekeeping budgets.

### RESOLUTION 78/243

Adopted at the 50th (resumed) plenary meeting, on 22 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee ([A/78/643](#), para. 7)

#### 78/243. Information and communications technology strategy

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* section II of its resolution [60/283](#) of 7 July 2006, its resolutions [63/262](#) of 24 December 2008, [63/269](#) of 7 April 2009 and [64/243](#) of 24 December 2009, section XVII of its resolution [65/259](#) of 24 December 2010, its resolution [66/246](#) of 24 December 2011, section I of its resolution [67/254](#) A of 12 April 2013, section XV of its resolution [68/247](#) A of 27 December 2013, section II of its resolution [69/262](#) of 29 December 2014, paragraph 107 of its resolution [70/247](#) of 23 December 2015, section V of its resolution [70/248](#) A of 23 December 2015, section II of its resolution [70/238](#) B of 1 April 2016, section III of its resolution [71/272](#) B of 6 April 2017, its resolution [71/281](#) of 6 April 2017, section I of its resolution [72/262](#) C of 5 July 2018, its resolution [72/266](#) B of 5 July 2018, its resolution [76/245](#) of 24 December 2021 and its decision 77/548 B of 18 April 2023,

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General on the information and communications technology strategy<sup>24</sup> and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,<sup>25</sup>

*Having also considered* the note by the Secretary-General drawing attention to the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on cybersecurity in the United Nations system organizations<sup>26</sup> and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon,<sup>27</sup>

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Takes note* of paragraph 5 of the report of the Advisory Committee, recalls that the Secretary-General has not submitted a final, full and accurate report on the implementation of the previous information and communications technology strategy, and requests that the detailed time-bound implementation road map for the information and communications technology strategy include lessons learned;

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<sup>24</sup> [A/77/489](#).

<sup>25</sup> [A/77/7/Add.22](#).

<sup>26</sup> [A/77/88](#).

<sup>27</sup> [A/77/88/Add.1](#).

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4. *Recalls* paragraph 6 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and requests the Secretary-General to make every effort to implement expeditiously the recommendations of the oversight bodies and effectively address the root causes underlying, and to provide updated information on the status of, open recommendations of the oversight bodies in his next report on information and communications technology;

5. *Acknowledges* the information and communications technology strategy of the Secretary-General as a critical enabler of the mandates of the Organization that is intended to define the high-level strategic vision, principles and expected outcomes of information and communications technology activities across the Secretariat, and encourages the Secretary-General to strengthen system-wide interoperability and potential synergies;

6. *Takes note* of paragraph 26 of the report of the Advisory Committee;

7. *Recalls* paragraphs 12 and 44 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and requests the Secretary-General to submit refined elements of the information and communications technology strategy by no later than the seventy-ninth session that include:

(a) More clarity and precision on the vision and intended objectives of the strategy, identifying for each objective concrete actions to achieve them, taking into account current status, existing and envisaged challenges and risks, including cybersecurity, lessons learned and interlinkages with related initiatives;

(b) Key performance indicators, deliverables and a clear and effective governance and accountability framework that clarifies the balance between central control and operational freedom;

(c) Estimates of the resources needed for the implementation of the strategy made with a view to rationalizing the allocation of existing information and communications technology expenditures and avoiding duplication and overlaps;

(d) The Secretary-General's efforts in leveraging the power of technology innovation in the pursuit of the objectives of the Organization in particular the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;<sup>28</sup>

(e) An outreach component to promote awareness of the human resources and vendor opportunities, including from developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

8. *Also recalls* paragraph 19 of the report of the Advisory Committee, emphasizes that coherence of information and communications technology deployment throughout the Organization is critical to deliver mandates and requires stronger and more unified governance, and stresses that the authority, responsibilities and accountability of the Chief Information Technology Officer and delegation of authority principles will be fully clarified in the governance framework of the refined strategy;

9. *Further recalls* paragraph 23 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and requests the Secretary-General to clarify the elements of the information and communications technology governance framework, present a well-defined accountability framework, and provide clear explanations of how effective monitoring and compliance will be ensured in the context of the envisaged balance between central control and operational freedom;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure, as appropriate, that there is complementarity and no duplication between the Office of Information and Communications Technology, the Enterprise Resource Planning Solution Division, the United Nations Office for Project Services and the United Nations International Computing Centre;

11. *Emphasizes* the sensitivity and need for security of the data and information held by the Organization both at Headquarters and in the field, and stresses that data protection shall be at the core of the implementation by the Secretary-General of the information and communications technology strategy, and requests the Secretary-General to implement urgently critical measures to that end in the context of the refined strategy;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that a comprehensive risk analysis exercise is undertaken with regard to the implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit regarding cybersecurity;

13. *Notes with appreciation* the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on cybersecurity in the United Nations system organizations, and requests the Secretary-General and invites the executive heads of the member organizations, as appropriate, to implement the relevant recommendations;

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<sup>28</sup> Resolution 70/1.

14. *Notes* the discussions on terminology held in the Fifth Committee on this question.

#### RESOLUTION 78/244

Adopted at the 50th (resumed) plenary meeting, on 22 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/641, para. 17)

#### 78/244. Programme planning

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 37/234 of 21 December 1982, 38/227 A of 20 December 1983, 41/213 of 19 December 1986, 55/234 of 23 December 2000, 56/253 of 24 December 2001, 57/282 of 20 December 2002, 58/268 and 58/269 of 23 December 2003, 59/275 of 23 December 2004, 60/257 of 8 May 2006, 61/235 of 22 December 2006, 62/224 of 22 December 2007, 63/247 of 24 December 2008, 64/229 of 22 December 2009, 65/244 of 24 December 2010, 66/8 of 11 November 2011, 67/236 of 24 December 2012, 68/20 of 4 December 2013, 69/17 of 18 November 2014, 70/8 of 13 November 2015, 71/6 of 27 October 2016, 72/9 of 17 November 2017, 72/266 A of 24 December 2017, 72/266 B of 5 July 2018, section III of its resolution 72/262 C of 5 July 2018 and its resolutions 73/269 of 22 December 2018, 74/251 of 27 December 2019, 75/243 of 31 December 2020, 76/236 of 24 December 2021 and 77/254 of 30 December 2022,

*Recalling also* the terms of reference of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, as outlined in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX) of 14 May 1976,

*Recalling further* the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation,<sup>29</sup> by which the relevant programmes and subprogrammes of the proposed strategic framework shall be reviewed by the relevant sectoral, functional and regional intergovernmental bodies, if possible during the regular cycle of their meetings,

*Having considered* the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its sixty-third session,<sup>30</sup> the reports of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget for 2024: part II, proposed programme plan for 2024 and programme performance for 2022,<sup>31</sup> and the letters and the annexes thereto from the Chairs of the Disarmament and International Security Committee (First Committee) dated 24 October 2023,<sup>32</sup> the Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee) dated 23 October 2023<sup>33</sup> and the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (Third Committee) dated 20 October 2023<sup>34</sup> addressed to the Chair of the Fifth Committee,

1. *Reaffirms* the role of the Committee for Programme and Coordination as the main subsidiary organ of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council for planning, programming and coordination;
2. *Also reaffirms* the role of the Committee for Programme and Coordination in verifying that the programmes of activities of the Organization are implemented in line with the legislative mandates and that the full implementation of regulations and rules is ensured;
3. *Re-emphasizes* the role of the plenary and the Main Committees of the General Assembly in reviewing and taking action on the appropriate recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination relevant to their work, in accordance with regulation 4.10 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation;

<sup>29</sup> ST/SGB/2018/3.

<sup>30</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/78/16).

<sup>31</sup> A/78/6 (Sect. 2), A/78/6 (Sect. 3), A/78/6 (Sect. 4), A/78/6 (Sect. 5), A/78/6 (Sect. 6), A/78/6 (Sect. 8), A/78/6 (Sect. 9), A/78/6 (Sect. 10), A/78/6 (Sect. 11), A/78/6 (Sect. 12), A/78/6 (Sect. 13), A/78/6 (Sect. 14), A/78/6 (Sect. 15), A/78/6 (Sect. 16), A/78/6 (Sect. 17), A/78/6 (Sect. 18), A/78/6 (Sect. 19), A/78/6 (Sect. 20), A/78/6 (Sect. 21), A/78/6 (Sect. 22), A/78/6 (Sect. 24), A/78/6 (Sect. 25), A/78/6 (Sect. 26), A/78/6 (Sect. 27), A/78/6 (Sect. 28), A/78/6 (Sect. 29), A/78/6 (Sect. 29A), A/78/6 (Sect. 29B), A/78/6 (Sect. 29C), A/78/6 (Sect. 29D), A/78/6 (Sect. 29E), A/78/6 (Sect. 29F), A/78/6 (Sect. 30), A/78/6 (Sect. 31) and A/78/6 (Sect. 34).

<sup>32</sup> A/C.5/78/13.

<sup>33</sup> A/C.5/78/12.

<sup>34</sup> A/C.5/78/11.



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4. *Stresses* that setting the priorities of the United Nations is the prerogative of the Member States, as reflected in legislative mandates;
5. *Reiterates* the need for Member States to participate fully in the budget preparation process, from its early stages and throughout the process;
6. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, and welcomes its report;
7. *Reiterates* that whenever the Committee for Programme and Coordination cannot provide conclusions and recommendations on a given subprogramme or programme of the proposed programme budget, the plenary or the relevant Main Committee or Main Committees of the General Assembly responsible for those mandates will consider the said subprogramme or programme at the very start of its session in order to provide any conclusions and recommendations to the Fifth Committee, at the earliest opportunity, and no later than four weeks after the start of the session, for timely consideration by the Fifth Committee;
8. *Recognizes* the efforts of the President of the General Assembly and the Chair of the Fifth Committee in following up with the Chairs of the relevant Main Committees on the consideration of the programmes without recommendations from the Committee for Programme and Coordination, in accordance with paragraph 12 of its resolution [77/254](#), and reiterates that incoming Presidents of the General Assembly and Chairs of the Fifth Committee shall reach out to and support the Chairs of the Main Committees to ensure that conclusions and recommendations are issued on time;
9. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the proposed programme plan for 2024 and programme performance for 2022<sup>35</sup> and on evaluation,<sup>36</sup> contained in its report on the work of its sixty-third session, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure the timely implementation of the recommendations;
10. *Approves*, on an exceptional basis and without creating a precedent, for programmes 3 and 20 of the proposed programme budget for 2024, a programme narrative that is composed solely of the list of mandates at the programme level and the objectives approved by the General Assembly in its resolution [71/6](#) and the deliverables for 2024 at the subprogramme level;
11. *Also approves*, on an exceptional basis and without creating a precedent, for programmes 13 and 21 of the proposed programme budget for 2024, a programme narrative that is composed solely of the list of mandates at the programme level and the objectives approved by the General Assembly in its resolution [76/236](#) and the deliverables for 2024 at the subprogramme level;
12. *Further approves*, on an exceptional basis and without creating a precedent, for programmes 2, 10, 17, 25 and 26 of the proposed programme budget for 2024, a programme narrative that is composed solely of the list of mandates at the programme level and the objectives approved by the General Assembly in its resolution [77/254](#) and the deliverables for 2024 at the subprogramme level;
13. *Approves* the programme plan for programme 6, Legal affairs, of the proposed programme budget for 2024, as contained in the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>37</sup>
14. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2022<sup>38</sup> and on United Nations system support for Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want.<sup>39</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/78/16)*, chap. II, sect. A.

<sup>36</sup> *Ibid.*, sect. B.

<sup>37</sup> [A/78/6 \(Sect. 8\)](#).

<sup>38</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/78/16)*, chap. III, sect. A.

<sup>39</sup> *Ibid.*, sect. B.

## RESOLUTION 78/245

Adopted at the 50th (resumed) plenary meeting, on 22 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee ([A/78/642](#), para. 6)

### 78/245. Pattern of conferences

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its previous resolutions on the pattern of conferences, including resolution [77/255](#) of 30 December 2022,

*Recalling also* its previous resolutions on multilingualism, in particular resolution [76/268](#) of 10 June 2022, reaffirming the provisions relating to conference services, and recognizing that multilingualism, as a core value of the Organization, contributes to the achievement of the goals of the United Nations, as set out in Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations,

*Reaffirming* its resolution [42/207](#) C of 11 December 1987, in which it requested the Secretary-General to ensure the equal treatment of the official languages of the United Nations,

*Having considered* the report of the Committee on Conferences for 2023<sup>40</sup> and the relevant report of the Secretary-General,<sup>41</sup>

*Having also considered* the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,<sup>42</sup>

*Reaffirming* the role of the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly in administrative and budgetary matters,

*Recalling* its resolution [14 \(I\)](#) of 13 February 1946 and the role of the Advisory Committee as a subsidiary body of the General Assembly,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Committee on Conferences for 2023;

### I

#### Calendar of conferences and meetings

2. *Approves* the draft calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for 2024, as submitted by the Committee on Conferences,<sup>43</sup> taking into account the observations of the Committee and subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Authorizes* the Committee on Conferences to make any adjustments to the calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for 2024 that may become necessary as a result of actions and decisions taken by the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session;

4. *Recalls* paragraph 40 of its resolution [71/323](#) of 8 September 2017, paragraph 40 of its resolution [72/313](#) of 17 September 2018, paragraph 15 of its resolution [73/341](#) of 12 September 2019, paragraph 19 of its resolution [75/325](#) of 10 September 2021 and paragraph 17 of its resolution [77/335](#) of 1 September 2023 on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly;

5. *Notes with satisfaction* that the Secretariat has taken into account the arrangements referred to in General Assembly resolutions on the pattern of conferences, including resolutions [53/208](#) A of 18 December 1998, [54/248](#) of 23 December 1999, [55/222](#) of 23 December 2000, [56/242](#) of 24 December 2001, [57/283](#) B of 15 April 2003, [58/250](#) of 23 December 2003, [59/265](#) of 23 December 2004, [60/236](#) A of 23 December 2005, [61/236](#) of 22 December 2006, [62/225](#) of 22 December 2007, [63/248](#) of 24 December 2008, [64/230](#) of 22 December 2009, [65/245](#) of 24 December 2010, [66/233](#) of 24 December 2011, [67/237](#) of 24 December 2012, [68/251](#) of 27 December 2013, [72/19](#) of 1 December 2017, [73/270](#) of 22 December 2018, [74/252](#) of 27 December 2019, [75/244](#) of 31 December 2020, [76/237](#)

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<sup>40</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 32 (A/78/32).*

<sup>41</sup> [A/78/96](#).

<sup>42</sup> [A/78/544](#).

<sup>43</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 32 (A/78/32)*, annex II.

of 24 December 2021 and [77/255](#), concerning Orthodox Good Friday and the official holidays of Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha, and requests all intergovernmental bodies to observe those decisions when planning their meetings;

6. *Also notes with satisfaction* that the Secretariat has taken into account the arrangements referred to in relevant resolutions of the General Assembly regarding the pattern of conferences, including resolution [69/250](#) of 29 December 2014, concerning Yom Kippur, the Day of Vesak, Diwali, GURPURAB, Orthodox Christmas and Nowruz, and requests all relevant intergovernmental bodies to continue to observe the applicable decisions when planning their meetings;

7. *Acknowledges* the significance of Lunar New Year which is observed in many Member States, invites the United Nations bodies at Headquarters and other duty stations where observed to avoid holding meetings on Lunar New Year, and in this regard encourages this arrangement be taken into account when drafting future calendars of conferences and meetings;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring to the attention of the intergovernmental bodies recommendations on the dates when the bodies are requested to avoid holding meetings, in written form, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session;

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that any modification to the calendar of conferences and meetings is implemented strictly in accordance with the mandate of the Committee on Conferences and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

10. *Invites* Member States to include in new legislative mandates adequate information on the modalities for the organization of conferences or meetings;

11. *Recalls* rule 153 of its rules of procedure, and, for resolutions involving expenditure, requests the Secretary-General to include the modalities of conferences, taking into account the trends of similar meetings, with a view to mobilizing conference and documentation services in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible;

12. *Expresses concern* regarding the recurring extension of the work of the Fifth Committee during the second part of the resumed session of the General Assembly and the impact of such an extension on the services provided by the Secretariat, including the availability of conference rooms and language services;

## II

### Utilization of conference-servicing resources

13. *Reaffirms* the practice that, in the use of conference rooms, priority must be given to meetings of Member States;

14. *Commends* the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management of the Secretariat for ensuring continuity of the conference services during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic;

15. *Notes with concern* the impact of the measures taken by the Secretary-General in response to the current liquidity situation and the residual impact of COVID-19 on the provision of language services and the management of meetings, including the recruitment of new staff to fill vacant posts in the six official language services, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to make efforts to ensure that multilingualism, as a fundamental value of the Organization, is not undermined;

16. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General and Member States to adhere to the guidelines and procedures contained in the administrative instruction for the authorization of the use of United Nations premises for meetings, conferences, special events and exhibits;<sup>44</sup>

17. *Emphasizes* that such meetings, conferences, special events and exhibits must be consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations;

18. *Notes* that the overall interpretation utilization factor for all calendar bodies at the four main duty stations has met the established benchmark of 80 per cent since 2014 and was 82 per cent in 2022;

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<sup>44</sup> [ST/AI/2019/4](#).

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19. *Urges* those intergovernmental bodies whose average interpretation utilization factor has for the past six years been below the benchmark of 80 per cent to take that factor into account when planning their future sessions in order to achieve that benchmark;
20. *Reiterates its request* to intergovernmental bodies to review their meeting entitlements and to plan and adjust their programmes of work on the basis of their actual utilization of conference-servicing resources in order to improve their efficient use and to achieve optimum utilization of conference services;
21. *Urges* the secretariats and bureaux of bodies that underutilize their conference-servicing resources to work more closely with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management and to consider changes to their programmes of work, as appropriate, including adjustments based on previous patterns of recurring agenda items, with a view to making improvements in their interpretation utilization factors;
22. *Recognizes* that late starts and unplanned early endings seriously affect the interpretation utilization factor of those bodies, invites the secretariats and bureaux of the bodies to pay adequate attention in this regard, and welcomes their efforts to inform the Secretariat in a timely manner of any such changes in order to allow conference services to be smoothly redeployed to other meetings;
23. *Requests* the Committee on Conferences to consult those bodies that have consistently utilized less than the applicable benchmark of their allocated resources for the past six years, with a view to making appropriate recommendations in order to achieve the optimum utilization of conference-servicing resources;
24. *Welcomes* the efforts undertaken by the Secretary-General to increase the utilization of conference-servicing resources, and in this regard encourages the Secretary-General to enhance the efficiency of conference servicing and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session;
25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consult Member States on initiatives that affect the utilization of conference services and conference facilities;
26. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to impress upon bodies entitled to meet “as required” the need to further improve the utilization of conference services, and further requests the Secretary-General to report on the provision of such services to those bodies to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session;
27. *Recognizes* the importance of meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States for the smooth functioning of the sessions of intergovernmental bodies, requests the Secretary-General to ensure that, as far as possible, all requests for conference services for the meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States are met, and requests the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management to inform the requesters as early as possible about the availability of conference services, including interpretation, as well as about any changes that might occur before the holding of meetings;
28. *Notes* the overall increase in the percentage of meetings held by regional and other major groupings of Member States that were provided with interpretation services at the four main duty stations in 2022, and requests the Secretary-General to further employ innovative means to address the difficulties arising from the lack of interpretation services for such meetings and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session;
29. *Once again urges* intergovernmental bodies at the planning stage to take into account the meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States, to make provision for such meetings in their programmes of work and to notify the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, well in advance, of any cancellations so that unutilized conference-servicing resources may, to the extent possible, be reassigned to meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States;
30. *Recognizes* the proactive efforts of the Secretary-General to identify ways to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in conference services, commends the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management for its innovative approaches in providing technical secretariat support and in managing meetings and documents, and encourages the Department to continue its efforts to preserve the high quality of its services while achieving efficiencies;
31. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts aimed at improving conference servicing at the four main duty stations, including by addressing or eliminating possible duplication, overlap and redundancy, and identifying innovative ideas, potential synergies and other cost-saving measures, without compromising quality or affecting the provision of services, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session;

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32. *Reiterates* the need to continue to improve all conference facilities, including the videoconferencing infrastructure, at all four main duty stations, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to report thereon no later than at the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly;

33. *Recalls* its resolution [77/263](#) A of 30 December 2022, and welcomes the comprehensive proposal aimed at addressing the deteriorating conditions and the limited capacity of the conference services facility at the United Nations Office at Nairobi;

34. *Welcomes* the measures taken to ensure access to and use of conference services and conference facilities for persons with disabilities, including the establishment of the Accessibility Centre and the use of sign language services, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to address issues related to the accessibility of conference facilities in all four main conference-servicing duty stations as a matter of priority and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session;

35. *Commends* the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management and the President of the General Assembly for organizing a training session on accessibility and sensitivity awareness for Secretariat staff and delegates of Member States and observers, and invites the Secretary-General to continue such efforts in future, within existing resources;

36. *Welcomes* the integrated global management rule as an efficient approach, where feasible, to servicing meetings away from duty stations, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to realize further efficiencies by rigorously applying the integrated global management rule to applicable meetings, without jeopardizing the quality of services, and to continue to report thereon to the Committee on Conferences;

### III

#### **Enhancing integrated global management, leveraging technology and measuring the quality of conference services**

37. *Recalls* paragraph 24 of the report of the Secretary-General on the pattern of conferences,<sup>45</sup> also recalls that, in paragraph 81 of its resolution [56/253](#) of 24 December 2001, it requested the Secretary-General to ensure that conference services were managed in an integrated manner throughout all duty stations in the Organization, and stresses again that the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management is responsible for the implementation of policy, the formulation of standards and guidelines, overseeing and coordinating United Nations conference services and the overall management of resources under the relevant budget section, while the United Nations Offices at Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi remain responsible and accountable for day-to-day operational activities, as indicated in section II.B, paragraph 7, of its resolution [57/283](#) B;

38. *Welcomes* the innovative efforts of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management to improve conference services with a view to facilitating the decision-making process by intergovernmental bodies, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to explore technological and other innovations that advance effectiveness and efficiency in this regard and to report on these efforts during the seventy-ninth session;

39. *Notes* the initiatives undertaken in the context of the integrated global management concept aimed at streamlining procedures, achieving economies of scale and improving the quality of conference services, and in this regard stresses the importance of ensuring the equal treatment of conference-servicing staff, as well as the principle of equal grade for equal work at the four main duty stations;

40. *Acknowledges* that the concept of integrated global management has been fully mainstreamed into all areas of conference services across the four main conference-servicing duty stations, and requests the Secretary-General to keep the General Assembly and the Committee on Conferences apprised of progress made in ensuring integrated global management and to provide accurate and up-to-date information on new initiatives falling under the purview of the Committee;

41. *Notes with appreciation* the progress made in the development and implementation of conference management software such as gData, gDoc, gMeets and gText, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that they are implemented as enterprise systems in the context of the Secretariat-wide information and communications

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<sup>45</sup> [A/70/122](#).

technology strategy, as welcomed by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/262 of 29 December 2014, and to report on progress made regarding operations, maintenance and harmonization with existing systems, as appropriate;

42. *Underlines* that all the initiatives on leveraging technology, including those introduced on a trial basis, shall comply with the principle of parity among the official languages of the Organization, with a view to preserving and enhancing the quality and scope of the services provided by the Secretariat;

43. *Reiterates* that the satisfaction of Member States is a key performance indicator in conference management and conference services;

44. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that measures taken by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management to seek the evaluation by Member States of the quality of the conference services provided to them, as a key performance indicator of the Department, provide equal opportunities to Member States to present their evaluations in the six official languages of the United Nations and are in full compliance with relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and also requests the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly, through the Committee on Conferences, on progress made in this regard;

45. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to explore best practices and techniques in client satisfaction evaluations, to seek a larger rate of response to surveys on quality and to report regularly to the General Assembly on the results achieved;

46. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management to seek the evaluation by Member States of the quality of the conference services provided to them, taking into consideration comments and complaints raised by Member States either in writing or during meetings, and requests the Secretary-General to intensify his exploration of innovative ways to systematically capture and analyse feedback from Member States and Chairs and Secretaries of committees on the quality of conference services and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session;

47. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to seek evaluation of the quality of the conference services provided by the Secretariat through meetings held at least once a year, but not exceeding twice a year, guaranteeing that Member States are able to present their evaluations and seek information equally in any of the six official languages of the United Nations on any conference-related or language-specific matter;

#### IV

##### Matters related to documentation and publications

48. *Emphasizes* the paramount importance of the equality of the six official languages of the United Nations;

49. *Underlines* that all the initiatives on the evolution of working methods, including those introduced on a trial basis, shall comply with the principle of parity among the official languages of the Organization, with a view to preserving or enhancing the quality and scope of the services provided by the Secretariat;

50. *Emphasizes* the importance of multilingualism in the activities of the United Nations, and requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to ensure full parity among the six official languages in accordance with General Assembly resolution 76/268 and to report thereon to the Assembly at its seventy-ninth session;

51. *Also emphasizes* the importance of making use of all the official languages of the United Nations, ensuring their full and equitable treatment in all the activities of the Department of Global Communications of the Secretariat, with the aim of eliminating the disparity between the use of English and the use of the five other official languages, and in this regard reaffirms its request that the Secretary-General ensure the archiving of official meetings webcasts in all six official languages on the United Nations website;

52. *Notes* that the disparity between the use of English and the use of the five other official languages in the archiving of official meetings webcasts remains, and requests the Secretary-General to increase his efforts to ensure the equal treatment of the official languages in this regard;

53. *Recalls with appreciation* the appointment by the Secretary-General of the Coordinator for Multilingualism, who is responsible for the overall implementation of multilingualism Secretariat-wide, and calls upon all departments and offices within the Secretariat to fully support the work of the Coordinator in the implementation of the relevant mandates on multilingualism;



## VI. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Fifth Committee

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54. *Emphasizes* that multilingualism, as a core value of the Organization, entails the active involvement and commitment of all stakeholders, including all United Nations duty stations and offices away from Headquarters;
55. *Recalls* the submission by the Secretary-General, in his report on multilingualism,<sup>46</sup> of detailed terms of reference for the Coordinator for Multilingualism, as requested in resolution 70/9 of 13 November 2015, also recalls its endorsement, in resolution 71/328 of 11 September 2017, of the terms of reference proposed by the Secretary-General, requests that subsequent updates to the terms of reference be made available to all Member States and Secretariat entities, and welcomes the efforts made by the Coordinator in this regard;
56. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the consistent and effective implementation of the terms of reference for the Coordinator for Multilingualism and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session;
57. *Emphasizes* the role of Member States and their intergovernmental bodies in determining the policies on conference management;
58. *Stresses* that proposals to change such policies are to be approved by Member States in their relevant intergovernmental bodies;
59. *Also stresses* that matters related to conference management, including documentation, fall within the purview of the Fifth Committee;
60. *Reiterates* the importance of the timely submission and issuance of documents for all intergovernmental bodies, including the Fifth Committee;
61. *Notes with concern* the recurring late issuance of documents for the Fifth Committee, recalls paragraph 29 of its resolution 70/247 of 23 December 2015, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to take actions for its effective implementation, taking into account the responsibilities of all stakeholders involved, and to report thereon in the context of his next report on the pattern of conferences;
62. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the Secretariat, in particular the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, regarding the timely issuance of pre-session documentation for the Fifth Committee in the six official languages of the United Nations, and encourages continued efforts by all stakeholders in this regard;
63. *Encourages* the Chairs of the Fifth Committee and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to continue to promote cooperation between the two bodies in the sphere of documentation;
64. *Notes* that accurate, timely and consistent information provided by the Secretariat to the Fifth Committee during its informal consultations facilitates the decision-making process in the Committee;
65. *Reaffirms* its decision, in section IV of its resolution 64/230, that all reports adopted by the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council shall be issued as documents in all official languages of the United Nations in a timely manner before their consideration by the Council, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 36/117 A of 10 December 1981, 51/211 A to E of 18 December 1996, 52/214 of 22 December 1997, 53/208 A to E of 18 December 1998 and 59/265, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure the support necessary to that effect and to report thereon to the Assembly at its seventy-ninth session;
66. *Reiterates* paragraph 8 of the annex to its resolution 2 (I) of 1 February 1946 on the rules of procedure concerning languages, whereby all resolutions and other important documents shall be made available in all six official languages and, upon the request of any representative, any other document shall be made available in any or all of the official languages;
67. *Also reiterates* the importance of the simultaneous issuance of documents in all official languages and welcomes the 100 per cent compliance in 2022 with the issuance of documents by all duty stations, and reiterates its request that the Secretary-General ensure strict respect for the rules concerning the simultaneous issuance of documents in all six official languages as regards both the distribution of printed copies and the posting of parliamentary documentation on the Official Document System and the United Nations website;

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<sup>46</sup> A/71/757.

68. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take action on providing the timely and simultaneous issuance of documents in all six official languages;

69. *Notes* that workload-sharing has expanded to include proofreading, translation, editing, text-processing and précis-writing, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to seek ways to promote workload-sharing among the four main duty stations and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session;

70. *Emphasizes* that the major goals of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management are to provide high-quality documents in a timely manner in all official languages, in accordance with established regulations, as well as high-quality conference services to Member States at all headquarters duty stations, and to achieve those aims as efficiently and cost-effectively as possible, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

71. *Also emphasizes* the importance of enhancing accountability within the Secretariat for the timely submission and issuance of documents;

72. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to include in the senior managers' compacts the new standard managerial indicator related to the timely submission of official documentation for intergovernmental and expert bodies and to report thereon in future progress reports on accountability;

73. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to include, in future budget proposals, information related to the timely submission of documentation needed for meetings of relevant intergovernmental and expert bodies;

74. *Reaffirms* its decision in section III, paragraph 9, of its resolution [59/265](#) that the issuance of documents in all six official languages on planning, budgetary and administrative matters requiring urgent consideration by the General Assembly shall be accorded priority;

75. *Reiterates its request* that the Secretary-General direct all departments of the Secretariat to include the following elements in their reports:

- (a) A summary of the report;
- (b) Consolidated conclusions, recommendations and other proposed actions;
- (c) Relevant background information;

and its request that all documents submitted to legislative organs, including the Committee on Conferences, by the Secretariat and intergovernmental and expert bodies for consideration and action have conclusions and recommendations in bold print;

76. *Notes with concern* that only 73 per cent of the author departments reached the compliance rate of 90 per cent in the timely submission of their reports to the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to enforce the slotting system more rigorously through a dedicated focus, such as the interdepartmental task force on documentation, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session, urges author departments to fully adhere to deadlines for document submission, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to report on concrete measures taken;

77. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the interdepartmental task force on documentation, chaired by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, to facilitate the submission of documents by author departments of the Secretariat;

78. *Reiterates its request* in paragraph 77 of its resolution [77/255](#) that the Secretary-General provide information on the waiver process for documents that are submitted over the word limit;

79. *Notes* that the Official Document System is the official digital repository of the United Nations, welcomes its modernization and its accessibility in all six official languages of the United Nations, and encourages the Secretary-General to continue his efforts in this regard;

80. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to upload all important older United Nations documents on to the United Nations website in all six official languages on a priority basis so that those archives will also be available to Member States and the general public;

81. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take all measures necessary to ensure that the digitization of key documents in the Dag Hammarskjöld Library and in the main duty stations is completed in a timely manner, as appropriate;

82. *Expresses concern* that the anticipated lengthy digitization project may jeopardize the retention of historical knowledge and information in view of the delicate state and risk of breakage of many of the related documents;

83. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek additional voluntary contributions for the digitization of important older United Nations documents, including by broadening the donor base, and to report thereon;

84. *Welcomes with appreciation* the additional contribution from the Government of Qatar to support the digitization project;

85. *Recalls* paragraph 84 of its resolution [77/255](#), notes the increased use of digital recordings by other intergovernmental bodies, including the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to report to the General Assembly in this regard;

86. *Stresses* that verbatim and summary records remain the only official records of the meetings of United Nations bodies and that the timely issuance of verbatim records constitutes an important part of the services provided to Member States;

87. *Reiterates* paragraph 86 of its resolution [77/255](#) related to the transition to digital recordings of meetings in the six official languages of the Organization as a cost-saving measure;

## V

### Matters related to language services

88. *Reiterates* that language posts are not subject to the system of desirable ranges;

89. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to ensure the highest quality of interpretation and translation services in all six official languages;

90. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Secretary-General to continue to improve the quality of the simultaneous interpretation and translation services provided, and requests the Secretary-General to take action in this regard;

91. *Recalls* paragraph 58 of its resolution [74/262](#) of 27 December 2019, on allocating a maximum of four official working languages for the work of the human rights treaty bodies, with the inclusion, on an exceptional basis, of a fifth official language, when necessary to facilitate communication among the members, as determined by the committee concerned, taking into account that these measures will not constitute a precedent, given the special nature of the treaty bodies, and without prejudice to the right of each State party to interact with the treaty bodies in any of the six official languages of the United Nations, and requests the Secretary-General to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session;

92. *Underlines* that the translation of official documents of the Organization must be provided in all required languages and in due time, in full compliance with the rules of procedure of the respective legislative bodies;

93. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to improve the quality of translation of documents into the six official languages, giving particular significance to the accuracy of translation;

94. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that the terminology used in the translation and interpretation services reflects the latest linguistic norms and terminology of the official languages in order to ensure the highest quality;

95. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to continue to maintain and update the global terminology portal in order to ensure its availability to United Nations staff, Member States and the general public, with a view to achieving harmonization of the terminology used at all United Nations duty stations;

96. *Requests* the Secretary-General, as the Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to continue to invite the heads of participating funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the

## VI. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Fifth Committee

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United Nations system to consider using official United Nations terminology and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session;

97. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to develop recruitment, subcontracting and outreach policies in relation to the pool of language professionals and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session;

98. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all language services are given equal treatment and are provided with equally favourable working conditions and resources, with a view to achieving the maximum quality of services, with full respect for the specificities of the six official languages and taking into account their respective workloads;

99. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take measures to ensure equal treatment of all six official languages and equal quality of service for Member States, while fully respecting the specificities of each official language and different levels of benefit from information technology advances for different languages, including by addressing workload inequities arising from staffing structures and specificities of language, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session;

100. *Reiterates* the need for the Secretary-General to ensure the compatibility of technologies used in all duty stations and to ensure that they are user-friendly in all official languages;

101. *Welcomes* the development of the computer-assisted translation and machine translation system (eLUNa), and requests the Secretary-General to report on updates, including cost-benefit analysis and quality preservation and control, to this system to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session;

102. *Recalls* section VII of its resolution [69/274 A](#) of 2 April 2015, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the implementation of flexible workplace strategies and other potential changes in logistical arrangements take into account the needs of language staff in order to continue to ensure that the services provided to Member States meet the highest standard of quality;

103. *Reaffirms* paragraph 101 of its resolution [77/255](#), and reiterates its request that the Secretary-General, when recruiting temporary assistance in the language services, including through the use of international or local contracts, as appropriate, ensure that all language services are given equal treatment and are provided with equally favourable working conditions and resources, with a view to achieving maximum quality of their services, with full respect for the specificities of each of the six official languages and taking into account their respective workloads;

104. *Recalls* section IV of its resolution [69/274 A](#), and requests the Secretary-General to keep the working conditions of interpreters under review;

105. *Requests* the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts aimed at filling vacancies in the language services, in particular in the translation services and interpretation services, in a timely manner and in full compliance with relevant provisions of the General Assembly resolutions governing recruitment for language staff, and to report thereon to the Assembly at its seventy-ninth session;

106. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to hold competitive examinations for the recruitment of language staff sufficiently in advance in order to fill current and future vacancies in the language services in a timely manner and to inform the General Assembly at its future sessions of efforts in this regard;

107. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to continue to make every effort to enhance access to competitive examinations for applicants in all regions, including by organizing remote examinations and by bringing, to the extent possible, examination sites closer to their locations in order to allow the greatest number of potentially qualified candidates to participate in them, and to report to the General Assembly at its future sessions on progress made in this regard;

108. *Stresses* the need to fully ensure the highest possible quality of contractual and in-house translation, and freelance and in-house interpretation, and requests the Secretary-General to report on measures taken in this regard;

109. *Reiterates its request* that the Secretary-General provide, at all duty stations, adequate staff at the appropriate level, with a view to ensuring appropriate quality control for external translation and freelance interpretation;

110. *Requests* the Secretary-General to apply common standards for the quality control of documents processed by external translators in all four duty stations in order to ensure high-quality translations in the six official languages of the United Nations, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its future sessions;

111. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the experience, lessons learned and best practices of the main duty stations in performing quality control of contractual and in-house translations, including on requirements relating to the number and appropriate level of staff needed to carry out this function, are shared among duty stations and regional commissions, as appropriate;

112. *Notes* that the Secretary-General has established globally standardized performance indicators and costing models aimed at a more cost-effective strategy for the in-house processing of documents, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their effective application at the four main duty stations;

113. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to apply similar quality-control measures for interpretation services, in particular services provided by freelance interpreters;

114. *Notes with appreciation* the measures taken by the Secretary-General, in accordance with its resolutions, to address the issue of the replacement of retiring staff in the language services, and requests the Secretary-General to maintain and intensify those efforts, including the strengthening of cooperation with institutions that train language specialists, in order to meet the needs in the six official languages of the United Nations;

115. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to improve the internship programme, including through partnerships with organizations that promote the official languages of the United Nations;

116. *Welcomes* the existing memorandums of understanding between the Organization and 22 universities as a way to strengthen the training of language professionals in order to improve the recruitment of qualified language staff, and requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to assess the appropriate number of memorandums of understanding in order to fulfil the needs of the Organization;

117. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make further concerted efforts to promote outreach programmes, such as traineeships and internships, and to introduce innovative methods to increase awareness of the programmes, including through partnerships with Member States, relevant international organizations and language institutions in all regions, in particular to close the wide gap of qualified candidates from Africa and from the Latin American and Caribbean region, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session;

118. *Notes with appreciation* the positive experience with language traineeships in training young professionals and in attracting them to the United Nations, while enhancing the pool of qualified language professionals in language combinations that are critical for succession-planning purposes, and encourages the Secretary-General to continue his efforts in this regard;

119. *Notes* that the “African project” has the aim of establishing postgraduate university programmes in translation, conference interpreting and public service interpreting through centres of excellence on the African continent, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to report on the achievements of this project;

120. *Also notes* the difficulties encountered in identifying and retaining qualified language professionals and the need to replenish the pool of language experts at the main duty stations, particularly New York and Nairobi, in order to prevent further negative impact on the capacity of the Secretariat to provide services in the six official languages of the United Nations;

121. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the Secretary-General to raise awareness among all Member States and the general public of career opportunities in conference services, including through the increased use of social media;

122. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to improve and strengthen his initiatives related to training and replenishing the language capacity of the Organization, including through the outreach programmes, in order to ensure sufficient capacity to address the interpretation and translation requirements of the Organization;

123. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to liaise with permanent missions to identify outreach opportunities with universities, educational institutions and language learning centres located worldwide in order to ensure the continued availability of high-quality professional language services in the six official languages of the United Nations;

124. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to continue to improve and expand the list of universities having memorandums of understanding and other collaborative arrangements with the United Nations, ensuring the inclusion

of universities, educational institutions and language learning centres located in all geographical regions, whenever possible.

### RESOLUTION 78/246

Adopted at the 50th (resumed) plenary meeting, on 22 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee ([A/78/646](#), para. 6)

#### 78/246. Report on the activities of the Ethics Office

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions [60/254](#) of 8 May 2006, [62/247](#) of 3 April 2008, [63/250](#) of 24 December 2008, [66/234](#) of 24 December 2011, [67/255](#) of 12 April 2013, [68/252](#) of 27 December 2013, [71/263](#) of 23 December 2016 and [77/278](#) of 18 April 2023,

*Having considered* the report of the Ethics Office,<sup>47</sup>

*Takes note* of the report of the Ethics Office.

### RESOLUTION 78/247

Adopted at the 50th (resumed) plenary meeting, on 22 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee ([A/78/645](#), para. 6)

#### 78/247. Report on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services

*The General Assembly,*

##### I

##### Activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services

*Recalling* its resolutions [48/218 B](#) of 29 July 1994, [54/244](#) of 23 December 1999, [59/272](#) of 23 December 2004, [60/259](#) of 8 May 2006, [63/265](#) of 24 December 2008, [64/232](#) of 22 December 2009, [64/263](#) of 29 March 2010, [65/250](#) of 24 December 2010, [66/236](#) of 24 December 2011, [67/258](#) of 12 April 2013, [68/21](#) of 4 December 2013, [69/252](#) and [69/253](#) of 29 December 2014, [70/111](#) of 14 December 2015, [71/7](#) of 27 October 2016, [72/18](#) of 1 December 2017, [73/275](#) of 22 December 2018, [74/256](#) and [74/257](#) of 27 December 2019, [75/247](#) of 31 December 2022, [76/241](#) of 24 December 2021 and [77/259](#) of 30 December 2022,

*Having considered* the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on its activities for the period from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023,<sup>48</sup>

1. *Reaffirms* its primary role in the consideration of and action taken on reports submitted to it;
2. *Also reaffirms* its oversight role and the role of the Fifth Committee in administrative and budgetary matters;
3. *Further reaffirms* the independence and the separate and distinct roles of the internal and external oversight mechanisms;
4. *Recognizes* the important roles and operational independence of the oversight bodies, including the Office of Internal Oversight Services of the Secretariat, in contributing to improvements in the effectiveness, transparency and accountability of the Organization;

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<sup>47</sup> [A/78/91](#).

<sup>48</sup> [A/78/301 \(Part I\)](#) and [A/78/301 \(Part I\)/Add.1](#).



5. *Recalls* that the Office of Internal Oversight Services of the Secretariat shall exercise operational independence relating to the performance of its internal oversight functions, under the authority of the Secretary-General, in accordance with the relevant resolutions;
6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the annual reports of the Office continue to include a brief description of any impairment of its independence;
7. *Encourages* United Nations internal and external oversight bodies to further enhance the level of cooperation with one another, such as through joint work-planning sessions, without prejudice to the independence of each;
8. *Takes note* of the report of the Office on its activities for the period from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023;
9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all relevant resolutions pertaining to the work of the Office are brought to the attention of the relevant managers;
10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all relevant resolutions, including those of a cross-cutting nature, are brought to the attention of relevant managers and that the Office also takes those resolutions into account in the conduct of its activities;

## II

### Activities of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee

*Recalling* its resolutions [61/275](#) of 29 June 2007, [64/263](#), section II of its resolution [65/250](#), section II of its resolution [66/236](#), section II of its resolution [67/258](#), section II of its resolution [68/21](#), section II of its resolution [69/252](#), section II of its resolution [70/111](#), section II of its resolution [71/7](#), section II of its resolution [72/18](#), section II of its resolution [73/275](#), section II of its resolution [74/256](#), section II of its resolution [75/247](#), section II of its resolution [76/241](#), section II of its resolution [77/259](#) and its resolution [77/278](#) of 18 April 2023,

*Having considered* the report of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee on its activities for the period from 1 August 2022 to 31 July 2023,<sup>49</sup>

1. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee;
2. *Reaffirms* the terms of reference of the Committee, as contained in the annex to its resolution [61/275](#).

### RESOLUTION 78/248

Adopted at the 50th (resumed) plenary meeting, on 22 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee ([A/78/663](#), para. 6)

#### 78/248. Administration of justice at the United Nations

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* section XI of its resolution [55/258](#) of 14 June 2001 and its resolutions [57/307](#) of 15 April 2003, [59/266](#) of 23 December 2004, [59/283](#) of 13 April 2005, [61/261](#) of 4 April 2007, [62/228](#) of 22 December 2007, [63/253](#) of 24 December 2008, [64/233](#) of 22 December 2009, [65/251](#) of 24 December 2010, [66/237](#) of 24 December 2011, [67/241](#) of 24 December 2012, [68/254](#) of 27 December 2013, [69/203](#) of 18 December 2014, [70/112](#) of 14 December 2015, [71/266](#) of 23 December 2016, [72/256](#) of 24 December 2107, [73/276](#) of 22 December 2018, [74/258](#) of 27 December 2019, [75/248](#) of 31 December 2020, [76/242](#) of 24 December 2021 and [77/260](#) of 30 December 2022,

*Having considered* the reports of the Secretary-General on administration of justice at the United Nations<sup>50</sup> and on the activities of the Office of the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services,<sup>51</sup> the report of the Internal

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<sup>49</sup> [A/78/286](#).

<sup>50</sup> [A/78/156](#).

<sup>51</sup> [A/78/170](#).

Justice Council on administration of justice at the United Nations<sup>52</sup> and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,<sup>53</sup> as well as the letter dated 20 November 2023 from the President of the General Assembly addressed to the Chair of the Fifth Committee,<sup>54</sup>

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on administration of justice at the United Nations and on the activities of the Office of the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services, the report of the Internal Justice Council on administration of justice at the United Nations and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;
2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee;

## **I**

### **System of administration of justice**

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of the principle of judicial independence in the system of administration of justice;
4. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring access for all staff members to the system of administration of justice, regardless of their duty station;
5. *Acknowledges* the evolving nature of the system of administration of justice and the need to carefully monitor its implementation to ensure that it remains within the parameters set out by the General Assembly;
6. *Reaffirms* its decision, contained in paragraph 4 of its resolution [61/261](#), to establish a new, independent, transparent, professionalized, adequately resourced and decentralized system of administration of justice consistent with the relevant rules of international law and the principles of the rule of law and due process to ensure respect for the rights and obligations of staff members and the accountability of managers and staff members alike;
7. *Commends* the Secretary-General for ensuring the availability of outreach documents in all six official languages, requests the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to implement multilingualism within the system of administration of justice, and also requests the Secretary-General to report on his efforts to continue to promote multilingualism in the system of administration of justice in the context of his future reports;
8. *Recalls* paragraph 6 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and further requests the Secretary-General to provide a comprehensive assessment of the functioning of the system of administration of justice in his next report;

## **II**

### **Informal system**

9. *Recognizes* that the informal system of administration of justice is an efficient and effective option both for staff who seek redress of grievances and for the participation of managers;
10. *Reaffirms* that the informal resolution of conflict is a crucial element of the system of administration of justice, emphasizes that all possible use should be made of the informal system in order to avoid unnecessary litigation, without prejudice to the basic right of staff members to access the formal system, and encourages recourse to the informal resolution of disputes;
11. *Decides* to regularize the pilot project for access of non-staff personnel to the services of the Office of the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services, within existing resources;

## **III**

### **Formal system**

12. *Recognizes* the ongoing positive contribution of the Office of Staff Legal Assistance to the system of administration of justice;

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<sup>52</sup> [A/78/121](#).

<sup>53</sup> [A/78/580](#).

<sup>54</sup> [A/C.5/78/20](#).

13. *Recalls* paragraph 7 of its resolution [63/253](#), and reaffirms that interns, type II gratis personnel and volunteers (other than United Nations Volunteers) shall have the possibility of requesting an appropriate management evaluation but shall not have access to the United Nations Dispute Tribunal or to the United Nations Appeals Tribunal;

14. *Decides* to approve the following amendment to the statute of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal:

Article 9, new paragraph 4:

4. In hearing an application to appeal an administrative decision imposing a disciplinary measure, the Dispute Tribunal shall pass judgment on the application by conducting a judicial review. In conducting a judicial review, the Dispute Tribunal shall consider the record assembled by the Secretary-General and may admit other evidence to make an assessment on whether the facts on which the disciplinary measure was based have been established by evidence; whether the established facts legally amount to misconduct; whether the applicant's due process rights were observed; and whether the disciplinary measure imposed was proportionate to the offence.

#### IV

##### Other issues

15. *Invites* the Sixth Committee to consider the legal aspects of the report to be submitted by the Secretary-General, without prejudice to the role of the Fifth Committee as the Main Committee entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters;

16. *Recalls* paragraph 44 of its resolution [73/276](#) and paragraph 35 of its resolution [77/260](#), stresses that the system of administration of justice must work in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the legal and regulatory framework approved by the General Assembly, and reaffirms that the Dispute Tribunal and the Appeals Tribunal shall exercise their powers according to their respective statutes.

#### RESOLUTION 78/249

Adopted at the 50th (resumed) plenary meeting, on 22 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee ([A/78/661](#), para. 6)

##### 78/249. Financing of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the reports of the Secretary-General on the budget performance for 2022, the proposed budget for 2024 and the revised estimates arising from the effect of changes in rates of exchange and inflation for the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals,<sup>55</sup> the financial report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022 and the report of the Board of Auditors on the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals<sup>56</sup> and the recommendations contained therein, as well as the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,<sup>57</sup>

*Recalling* its resolution [66/240](#) A of 24 December 2011 on the financing of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution [77/261](#) of 30 December 2022,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General;
2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, subject to the provisions of the present resolution;
3. *Reaffirms* the high priority accorded to the work of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals;

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<sup>55</sup> [A/78/390](#), [A/78/534](#) and [A/78/634](#).

<sup>56</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 50 (A/78/5/Add.15).*

<sup>57</sup> [A/78/621](#) and [A/78/7/Add.41](#).

## VI. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Fifth Committee

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4. *Recalls* paragraphs 17 and 23 of the report of the Advisory Committee,<sup>58</sup> and encourages the Mechanism to ensure the prompt and efficient completion of its remaining work;
5. *Also recalls* paragraph 12 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and encourages the Mechanism to complete the digitization of its archives, including through the use of voluntary contributions;
6. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts made by the Mechanism to reduce its costs and enhance its efficiency as well as the timeliness of its activities to make greater use of the lessons learned and to adopt appropriate measures for achieving further operational savings and efficiencies, in order to ensure the expeditious completion of its work in a transparent, accountable and cost-effective manner;
7. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to develop a compendium of lessons learned and best practices from the closure of predecessor tribunals;
8. *Notes* the importance of ensuring continued public consciousness of the events leading to the establishment of the Mechanism, and requests the Mechanism to continue the provision of library services to the public within existing resources;
9. *Recalls* paragraph 7 of its resolution [74/272](#) of 13 April 2020, and requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to settle all outstanding claims without delay and to report thereon in the context of his next report;
10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide additional and detailed information on the final expenditures and unencumbered balance, as well as its return to Member States in the context of the next report;
11. *Notes* the efforts of the Mechanism to gradually downsize its operations in the light of its reduced functions, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the Mechanism continues to take measures in this regard;
12. *Reiterates its requests* to the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to promote the nationalization of positions, as appropriate, and to report thereon in the context of his next budget proposal;
13. *Decides* not to abolish one general temporary assistance position of Protocol Assistant (Local level) in the Arusha branch;
14. *Also decides* to reduce non-post resources by the amount of 150,000 United States dollars;
15. *Further decides* to appropriate to the special account for the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals a total amount of 65,459,100 dollars gross (60,132,400 dollars net) for 2024, as detailed in the annex to the present resolution;
16. *Decides* that the total assessment for 2024 under the special account amounting to 55,107,500 dollars shall consist of:
  - (a) 65,459,100 dollars, being the estimated appropriation approved for the period;
  - (b) Less 3,369,000 dollars, being the credit of the cancellation of prior period obligations/commitments corresponding to the year 2021, and other revenue;
  - (c) Less 6,982,600 dollars, being the surplus resulting from the final expenditure for the budget for the year 2022;
17. *Also decides* to apportion the amount of 27,553,750 dollars gross (25,176,900 dollars net) among Member States in accordance with the scale of assessments applicable to the regular budget of the United Nations for 2024;
18. *Further decides* to apportion the amount of 27,553,750 dollars gross (25,176,900 dollars net) among Member States in accordance with the scale of assessments applicable to peacekeeping operations of the United Nations for 2024;
19. *Decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution [973 \(X\)](#) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraphs 17 and 18 above, their

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<sup>58</sup> [A/78/621](#).

## VI. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Fifth Committee

respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income in the amount of 4,753,700 dollars approved for the Mechanism for 2024.

### Annex

#### Financing of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals for 2024

	Gross	Net of staff assessment
	(United States dollars)	
Estimated appropriation for 2024 <sup>a</sup>	63 930 800	58 552 400
Revised estimates: effects of changes in rates of exchange and inflation <sup>b</sup>	3 704 800	3 597 500
Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions <sup>c</sup>	(2 061 900)	(1 897 200)
Recommendations of the Fifth Committee <sup>c</sup>	(114 600)	(120 300)
<b>Estimated initial appropriation for 2024</b>	<b>65 459 100</b>	<b>60 132 400</b>
<b>Total assessment for 2024</b>		
Requirements for 2024	65 459 100	60 132 400
Cancellation of commitments for the year 2021 and other revenue	(3 369 000)	(3 369 000)
Surplus resulting from the final expenditure for the budget for the year 2022	(6 982 600)	(6 409 600)
<b>Net contributions assessed on Member States for 2024</b>	<b>55 107 500</b>	<b>50 353 800</b>
<i>Of which:</i>		
Contributions assessed on Member States in accordance with the scale of assessments applicable to the regular budget of the United Nations for 2024	27 553 750	25 176 900
Contributions assessed on Member States in accordance with the scale of assessments applicable to peacekeeping operations of the United Nations for 2024	27 553 750	25 176 900

<sup>a</sup> See A/78/534.

<sup>b</sup> See A/78/634.

<sup>c</sup> Reflects amounts after recosting.

### RESOLUTION 78/250

Adopted at the 50th (resumed) plenary meeting, on 22 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/647, para. 6)

#### 78/250. Financing of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali<sup>59</sup> and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,<sup>60</sup>

*Recalling* Security Council resolution 2100 (2013) of 25 April 2013, by which the Council established the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission, the latest of which was resolution 2690 (2023) of 30 June 2023, by which the Council decided to terminate as of 30 June 2023 the mandate of the Mission under resolution 2640 (2022) of 29 June 2022,

<sup>59</sup> A/78/516.

<sup>60</sup> A/78/608.

*Recalling also* its resolution 67/286 of 28 June 2013 on the financing of the Mission and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 77/312 of 30 June 2023,

1. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

**Revised budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024**

2. *Decides* to appropriate to the special account for the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali the amount of 866,865,700 United States dollars for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, inclusive of the amount of 590,000,000 dollars previously authorized for the Mission for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2023 under the terms of its resolution 77/312;

**Financing of the appropriation**

3. *Decides*, taking into account the amount of 590,000,000 dollars already apportioned under the terms of its resolution 77/312 for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2023, to apportion among Member States the additional amount of 276,865,700 dollars for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 76/239 of 24 December 2021, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2023 and 2024, as set out in its resolution 76/238 of 24 December 2021;

4. *Also decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 3 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 5,019,600 dollars, representing the balance of the estimated staff assessment income of 23,934,700 dollars approved for the Mission for the period from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024;

5. *Further decides* to keep under review during its seventy-eighth session, the item entitled “Financing of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali”.

**RESOLUTION 78/251**

Adopted at the 50th (resumed) plenary meeting, on 22 December 2023, by a recorded vote of 137 to 2, with 22 abstentions,\* on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/662, para. 83)<sup>61</sup>

\* *In favour:* Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe

*Against:* Australia, Israel

*Abstaining:* Albania, Andorra, Cameroon, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, Georgia, Guatemala, Hungary, Monaco, Montenegro, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, San Marino, South Sudan, Spain, Togo, Ukraine, United States of America

<sup>61</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by Cuba (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China).



**78/251. Proposed programme budget for 2024: section 26, Palestine refugees**

*The General Assembly*

1. *Recognizes* the extraordinary humanitarian work that the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East performs;
2. *Expresses condolences* to the Agency for the loss of its staff members, which stands at 136 and growing, and who have suffered unprecedented fatalities in 2023, which represents the highest number of United Nations fatalities ever recorded in a single conflict;
3. *Condemns in the strongest possible terms* the killing of Agency staff and refugees sheltered under the United Nations flag;
4. *Condemns in the strongest possible terms* the destruction of buildings under the United Nations flag;
5. *Calls for* respect and protection, consistent with international humanitarian law, of all civilian and humanitarian facilities, including hospitals and other medical facilities, as well as their means of transport and equipment, schools, places of worship and United Nations facilities, as well as all of the humanitarian and medical personnel and journalists, media professionals and associated personnel in armed conflict in the region.

**RESOLUTION 78/252**

Adopted at the 50th (resumed) plenary meeting, on 22 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee ([A/78/662](#), para. 83)

**78/252. Questions relating to the proposed programme budget for 2024**

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* its resolutions [41/213](#) of 19 December 1986, [42/211](#) of 21 December 1987, [45/248](#) B, section VI, of 21 December 1990, [55/231](#) of 23 December 2000, [56/253](#) of 24 December 2001, [58/269](#) and [58/270](#) of 23 December 2003, [59/276](#), section XI, of 23 December 2004, [60/283](#) of 7 July 2006, [61/263](#) of 4 April 2007, [62/236](#) of 22 December 2007, [63/262](#) of 24 December 2008, [64/243](#) of 24 December 2009, [65/259](#) of 24 December 2010, [66/246](#) of 24 December 2011, [68/246](#) of 27 December 2013, [70/247](#) of 23 December 2015, [72/261](#) and [72/266](#) A of 24 December 2017, [72/266](#) B of 5 July 2018, [73/281](#) of 22 December 2018, [74/262](#) of 27 December 2019, [75/252](#) of 31 December 2020, [76/245](#) of 24 December 2021, [76/271](#) of 29 June 2022, [77/262](#), [77/267](#) and [77/263](#) A of 30 December 2022 and [77/263](#) B of 18 April 2023,

*Reaffirming also* the respective mandates of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in the consideration of the proposed programme budget,

*Reaffirming further* the role of the General Assembly, through the Fifth Committee, in carrying out a thorough analysis and approval of posts and financial resources, as well as of human resources policies,

*Expressing deep concern* about the detrimental effect of the withholding of assessed contributions on the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations and its ability to implement mandates and programmes,

*Recognizing* that multilingualism, as a core value of the Organization, contributes to the achievement of the goals of the United Nations, as set out in Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations,

*Having considered* the proposed programme budget for 2024,<sup>62</sup> the report of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee on internal oversight: proposed programme budget for 2024<sup>63</sup> and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,<sup>64</sup>

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<sup>62</sup> [A/78/6](#) (Introduction), Sects. 1–36 and Income sects. 1–3.

<sup>63</sup> [A/78/95](#).

<sup>64</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 7* ([A/78/7](#)).

## VI. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Fifth Committee

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*Having also considered* the report of the Secretary-General on implementation of projects financed from the Development Account: thirteenth progress report,<sup>65</sup>

1. *Reaffirms* that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters, and reaffirms the role of the Fifth Committee in carrying out a thorough analysis and approving human and financial resources and policies, with a view to ensuring full, effective and efficient implementation of all mandated programmes and activities and the implementation of policies in this regard;
2. *Also reaffirms* rule 153 of its rules of procedure;
3. *Further reaffirms* the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation;<sup>66</sup>
4. *Reaffirms* the established budgetary procedures and methodologies, based on its resolutions [41/213](#) and [42/211](#);
5. *Also reaffirms* the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations;<sup>67</sup>
6. *Further reaffirms* its resolution [78/244](#) of 22 December 2023;
7. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, subject to the provisions of the present resolution;
8. *Stresses* that finance serves as a foundation of and an important element underpinning United Nations governance;
9. *Also stresses* that effective and efficient mandate delivery is the overriding factor in determining the Secretariat's resource requirements and its overall staffing structure;
10. *Urges* all Member States to fulfil their financial obligations as set out in the Charter of the United Nations on time, in full and without conditions;
11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make every effort to facilitate Member States' payments of their assessed contributions;
12. *Stresses* the importance of early engagement with Member States to outline the implementation of the recent General Assembly resolutions on budgetary matters and their impact on the presentation format of the proposed programme budget;
13. *Emphasizes* the importance of comprehensive budgetary performance in the management of the programme plan and programme budget, and requests the Secretary-General to clearly link the budget inputs to tangible results;
14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to strengthen internal controls in programme planning, budgeting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting;
15. *Invites* the Secretary-General to continue to pursue cost-effective and efficient practices in future budget submissions;
16. *Notes* the increased size and volume of documentation that forms the proposed programme budget, and notes with appreciation that the Secretary-General continues his efforts to enhance the quality, clarity and usability of the proposed programme budget in consultation with Member States, while maintaining the level of information provided to Member States;
17. *Stresses* that any delay in the issuance of the documentation required by the Fifth Committee impacts negatively its intergovernmental decision-making process;

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<sup>65</sup> [A/78/85](#).

<sup>66</sup> [ST/SGB/2018/3](#).

<sup>67</sup> [ST/SGB/2013/4](#) and [ST/SGB/2013/4/Amend.1](#).

## VI. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Fifth Committee

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18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to present the overall year-on-year evolution of the proposed budget compared to the approved budget on a comparable scope in the course of his early engagement with the Member States before meetings of the Fifth Committee during the main part of the session;
19. *Notes* the provision of information to Member States online, and encourages the Secretary-General to continue his efforts in this regard;
20. *Stresses* that results-based budgeting and results-based management are mutually supportive management tools and that improved implementation of results-based budgeting enhances both management and accountability in the Secretariat, and encourages the Secretary-General to continue his efforts in this regard;
21. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to improve the presentation of the proposed programme budget and, in particular, to ensure that resources are clearly linked to a results-based budgeting framework and reflect existing mandates and the measures to achieve them;
22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in future programme budgets the indicative cost estimates of major construction projects in the top-line budget figure in the introductory section of the budget, for information purposes only;
23. *Takes note* of paragraph 23 of the report of the Advisory Committee;
24. *Decides* to recast the proposed programme budget only once, no later than at the start of the main part of the session, including income sections;
25. *Reiterates its concern* about the high number of vacancies, and requests the Secretary-General to fill vacant positions expeditiously, and to conduct a review on how to effectively utilize existing posts, including those that have been vacant for 24 months or longer, and to report the results of the review by proposing either their retention, with clear justification of need, changing of post or proposing their abolishment, as appropriate, in his future reports;
26. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to undertake pre-posting of job openings irrespective of the liquidity situation of the Organization and to proactively approach pre-posting of vacancies in order to be in a position to expeditiously launch and complete recruitment actions, including the appointment of the selected candidates;
27. *Stresses* the importance of using realistic and consistent vacancy rate assumptions when formulating post resources budget requests;
28. *Expresses its serious concern* at the low rate of compliance with the advance purchase policy directive, recalls paragraphs 8 and 9 of its resolution [77/263 B](#), and requests the Secretary-General to immediately implement the decision of the General Assembly that compliance with the advance purchase policy for travel is a prerequisite to undertaking any travel above economy class for all staff below the level of Assistant Secretary-General, with exceptions made for delayed travel documents, when appropriate;
29. *Decides* to further reduce non-post resources by 1,889,900 United States dollars;
30. *Recalls* paragraph 83 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and requests the Secretary-General to improve the rejuvenation of the Secretariat through strategic workforce and succession planning for all posts that are vacant or will become vacant owing to upcoming retirements and to take measures to increase entry-level posts and decrease high-level posts, and for downward reclassification of existing vacant posts and to report on the measures taken and results achieved at the seventy-ninth session;
31. *Decides* to abolish the following posts that have been vacant for more than 24 months:
  - (a) One P-2 post of Associate Architect in the Office of Programme Planning, Finance and Budget;
  - (b) Two P-2 posts of Associate Information Systems Officer in the Office of Information and Communications Technology;
  - (c) Two General Service (Other level) posts of Information Systems Assistant in the Office of Information and Communications Technology;
32. *Also decides* that the staffing table for 2024 shall be as set out in the annex to the present resolution;

**Part I**

**Overall policymaking, direction and coordination**

**Section 1**

**Overall policymaking, direction and coordination**

33. *Takes note* of paragraph I.9 of the report of the Advisory Committee, approves the establishment of the Office of Data Protection and Privacy, and decides to establish one D-1 post of Chief Data Protection and Privacy Officer, one P-3 post of Data Protection and Privacy Officer and one P-2 post of Associate Data Protection and Privacy Officer;

34. *Also takes note* of paragraph I.12 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides to establish one P-5 post of Senior Political Affairs Officer in the Office of the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi;

35. *Decides* to establish one P-2 post and one P-3 post of Protocol Affairs Officer in the Office of the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi;

36. *Also decides* to approve the conversion of one P-5 post within the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict without setting a precedent;

**Section 2**

**General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management**

37. *Takes note* of paragraphs I.87, I.88 and I.89 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and approves the proposal of the Secretary-General for non-post resources;

**Part II**

**Political affairs**

**Section 3**

**Political affairs**

38. *Decides* not to redeploy one Political Affairs Officer (P-3) and one Administrative Assistant (Local level) in the Liaison Office from Nairobi to Arusha;

39. *Takes note* of paragraphs II.33, II.34 and II.39 of the report of the Advisory Committee;

40. *Decides* to convert the following extrabudgetary positions to regular budget posts within the Countering Terrorism Section to support the presence of the Office of Counter-Terrorism in Central Asia:

(a) Programme Management Officer and Regional Coordinator (P-4) established in 2018 and redeployed to Ashgabat in 2023;

(b) Programme Management Officer (P-3) established in 2019 and deployed in Ashgabat;

41. *Also decides* to convert one extrabudgetary position of Programme Management Officer (P-4) established in 2019 and redeployed to Madrid in 2021 to a regular budget post within the Special Projects Section to support the implementation of the Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Threats against Vulnerable Targets;

**Section 4**

**Disarmament**

42. *Takes note* of paragraphs II.96 and II.97 of the report of the Advisory Committee;

**Part III**

**International justice and law**

**Section 7**

**International Court of Justice**

43. *Takes note* of paragraphs III.14 and III.18 of the report of the Advisory Committee;

## **Section 8**

### **Legal affairs**

44. *Takes note* of paragraph III.79 of the report of the Advisory Committee;

45. *Decides* that regular budget resources for the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011 under section 8, Legal affairs, for 2024 amount to 17,167,400 dollars before recosting;

## **Part IV**

### **International cooperation for development**

## **Section 9**

### **Economic and social affairs**

46. *Takes note* of paragraph IV.7 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides to establish two posts (1 P-3 and 1 P-2);

47. *Also takes note* of paragraph IV.10 of the report of the Advisory Committee;

## **Section 10**

### **Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States**

48. *Recalls* that, within the context of the priority for the promotion of sustainable economic growth and sustainable development, particular attention should be paid to the needs of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, and requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to mobilize adequate resources to support the implementation of the mandates under this section;

49. *Takes note* of paragraph IV.39 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides to establish a P-3 post of Statistician;

50. *Also takes note* of paragraph IV.40 of the report of the Advisory Committee;

## **Section 11**

### **United Nations system support for the African Union's Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want**

51. *Recalls* that the development of Africa is an established priority of the United Nations, and reaffirms its commitment to addressing the unique needs of Africa;

52. *Takes note* of paragraph IV.63 of the report of the Advisory Committee;

## **Section 14**

### **Environment**

53. *Takes note* of paragraph IV.140 of the report of the Advisory Committee;

## **Part V**

### **Regional cooperation for development**

## **Section 20**

### **Economic development in Europe**

54. *Appreciates* the Secretary-General's efforts to abolish posts in a cost-neutral manner when proposing post establishments, and takes note of paragraph V.61 of the report of the Advisory Committee;

## **Section 21**

### **Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean**

55. *Acknowledges* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean on its seventy-fifth anniversary, and notes with appreciation its cooperation with the United Nations development system, including its

collaborative work with entities of the system on country programme implementation, as well as its contribution in promoting common regional strategies and messages to provide demand-driven support to countries in the region;

## **Section 22**

### **Economic and social development in Western Asia**

56. *Recalls* paragraph V.110 of the report of the Advisory Committee, commends the participation of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in the spending review, trusts that the outcome of this exercise will allow the Commission to generate increased efficiency in its mandate delivery, and requests that further expenditure reviews reorganize existing resources to more efficiently deliver on mandates;

## **Section 23**

### **Regular programme of technical cooperation**

57. *Recalls* paragraphs V.151 and XIII.43 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and requests the Secretary-General to strengthen the complementarity, where appropriate, between the Development Account and the regular programme of technical cooperation to maximize mandate delivery and effectiveness of regular budget funding on development to support the countries in need to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>68</sup> and report thereon in the next programme budget proposal;

58. *Recalls* paragraph V.122 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and stresses that activities of the regular programme of technical cooperation should respond to the needs of Member States and requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to facilitate the provision of specific advisory services, capacity-building and technical support to address Member States' specific needs related to sustainable development;

59. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report within the programme budget report on the results achieved by the activities carried out under the regular programme of technical cooperation, including transparent information on the criteria used for the allocation of resources to the implementing entities for the sake of transparency and accountability;

## **Part VI**

### **Human rights and humanitarian affairs**

## **Section 26**

### **Palestine refugees**

60. *Takes note* of paragraph VI.82 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and agrees to the reclassification of the post of Director of the Department of Human Resources from D-1 to D-2 level;

61. *Decides* to reallocate the remaining 50 per cent of resources related to executive and administrative management functions envisaged to be proposed by the Secretary-General in the 2025 budget to the 2024 budget;

## **Part VII**

### **Global communications**

## **Section 28**

### **Global communications**

62. *Takes note* of paragraph VII.14 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and approves the redeployment of one Public Information Officer (P-3) from New York to Geneva;

63. *Recalls* paragraph VII.10 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides to establish only 20 general temporary assistance positions: 4 Editor (P-4) (1 each for Arabic, Chinese, Russian and Spanish), 8 Press Officer (P-3) (2 each for Arabic, Chinese, Russian and Spanish), 4 Editorial Assistant (General Service (Other level)) (1 each for Arabic, Chinese, Russian and Spanish), and 4 Public Information Assistant General Service (Other level) (1 each for Arabic, Chinese, Russian and Spanish);

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<sup>68</sup> Resolution [70/1](#).

## **Part VIII**

### **Common support services**

#### **Section 29A**

##### **Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance**

64. *Recalls* paragraph 41 of its resolution [77/278](#) of 18 April 2023, and notes with appreciation efforts taken by the Secretary-General in this regard, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the quality and quantity of information available on the new online Secretariat workforce portal are not less than what used to be available on the HR Insight online reporting tool;

65. *Takes note* of paragraph VIII.6 of the report of the Advisory Committee;

#### **Section 29B**

##### **Department of Operational Support**

66. *Takes note* of paragraph VIII.35 of the report of the Advisory Committee;

67. *Also takes note* of paragraph VIII.36 of the report of the Advisory Committee;

#### **Section 29C**

##### **Office of Information and Communications Technology**

68. *Decides* not to establish six general temporary assistance positions related to the report of the Secretary-General on capital investment planning;

#### **Section 29F**

##### **Administration, Vienna**

69. *Takes note* of paragraph VIII.167 of the report of the Advisory Committee;

## **Part X**

### **Jointly financed administrative activities and special expenses**

#### **Section 31**

##### **Jointly financed administrative activities**

70. *Decides* to establish the post of Legal Officer (P-4) in the secretariat of the International Civil Service Commission and the post of Evaluation and Inspection Officer (P-3) in the secretariat of the Joint Inspection Unit, to be funded through organizations participating in the cost-sharing formulas;

71. *Also decides* to establish one post at the P-4 level to strengthen the capacity of the secretariat of the International Civil Service Commission to fulfil the task required to conduct the comprehensive review of the compensation package, and invites the organizations to cover its financing as an exceptional measure and without setting a precedent;

72. *Recalls* paragraphs X.24, X.29, X.38 and X.41 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and invites the organizations to cover an increase of joint expenditures as an exceptional measure and without setting a precedent;

73. *Also recalls* paragraph X.29 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides to increase non-post resources of the International Civil Service Commission by 1,418,000 dollars (38 per cent) and to approve an amount of 3,730,900 dollars (100 per cent) for non-post resources as proposed by the Commission;

## **Part XIII**

### **Development Account**

#### **Section 35**

##### **Development Account**

74. *Decides* to increase the Development Account by an additional 1 million dollars in 2024;



## VI. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Fifth Committee

### Income section 2

#### General income

75. *Decides* that income from bank interest shall be 12,000,000 dollars;

### Income section 3

#### Services to the public

76. *Decides* to increase the income under income section 3 by 1,204,900 dollars, while maintaining garage rates at their current level and not introducing any changes in the garage operations policies;

77. *Also decides* that a vacancy rate of 11.1 per cent for Professional staff and 9.1 per cent for General Service staff shall be used as a basis for the calculation of the budget for 2024.

### Annex

#### Staffing table for 2024

Category	Number of posts (excluding special political missions)	Number of posts (special political missions)	Total
<i>Expenditure sections</i>			
<b>Professional and higher</b>			
Deputy Secretary-General	1	—	1
Under-Secretary-General	37	17	54
Assistant Secretary-General	34	19	53
D-2	118	9	127
D-1	313	53	366
P-5	939	192	1 131
P-4	1 661	398	2 059
P-3	1 579	380	1 959
P-2/1	565	28	593
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>5 247</b>	<b>1 096</b>	<b>6 343</b>
<b>General Service</b>			
Principal level	274	2	276
Other level	2 304	46	2 350
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2 578</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>2 626</b>
<b>Other</b>			
Security Service	306	—	306
Local level	1 919	1 638	3 557
Field Service	106	725	831
National Professional Officer	102	572	674
Trades and Crafts	93	—	93
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2 526</b>	<b>2 935</b>	<b>5 461</b>
<b>Expenditure sections total</b>	<b>10 351</b>	<b>4 079</b>	<b>14 430</b>
<i>Income section 3</i>			
<b>Professional and higher</b>			
P-5	2	—	2
P-4	4	—	4

## VI. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Fifth Committee

Category	Number of posts (excluding special political missions)	Number of posts (special political missions)	Total
P-3	4	—	4
P-2/1	3	—	3
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>General Service</b>	—	—	—
Principal level	7	—	7
Other level	42	—	42
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Other</b>			
Security Service	2	—	2
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Income section 3 total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>10 415</b>	<b>4 079</b>	<b>14 494</b>

### RESOLUTION 78/253

Adopted at the 50th (resumed) plenary meeting, on 22 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee ([A/78/662](#), para. 83)

#### 78/253. Special subjects relating to the proposed programme budget for 2024

*The General Assembly,*

#### I

##### Enterprise resource planning project, Umoja

*Recalling* section II of its resolution [60/283](#) of 7 July 2006, section II of its resolution [63/262](#) of 24 December 2008, its resolution [64/243](#) of 24 December 2009, section II.A of its resolution [65/259](#) of 24 December 2010, its resolution [66/246](#) of 24 December 2011, section III of its resolution [66/263](#) of 21 June 2012, section III of its resolution [67/246](#) of 24 December 2012, its resolution [68/246](#) of 27 December 2013, sections IV and VI of its resolution [69/274](#) A of 2 April 2015, section XVII of its resolution [70/248](#) A of 23 December 2015, section XIV of its resolution [71/272](#) A of 23 December 2016, section XXI of its resolution [72/262](#) A of 24 December 2017, section XVII of its resolution [73/279](#) A of 22 December 2018, section XVII of its resolution [74/263](#) of 27 December 2019, section V of its resolution [75/253](#) A of 31 December 2020, section VI of its resolution [76/246](#) A of 24 December 2021 and section II of its resolution [77/263](#) B of 18 April 2023,

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General on the progress on the functioning and development of the Umoja system<sup>69</sup> and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,<sup>70</sup>

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee;

<sup>69</sup> [A/78/505](#).

<sup>70</sup> [A/78/7/Add.25](#).

## II

### Financial performance report on the programme budget for 2022

*Recalling* its resolutions [72/266](#) A of 24 December 2017, [76/245](#), [76/246](#) A, [76/247](#) A to C and [76/248](#) of 24 December 2021, [76/246](#) B of 13 April 2022, [76/271](#) of 29 June 2022 and section VII of its resolution [77/263](#) A of 30 December 2022,

*Having considered* the financial performance report on the programme budget for 2022<sup>71</sup> and the related report of the Advisory Committee,<sup>72</sup>

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee;
3. *Notes* the performance report for 2022 that provides a view of the implementation of the 2022 budget, and requests the Secretary-General to continue its further improvement;
4. *Recalls* paragraph 13 of the report of the Advisory Committee, notes the continuous increase of the balance of the cost recovery fund, reiterates the necessity of a residual balance to minimize the risk of a cost recovery fund liability, requests the Secretary-General to provide an update during the second part of the resumed seventy-eighth session and to continue the review of the fund to identify credits for return to Member States, to indicate the amount of the accumulated balance that is spendable, the total revenue and expenditure of cost-recovery activities as well as net income and the average percentage of revenue for transactions related to cost-recovery operations, while predicting growth trends and ensuring that the balance is kept at appropriate levels to respond to long-term staff liabilities and other operating costs required for the provision of services, and also requests the Secretary-General to further inform on this matter in the financial performance report for 2023;
5. *Takes note* of the final expenditure in 2022 in the amount of 3,236,269,600 United States dollars and the actual income in 2022 in the amount of 322,169,000 dollars;
6. *Approves* the return of 113,645,900 dollars as a credit against assessments to Member States for 2024, resulting from:
  - (a) Underexpenditure in the amount of 21,485,800 dollars under the expenditure sections of the programme budget for 2022;
  - (b) The cancellation of commitments pertaining to prior budget periods in the amount of 47,873,700 dollars, as reported in volume I of the financial reports and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022;
  - (c) A higher collected income in the amount of 25,634,500 dollars, which reflects the difference between the approved income estimates of 296,534,500 dollars and the actual income of 322,169,000 dollars;
  - (d) An amount of 18,651,900 dollars approved as a commitment authority for the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, for which an assessment had been approved by the General Assembly in its resolution [76/246](#) B;

## III

### Request for a subvention to the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone

*Recalling* its resolution [58/284](#) of 8 April 2004, section VII of its resolution [59/276](#) of 23 December 2004, section II of its resolution [59/294](#) of 22 June 2005, section XII of its resolution [65/259](#), section IX of its resolution [66/247](#) of 24 December 2011, section I of its resolution [67/246](#), section VII of its resolution [70/248](#) A, section III of its resolution [71/272](#) A, section VIII of its resolution [72/262](#) A, section III of its resolution [73/279](#) A, section VI of its resolution [74/263](#), section XVI of its resolution [75/253](#) A, section XI of its resolution [76/246](#) A and section III of its resolution [77/263](#) A,

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<sup>71</sup> [A/78/89](#).

<sup>72</sup> [A/78/330](#).

## VI. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Fifth Committee

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*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General on the use of the commitment authority and request for a subvention to the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone<sup>73</sup> and the related report of the Advisory Committee,<sup>74</sup>

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee;
3. *Reaffirms* the high priority accorded to the work of the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone;
4. *Welcomes* the support provided by several countries, including voluntary contributions, pro bono annual audit of the Residual Special Court and in-kind support in enforcing sentences, relocating witnesses, housing the archives of the Residual Special Court as well as prisoners of the Court, and hosting fundraising activities;
5. *Also welcomes* the continued in-kind multiform support provided by the Government of Sierra Leone to the Residual Special Court, including the provision of rent-free office space and other services at no cost;
6. *Emphasizes* that the subvention from the regular budget is a bridging financing mechanism to supplement insufficient voluntary contributions, and encourages all Member States to provide voluntary support for the Residual Special Court;
7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to seek voluntary contributions, including through broadening the donor base and holding regular consultations with the key stakeholders, as well as to implement innovative fundraising approaches, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at the main part of its seventy-ninth session;
8. *Recalls* paragraph 29 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and requests the Secretary-General to redouble his efforts to seek alternative and sustainable financing arrangements for the Residual Special Court and to report thereon to the General Assembly at the main part of its seventy-ninth session;
9. *Appreciates* the efforts made by the Residual Special Court on cost-efficiency measures, encourages the Court to continue its efforts aimed at identifying additional cost-efficiency and the relevant cost-savings measures to be applied in view of the persistent funding challenges, and requests the Secretary-General to report thereon in the context of his next report;
10. *Welcomes* the efforts to date of the Residual Special Court to digitize judicial records, notes that full digitization of all records remains incomplete, and encourages the Court to continue to work towards the completion of the full digitization of archives within the existing resources;
11. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in an amount not to exceed 2,820,000 dollars to supplement the voluntary financial resources of the Residual Special Court for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2024, and requests the Secretary-General to report on the use of the commitment authority in the context of his next report;

## IV

### Request for a subvention to the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia

*Recalling* section I of its resolution [68/247 B](#) of 9 April 2014, section I of its resolution [69/274 A](#), section IV of its resolution [70/248 A](#), section II of its resolution [71/272 A](#), section IX of its resolution [72/262 A](#), section IV of its resolution [73/279 A](#), section V of its resolution [74/263](#), section XX of its resolution [75/253 A](#), section XII of its resolution [76/246 A](#) and section IV of its resolution [77/263 A](#),

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General on the use of the commitment authority and request for a subvention to the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia<sup>75</sup> and the related report of the Advisory Committee,<sup>76</sup>

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<sup>73</sup> [A/78/363](#).

<sup>74</sup> [A/78/7/Add.12](#).

<sup>75</sup> [A/78/515](#).

<sup>76</sup> [A/78/7/Add.21](#).

## VI. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Fifth Committee

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1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee, subject to the provisions of the present resolution;
3. *Reaffirms* the high priority accorded to the work of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia;
4. *Notes with appreciation* the sustained contributions of the Government of Cambodia, as the host country, for the Extraordinary Chambers;
5. *Encourages* the Extraordinary Chambers to continue to adopt appropriate measures for achieving operational savings and efficiencies while properly carrying out the residual functions in a transparent, accountable, cost-effective and expeditious manner, with a view to a timely completion of the residual phase;
6. *Welcomes* the completion of judicial proceedings in all cases before the Extraordinary Chambers;
7. *Recalls* paragraph 14 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and stresses the importance of maintaining and preserving the records of the Extraordinary Chambers in the three official languages of the Chambers and making those documents easily accessible for the general public;
8. *Also recalls* paragraph 16 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and reaffirms that expenses of the international component of the Extraordinary Chambers should be borne by voluntary contributions, further encourages all Member States to provide continuing and additional voluntary support for the Extraordinary Chambers, and requests the Secretary-General to continue his intensive efforts to obtain additional voluntary contributions, including by broadening the donor base;
9. *Encourages* all Member States to provide continuing and additional voluntary support for both the international and national components of the Extraordinary Chambers in support of the expeditious completion of the mandate of the Chambers;
10. *Welcomes* all financial and in-kind contributions to support the work of the Extraordinary Chambers;
11. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in an amount not exceeding 2,216,700 dollars to supplement the voluntary financial resources of the international component of the Extraordinary Chambers for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2024, so as to enable the Chambers to carry out its judicial mandate, and requests the Secretary-General to report on the use of the commitment authority in the context of the next report;

## V

### Capital investment planning

*Recalling* its resolution [76/245](#), and its decision 77/548 B of 18 April 2023,

*Having considered* the reports of the Secretary-General<sup>77</sup> and the related reports of the Advisory Committee,<sup>78</sup>

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>79</sup>
2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee,<sup>80</sup> subject to the provisions of the present resolution;
3. *Emphasizes* that the capital investment plan presents the Secretariat's medium- to long-term plan for capital investment needs in the United Nations Secretariat for information and planning purposes, with the aim of enhancing transparency, predictability, accountability and coherence of capital investment needs, and encourages the Secretary-General to report on those needs on a regular basis;

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<sup>77</sup> [A/77/519](#), [A/78/536](#) and [A/78/536/Corr.1](#).

<sup>78</sup> [A/77/7/Add.23](#) and [A/78/7/Add.20](#).

<sup>79</sup> [A/78/536](#) and [A/78/536/Corr.1](#).

<sup>80</sup> [A/78/7/Add.20](#).

## VI. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Fifth Committee

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4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that the procurement of goods and services for the construction project is carried out in strict compliance with the existing regulations, rules and relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions governing procurement in the United Nations;
5. *Recalls* paragraph 54 of the report of the Advisory Committee,<sup>81</sup> and requests the Secretary-General to continue to explore additional innovative ways to promote procurement from developing countries and countries with economies in transition at Headquarters and field offices, and to report on concrete measures taken in this regard;
6. *Also recalls* paragraph 59 of the report of the Advisory Committee,<sup>82</sup> and requests that best practices from previous and ongoing capital investment and construction projects, experiences and lessons learned from governance and oversight arrangements over capital investments, as well as industry best practices and tools, be included in the capital investment planning reports;
7. *Further recalls* paragraph 12 of the report of the Advisory Committee,<sup>83</sup> and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the report on capital investment planning includes information on the Organization's phased plans with medium- and long-term perspectives on capital investment needs for information and planning purposes such as information and communications technology equipment standards, assets renewal plan, safety and security, and buildings and facilities, and encourages the Secretary-General to further refine and standardize the information, analysis and presentation of information in terms of detail, timescale, comparability and integration and thus enable better understanding, comparison and analysis of the strategic needs of the Organization across all lines of capital investment;
8. *Welcomes* the application of lessons learned in designing information and communications technology infrastructures to ensure stronger connectivity and backups in operations through capital investment and maintenance projects, and requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts in this regard and report thereon through the capital investment planning report on further assessments and the resulting strategies, including their impacts and benefits;
9. *Trusts* that the Secretary-General will ensure that all resource requirements related to the capital investment plan are and will be presented through the proposed programme budget;
10. *Recalls* paragraph 49 of the report of the Advisory Committee,<sup>84</sup> and requests the Secretary-General to remain proactive in seeking both voluntary and in-kind contributions from Member States, in full compliance with all relevant rules and regulations of the Organization;

## VI

### Assessment of the workplace at United Nations Headquarters

*Recalling* section V of its resolution [67/246](#), section III of its resolution [67/254 A](#) of 12 April 2013, section IV of its resolution [68/247 B](#), section VII of its resolution [69/274 A](#), section XVI of its resolution [71/272 A](#), section XI of its resolution [72/262 A](#), section VI of its resolution [73/279 A](#), section IX of its resolution [74/263](#), section XIII of its resolution [75/253 A](#) and section II of its resolution [75/253 C](#) of 30 June 2021,

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General<sup>85</sup> and the related report of the Advisory Committee,<sup>86</sup>

*Having also considered* the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the implementation of a flexible workplace at United Nations Headquarters,<sup>87</sup>

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee;

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<sup>81</sup> Ibid.

<sup>82</sup> Ibid.

<sup>83</sup> Ibid.

<sup>84</sup> Ibid.

<sup>85</sup> [A/78/325](#).

<sup>86</sup> [A/78/7/Add.15](#).

<sup>87</sup> [A/78/225](#).

## VII

### Administrative expenses of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund

Recalling its resolution 70/238 A of 23 December 2015, section XIII of its resolution 76/246 A and its resolution 77/258 of 30 December 2022,

Having considered the report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board on the work of its seventy-fifth session and administrative expenses of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund,<sup>88</sup> the report of the Secretary-General on the administrative and financial implications arising from the report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board,<sup>89</sup> the financial report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022 and the report of the Board of Auditors on the Fund<sup>90</sup> and the recommendations contained therein, the report of the Chief Executive of Pension Administration and the Representative of the Secretary-General for the investment of the assets of the Fund on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors contained in its report for the year ended 31 December 2022 on the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund<sup>91</sup> and the related report of the Advisory Committee,<sup>92</sup>

1. Takes note of the report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board and the report of the Secretary-General;
2. Also takes note of the report of the Chief Executive of Pension Administration and the Representative of the Secretary-General for the investment of the assets of the Fund on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors contained in its report for the year ended 31 December 2022 on the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund;
3. Endorses the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee;
4. Acknowledges that some members of the Pension Board were unable to attend the seventy-fifth session of the Board due to challenges beyond their control, and looks forward to the future efforts of hosting Governments and the Board's secretariat in facilitating the participation of the members of the Board at its sessions, as needed and appropriate;
5. Recalls paragraph 158 of the report of the Pension Board, and requests the Board to examine any other circumstances where the guidelines could be extended in the context of changes in national law and marital status;
6. Approves the changes to the staffing table as set out in the table below:

#### A. Pension Administration

Action	Title of post	Category/level	Number
New post	Information Systems Officer	P-4	1
New post	Information Systems Officer	P-3	1
New post	Benefits Assistant	GS (OL)	1
New post	Administrative Assistant	GS (OL)	1
<b>Total net changes</b>			<b>4</b>
Reclassification	Senior Finance and Budget Officer	P-5	1
Reclassification	Benefits Officer	P-4	1
Reclassification	Senior Facilities Management Assistant	GS (PL)	1

<sup>88</sup> A/78/329.

<sup>89</sup> A/C.5/78/4.

<sup>90</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 5P (A/78/5/Add.16).

<sup>91</sup> A/78/323.

<sup>92</sup> A/78/7/Add.7.



## VI. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Fifth Committee

<i>Action</i>	<i>Title of post</i>	<i>Category/level</i>	<i>Number</i>
Redeployment from Contracts Management Unit to Sourcing Coordination Unit	Contracts Management Officer	P-3	1
Redeployment from Contracts Management Unit to Sourcing Coordination Unit	Administrative Assistant	GS (OL)	1

### B. Office of Investment Management

<i>Action</i>	<i>Title of post</i>	<i>Category/level</i>	<i>Number</i>
New post	Investment Officer (Private Markets)	P-4	1
New post	Investment Officer (Sustainable Investing)	P-4	1
New post	Associate Legal Officer	P-2/1	1
New post	Senior Information Assistant	GS (PL)	1
New post	Information Technology Assistant	GS (OL)	1
New post	Associate Human Resources Officer	P-2/1	1
New post	Programme Management Officer	P-3	1
New post	Associate Data Analyst	P-2/1	1
<b>Total net changes</b>			<b>8</b>
Reclassification	Senior Human Resources Assistant	GS (PL)	1
Redeployment from Office of the Representative of the Secretary-General to Legal Team	Senior Legal Officer	P-5	1
Redeployment from Office of the Representative of the Secretary-General to Legal Team	Legal Officer	P-4	1
Redeployment from Office of the Representative of the Secretary-General to Legal Team	Legal Officer	P-3	2
Redeployment from Office of the Representative of the Secretary-General to Legal Team	Associate Legal Officer	P-2/1	1
Redeployment from Office of the Representative of the Secretary-General to Legal Team	Legal Assistant	GS (OL)	1

*Abbreviations:* GS (OL), General Service (Other level); GS (PL), General Service (Principal level).

7. *Approves* the estimates of 139,789,700 dollars for the administration of the Fund for 2024;
8. *Also approves* expenses, chargeable directly to the Fund, totalling 131,366,600 dollars net for 2024;
9. *Further approves* the amount of 8,423,100 dollars as the cost of the services provided by the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund to the secretariat of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee for 2024, of which 5,188,600 dollars would represent the share of the regular budget and the balance of 3,234,500 dollars would represent the share of the funds and programmes;
10. *Approves* the decrease of 293,000 dollars in the United Nations share of the cost of the administrative expenses of the central secretariat of the Fund under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination, of the proposed programme budget for 2024;
11. *Authorizes* the Pension Board to supplement the voluntary contributions to the Emergency Fund for 2024 by an amount not to exceed 112,500 dollars;

### VIII

#### **Revised estimates relating to the proposed programme budget for 2024 under section 34, Safety and security, related to strategic security resilience**

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General<sup>93</sup> and the related report of the Advisory Committee,<sup>94</sup>

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee, subject to the provisions of the present resolution;
3. *Approves* the establishment of 19 posts (2 P-5, 7 P-4, 5 P-3, 2 P-2 and 3 General Service (Other level)) under section 34, Safety and security, of the proposed programme budget for 2024;
4. *Appropriates* an additional amount of 2,559,700 dollars under section 34, Safety and security, of the proposed programme budget for 2024, which would represent a charge against the contingency fund;
5. *Also appropriates* an amount of 220,900 dollars under section 36, Staff assessment, of the proposed programme budget for 2024, to be offset by an equivalent increase of 220,900 dollars under income section 1, Income from staff assessment;

### IX

#### **Revised estimates resulting from resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session**

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General<sup>95</sup> and the related report of the Advisory Committee,<sup>96</sup>

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee;
3. *Approves* the establishment, effective 1 January 2024, of five new temporary posts (2 P-4, 1 P-2, 1 GS (PL), 1 GS (OL)) under section 8, Legal affairs, of the proposed programme budget for 2024, to support the activities mandated by General Assembly resolution [77/321](#) of 1 August 2023;
4. *Appropriates* an additional amount of 3,431,700 dollars, comprising 825,800 dollars under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination, 5,000 dollars under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, 2,503,600 dollars under section 8, Legal affairs, 71,000 dollars under section 29B, Department of Operational Support, and 26,300 dollars under section 29C, Office of Information and Communications Technology, of the proposed programme budget for 2024, representing a charge against the contingency fund;
5. *Also appropriates* an amount of 122,100 dollars under section 36, Staff assessment, of the proposed programme budget for 2024, to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment;

### X

#### **Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its 2023 session**

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General<sup>97</sup> and the related report of the Advisory Committee,<sup>98</sup>

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

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<sup>93</sup> [A/78/530](#).

<sup>94</sup> [A/78/7/Add.22](#).

<sup>95</sup> [A/78/550](#).

<sup>96</sup> [A/78/7/Add.24](#).

<sup>97</sup> [A/78/334](#).

<sup>98</sup> [A/78/7/Add.8](#).

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee;

3. *Appropriates* an additional amount of 1,442,000 dollars, comprising 969,900 dollars under section 18, Economic and social development in Africa, 468,300 dollars under section 20, Economic development in Europe, and 3,800 dollars under section 29E, Administration, Geneva, of the proposed programme budget for 2024, representing a charge against the contingency fund;

4. *Also appropriates* an amount of 149,400 dollars under section 36, Staff assessment, of the proposed programme budget for 2024, to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment;

## XI

### **Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its fifty-second, fifty-third and fifty-fourth regular sessions, and at its thirty-sixth special session, in 2023**

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General<sup>99</sup> and the related report of the Advisory Committee,<sup>100</sup>

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee;

3. *Approves* the establishment, effective 1 January 2024, of 67 posts (2 P-5, 24 P-4, 16 P-3, 12 P-2, 7 National Professional Officer, 6 General Service (Other level), including 9 temporary posts: 6 P-4, 1 P-3, 1 P-2, 1 General Service (Other level)) under section 24, Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for 2024, to support the activities mandated by the Human Rights Council in its resolutions [52/14](#) of 3 April 2023,<sup>101</sup> [53/28](#) of 4 April 2023,<sup>102</sup> [53/29](#) of 14 July 2023,<sup>103</sup> [54/9](#) of 11 October 2023<sup>104</sup> and [54/18](#),<sup>105</sup> [54/22](#),<sup>106</sup> [54/26](#)<sup>107</sup> and [54/33](#)<sup>108</sup> of 12 October 2023;

4. *Appropriates* an additional amount of 47,711,300 dollars, comprising 2,784,700 dollars under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, and 44,926,600 dollars under section 24, Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for 2024;

5. *Also appropriates* an amount of 4,244,100 dollars under section 36, Staff assessment, of the proposed programme budget for 2024, to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment;

## XII

### **Revised estimates relating to the proposed programme budget for 2024 under section 29A, Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance, and section 29B, Department of Operational Support, related to addressing racism and promoting dignity for all in the United Nations Secretariat**

*Recalling* its resolution [76/271](#),

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General<sup>109</sup> and the related report of the Advisory Committee,<sup>110</sup>

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<sup>99</sup> [A/78/574](#).

<sup>100</sup> [A/78/7/Add.39](#).

<sup>101</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/78/53)*, chap. V, sect. A.

<sup>102</sup> *Ibid.*, chap. VII, sect. A.

<sup>103</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>104</sup> *Ibid.*, *Supplement No. 53A (A/78/53/Add.1)*, chap. III, sect. A.

<sup>105</sup> *Ibid.*, chap. II.

<sup>106</sup> *Ibid.*, chap. III, sect A.

<sup>107</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>108</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>109</sup> [A/78/384](#).

<sup>110</sup> [A/78/7/Add.16](#).

## VI. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Fifth Committee

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1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee, subject to the provisions of the present resolution;
3. *Condemns in the strongest possible terms* acts of racism and reaffirms that racism and racial discrimination have no place in the United Nations and that all Member States must work together to eliminate racism, and requests the Secretary-General to continue the implementation of the United Nations zero-tolerance approach on racism and intensify his support to the work of the Anti-Racism Office, in addressing racism within the Secretariat, including through encouraging staff to report such abuses and by consolidating lessons learned and best practices;
4. *Notes* the long-standing efforts and initiatives by the United Nations to combat racism and racial discrimination in the Secretariat, and welcomes the role played by the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General for Addressing Racism in the Workplace in this regard;
5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all future reports on this question are entitled “Addressing racism and racial discrimination” and focus on combating racism and racial discrimination;
6. *Recalls* paragraph 28 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and further requests the Secretary-General to further refine the strategic action plan, based on wider data sources and further analysis, and continue to implement the three-pronged approach for action developed by the Anti-Racism Team to focus on combating racism and racial discrimination, and report thereon in the context of the next report;
7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure a system-wide zero-tolerance policy on racism and racial discrimination in the workplace, and to continue to strengthen policies and guidelines on addressing racism and racial discrimination, stresses that racism and racial discrimination have no place in the United Nations and offend the very principles of what the Organization stands for and undermine the core values of integrity, competence and professionalism expected of all staff, and emphasizes that racism and racial discrimination shall not be tolerated and that perpetrators must be held accountable and staff must feel safe, and further requests the Secretary-General to report thereon in the next report;
8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to provide an update on the global conference of United Nations anti-racism advocates in his next report;
9. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Anti-Racism Team in the collection and analysis of data, and requests the Secretary-General to collect more comprehensive and reliable data regarding racism and racial discrimination;
10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make every effort to further strengthen cooperation and coordination of the Office of the Special Adviser with other United Nations offices and continue his consultations with other intergovernmental and expert bodies that have a mandate on racism and racial discrimination to capture lessons learned and best practices from the experiences, including from other organizations and Member States, in addressing racial discrimination;
11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to use the ClearCheck database in order to prevent the hiring and re-hiring of individuals whose working relationship with an organization of the system ended because of a determination that they had perpetrated racism and racial discrimination, and report on progress in the next report;
12. *Recalls* paragraph 24 of the report of the Advisory Committee, stresses the importance of the Anti-Racism Office and its role in addressing racial discrimination, decides to review its structure, placement and reporting, and requests the Secretary-General to propose options for consideration by the General Assembly at the first part of its resumed eightieth session;
13. *Notes* the distinct roles and responsibilities of the entities involved in the Organization’s accountability processes, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure complementarity and work towards addressing potential duplication of existing resources and realizing synergies, efficiencies, coordination and cooperation;
14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to review the policies, rules and procedures on recruitment, hiring, promotion and other aspects of human resources management of the Organization and propose measures with a view to preventing and addressing cases of racial bias, including at the Director and higher levels of the Secretariat, and to promote the implementation of the decisions of the General Assembly;

## VI. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Fifth Committee

15. *Approves* the conversion of eight temporary positions to posts and the establishment of three posts, as reflected in the table below:

	D-2	D-1	P-5	P-4	P-3	P-2	GS (PL)	GS (OL)	Total
Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance	1	–	3	3	1	1	–	1	10
Department of Operational Support	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>

*Abbreviations:* GS (OL), General Service (Other level); GS (PL), General Service (Principal level).

16. *Also approves* an additional appropriation in the amount of 1,041,000 dollars, comprising 1,011,000 dollars under section 29A, Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance, and 30,000 dollars under section 29B, Department of Operational Support, of the proposed programme budget for 2024, representing a charge against the contingency fund;

17. *Further approves* an additional appropriation in the amount of 60,800 dollars under section 36, Staff assessment, of the proposed programme budget for 2024, to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment;

## XIII

### Seismic mitigation retrofit and life-cycle replacements project at the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific premises in Bangkok

*Recalling* section XII of its resolution [70/248 A](#), section IV of its resolution [71/272 A](#), section XIII of its resolution [72/262 A](#), section VII of its resolution [73/279 A](#), section XII of its resolution [74/263](#), section XII of its resolution [75/253 A](#), section VII of its resolution [76/246 A](#) and section XI of its resolution [77/263 A](#),

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General<sup>111</sup> and the related report of the Advisory Committee,<sup>112</sup>

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee;
3. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Government of Thailand, as the host country, for its continued efforts in supporting and facilitating the work of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific through voluntary contributions and transfer of local knowledge and expertise towards the execution of the project;
4. *Welcomes* the positive steps taken towards engaging with the host country, and encourages the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to continue to engage with the host country in this regard;
5. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to remain proactive in seeking both voluntary and in-kind contributions from Member States, in full compliance with all relevant rules and regulations of the Organization, and to provide detailed information on the matter in the context of his next progress report;
6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all activities promote cost-efficiency and transparency, are implemented within existing resources and in accordance with the United Nations legislative framework, including the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations,<sup>113</sup> while maintaining full accountability to the General Assembly;
7. *Stresses* the importance of governance, effective oversight, transparency and accountability in the management of the project to ensure that the objectives of the project are achieved within the approved budget and time schedule;

<sup>111</sup> [A/78/346](#).

<sup>112</sup> [A/78/7/Add.17](#).

<sup>113</sup> [ST/SGB/2013/4](#) and [ST/SGB/2013/4/Amend.1](#).

## VI. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Fifth Committee

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8. *Emphasizes* that the Global Asset Management Policy Service should continue to be actively involved in overseeing the project to ensure the central supervision of capital projects, including risk management and alignment with lessons learned;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to proactively monitor and mitigate all project risks, to take all measures necessary to ensure the delivery of the project within the scope, budget and timeline approved by the General Assembly and to include in his next progress report an update on risk management and related mitigation measures;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to actively manage the owner-directed changes, and reiterates that any additional project costs resulting from late-stage changes initiated by tenants, which may result in potential claims, should be borne by the respective tenant, not by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific;

11. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take into account lessons learned and best practices from past construction and renovation projects and, in particular, to draw from experience and knowledge acquired from other capital projects, to ensure that the objectives of the project are achieved within budget and in a timely manner, and also requests the Secretary-General to provide an update on measures considered and applied in this regard in his next progress report;

12. *Recalls* paragraph 27 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and trusts that further clarification regarding the potential benefits of upgrades to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific service building will be provided in future reports;

13. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to intensify his efforts to include local knowledge, technology, capacity and the use of locally sourced and manufactured materials, as well as local labour and expertise, throughout the implementation of the construction project;

14. *Notes* the economies of scale achieved from the joint solicitation exercise of office furniture requirements with the Economic Commission for Africa, welcomes the sharing of best practices and lessons learned in this regard with other capital projects and United Nations entities, and encourages the Secretary-General to continue documenting best practices and lessons learned from other areas of the project, including, inter alia, cost savings through value engineering and the use of local materials and knowledge;

15. *Welcomes* the steps taken by the Secretary-General to ensure that the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific building is compliant with relevant building standards and best practices for persons with disabilities, and requests the Secretary-General to provide an update on relevant progress made in his next report;

16. *Decides* to abolish the post of Safety Project Officer (Local level);

17. *Approves* the revised estimated overall maximum cost of the project of 41,260,400 dollars;

18. *Appropriates* an amount of 1,241,300 dollars for 2024, comprising 253,600 dollars under section 19, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, and 987,700 dollars under section 33, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance, of the proposed programme budget for 2024;

## XIV

### Progress in the renovation of Africa Hall at the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa

*Recalling* section III of its resolution [65/259](#), section VII of its resolution [66/247](#), section III of its resolution [68/247](#) A of 27 December 2013, section V of its resolution [69/262](#) of 29 December 2014, section IX of its resolution [70/248](#) A, section V of its resolution [71/272](#) A, section XII of its resolution [72/262](#) A, section VIII of its resolution [73/279](#) A, section X of its resolution [74/263](#), section X of its resolution [75/253](#) A, section VIII of its resolution [76/246](#) A and section IX of its resolution [77/263](#) A,

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General<sup>114</sup> and the related report of the Advisory Committee,<sup>115</sup>

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

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<sup>114</sup> [A/78/350](#).

<sup>115</sup> [A/78/7/Add.19](#).

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2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee;
3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Government of Ethiopia, as the host country, for its continued support for the project, and encourages the Secretary-General to continue to engage with the host country, inter alia in protecting the environment, including the greening of the compound and public spaces in its vicinity;
4. *Recalls* paragraph 5 of the report of the Advisory Committee, appreciates the contribution by Member States, especially the Government of Mali and other Member States that contributed and made pledges to the project, and reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to continue to seek both voluntary and in-kind contributions from Member States, in full compliance with all relevant regulations and rules of the Organization, and to provide detailed information on the matter in the context of his next progress report;
5. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to engage with the member States of the African Union as well as the African Union Commission, to mobilize voluntary contributions to support the project and the visitors' centre, taking into consideration that Africa Hall is the historical birthplace of the Organization of African Unity and the African heritage it represents;
6. *Reiterates its appreciation* for the continued commitment of the Secretary-General to ensuring the preservation of the historical and architectural integrity of Africa Hall, and reiterates its request that the Secretary-General enhance efforts to engage key stakeholders in implementing the heritage conservation objective, to raise global awareness of the historic Africa Hall and the African heritage that it represents, and to cultivate partnerships with regional and international academic and research institutions, including universities and museums, specializing in African history and culture;
7. *Recalls* paragraph 9 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that any attempts to cut costs and employ value engineering methods will not have an impact on the quality and scope of the work to be performed and the preservation of the heritage of Africa Hall;
8. *Stresses* the importance of governance, effective oversight, transparency and accountability in the management of the project to ensure that the objectives of the project are achieved within the approved budget and time schedule;
9. *Emphasizes* that the Global Asset Management Policy Service should continue to be actively involved in overseeing the project to ensure the central supervision of capital projects, including risk management and alignment with lessons learned, and encourages the Secretary-General to continue to engage with the Stakeholders Committee, the Advisory Board and the host country to improve coordination efforts in the implementation of the project;
10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all activities promote cost-efficiency and transparency, are implemented within existing resources and in accordance with the United Nations legislative framework, including the Financial Regulations and Rules, while maintaining full accountability to the General Assembly;
11. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to include an update on the management of the main risks and the related mitigation measures, with a view to keeping the approved time frame of the project, to avoiding cost overruns and to ensuring the delivery of the project within the scope, budget and timeline, as approved by the General Assembly, and requests an update in the context of his next progress report;
12. *Welcomes* the steps taken by the Secretary-General to ensure the conformity of Africa Hall and its visitors' centre with relevant building codes and standards, as well as best practices for persons with disabilities and encourages the Economic Commission for Africa to continue to pursue such efforts, and requests the Secretary-General to provide an update on relevant progress made in his next report;
13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to conduct the necessary analysis to finalize the establishment of an energy efficiency baseline and provide a detailed update to the General Assembly in the context of the next progress report;
14. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue documenting best practices and lessons learned from capital construction projects, including value engineering, multistage request for proposals and the use of local materials and knowledge, and to consider their application, as appropriate, to ensure that the objectives of this project are achieved within the approved budget and timeline;



15. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to utilize local knowledge, materials, technology and capacity throughout the implementation of construction and renovation projects at the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa, as appropriate;

16. *Recalls* paragraph 29 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and requests the Secretary-General to refine the business case for the visitors' centre and provide revenue projections, justifications and an assessment of options to support future financial stability of the centre, while making sure that fees for services to the public are reasonable and affordable to a wide range of income groups and segments of society and that the centre contributes to the strengthening of awareness of the work of the United Nations;

17. *Appropriates* a net amount of 13,475,700 dollars for project activities in 2024 comprising 1,127,600 dollars under section 18, Economic and social development in Africa, 12,097,200 dollars under section 33, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance, and 250,900 dollars under section 34, Safety and security, of the proposed programme budget for 2024;

## XV

### **Addressing the deteriorating conditions and limited capacity of the conference services facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi**

*Recalling* its resolution [73/270](#) of 22 December 2018, section XIV of its resolution [74/263](#), section III of its resolution [75/253](#) B of 16 April 2021, section IV of its resolution [76/246](#) A and section VIII of its resolution [77/263](#) A,

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General<sup>116</sup> and the related report of the Advisory Committee,<sup>117</sup>

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee;
3. *Expresses* its gratitude to the Government of Kenya for its continued support for the United Nations Office at Nairobi, and trusts that the Secretary-General will continue to engage with the host country to ensure the success of the project;
4. *Acknowledges* the need to address the deteriorating conditions and limited capacity of the conference services facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi and the urgent need to implement the project in a timely manner to address the situation, increase its utilization and to bring the Office to a standard consistent with other United Nations headquarters;
5. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to remain proactive in seeking both voluntary and in-kind contributions from Member States, in full compliance with all relevant rules and regulations of the Organization, and to provide detailed information on the matter in the context of his next progress report;
6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to incorporate the envisaged renewable energy efficiency measures, wastewater treatment, solid waste management and water management into the project design;
7. *Emphasizes* that the utilization and management of the conference facilities of the United Nations Office at Nairobi should be in line with the applicable criteria for the use of United Nations premises, and encourages the use of best practices and lessons learned from other United Nations conference facilities;
8. *Recalls* its resolution [77/263](#) A, reiterates the important role of the United Nations Office at Nairobi as a duty station of the United Nations, requests the Secretary-General to continue to ensure compliance with the general principle established in the headquarters rule, encourages the Secretary-General to continue the efforts being made by the United Nations Office at Nairobi to attract more United Nations intergovernmental meetings to its facilities, as appropriate, and emphasizes that the intergovernmental meetings shall be given priority in using the facilities to further increase the utilization of the conference facilities;

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<sup>116</sup> [A/78/382](#) and [A/78/382/Corr.1](#).

<sup>117</sup> [A/78/7/Add.10](#).

## VI. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Fifth Committee

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9. *Notes* that the commencement of the design phase allows for voluntary contributions and other forms of support to be sought, which may potentially contribute to offsetting the overall cost of the project;
10. *Decides* to approve the scope of option B for the conference facilities capital project at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that any change that affects the scope of the project is presented for the consideration and decision of the General Assembly;
11. *Recalls* section VII of its resolution [66/247](#), and requests the Secretary-General to ensure the implementation of this project and the finalization of the other ongoing major capital project in a timely manner;
12. *Decides* to approve the recommended implementation strategy and schedule for the project;
13. *Recalls* paragraph 26 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure the implementation of the conference services facilities project in a timely manner;
14. *Also recalls* paragraph 27 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and further encourages the Secretary-General to continue to identify potential linkages and synergies between this project and the project for the replacement of office blocks A to J;
15. *Further recalls* paragraph 29 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and encourages the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to incorporate local knowledge, technology, capacity and the use of locally sourced and manufactured materials, as well as local labour and expertise, throughout the implementation of the construction project, and looks forward to updates thereon in future progress reports;
16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all activities promote cost-efficiency and transparency, are implemented within existing resources and in accordance with the United Nations legislative framework, including the Financial Regulations and Rules, while maintaining full accountability to the General Assembly;
17. *Stresses* the importance of governance, effective oversight, transparency and accountability in the management of the project to ensure that the objectives of the project are achieved within the approved budget and time schedule;
18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to explore possible cost-sharing arrangements that may be implemented by the United Nations Office at Nairobi conference facilities and to report thereon in the next progress report;
19. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to proactively monitor and mitigate all project risks, to take all measures necessary to ensure the delivery of the project within the scope, budget and timeline approved by the General Assembly and to include in his next progress report an update on risk management and related mitigation measures;
20. *Further requests* the Secretary-General, through the Global Asset Management Policy Service, to take into account lessons learned and best practices from similar United Nations construction and renovation projects in the planning, design and implementation of the proposed conference services facilities;
21. *Recalls* its resolution [77/263](#) A, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to ensure conformity with relevant building codes and standards, technology and workplace safety, as well as best practices for persons with disabilities, in the design, construction and renovation of the United Nations Office at Nairobi facilities;
22. *Affirms* that the proposed dedicated project management team for the United Nations Office at Nairobi conference services facilities will be a time-limited and mission-specific endeavour and that the team should therefore not be a permanent addition to the existing organisational structure;
23. *Recalls* paragraph 20 of section VIII of its resolution [77/263](#) A, in which it established a multi-year construction-in-progress account for the duration of the project;
24. *Stresses* that any increase to the maximum overall budget must be approved by the General Assembly before entering into corresponding financial commitments;
25. *Notes with concern* that the projected costs for the design consultancy firm have increased by 58.1 per cent since the previous report of the Secretary-General, and stresses the need to achieve the full scope and objectives of the project within the approved overall maximum budget;

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26. *Notes* that changes in escalation rates constitute direct changes in the overall project resource requirements, and stresses that such changes should be accurately reflected in the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly;

27. *Decides* to approve the maximum overall cost of the project in the amount of 265,659,200 dollars;

28. *Appropriates* an amount of 11,928,200 dollars for the project in 2024, comprising 9,837,000 dollars under section 33, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance, and 2,091,200 dollars under section 29D, Administration, Nairobi, of the proposed programme budget for 2024;

### XVI

#### Progress on the replacement of office blocks A to J at the United Nations Office at Nairobi

*Recalling* section XIV of its resolution [72/262 A](#), section IX of its resolution [73/279 A](#), section XIII of its resolution [74/263](#), section XIV of its resolution [75/253 A](#), section XV of its resolution [76/246 A](#) and section XII of its resolution [77/263 A](#),

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General<sup>118</sup> and the related report of the Advisory Committee,<sup>119</sup>

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee;
3. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Government of Kenya for its continued support for the United Nations Office at Nairobi, and trusts that the Secretary-General will continue to engage with the host country to ensure the success of the project;
4. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to remain proactive in seeking both voluntary and in-kind contributions from Member States, in full compliance with all relevant rules and regulations of the Organization, and to provide an update in the context of his next progress report;
5. *Stresses* the importance of governance, effective oversight, transparency and accountability in the management of the project to ensure that the objectives of the project are achieved within the approved budget and time schedule;
6. *Emphasizes* that the Global Asset Management Policy Service should continue to be actively involved in overseeing the project to ensure the central supervision of capital projects, including risk management and alignment with lessons learned;
7. *Recalls* paragraph 19 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and encourages the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to incorporate local knowledge, technology, capacity and the use of locally sourced and manufactured materials, as well as local labour and expertise, especially throughout the implementation of the construction project, and looks forward to updates thereon in future progress reports;
8. *Also recalls* paragraph 22 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to identify any potential synergies between this project and the United Nations Office at Nairobi conference facilities project, and also requests him to provide further information in the context of his next report;
9. *Further recalls* paragraph 29 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and requests the Secretary-General, through the Global Asset Management Policy Service, to take into account lessons learned and best practices from similar construction and renovation projects in the planning, design and implementation of the proposed replacement of office blocks A to J;
10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to incorporate the envisaged renewable energy efficiency measures, wastewater treatment, solid waste management and water management into the design and construction of the project;

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<sup>118</sup> [A/78/510](#) and [A/78/510/Corr.1](#).

<sup>119</sup> [A/78/7/Add.11](#).

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all activities promote cost-efficiency and transparency, are implemented within existing resources and in accordance with the United Nations legislative framework, including the Financial Regulations and Rules, while maintaining full accountability to the General Assembly;

12. *Notes with appreciation* that the project is progressing in accordance with its approved objectives in terms of energy efficiency and in compliance with health and safety regulations;

13. *Appropriates* an amount of 15,042,900 dollars for 2024, comprising 770,200 dollars under section 29D, Administration, Nairobi, 14,107,700 dollars under section 33, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance, and 165,000 dollars under section 34, Safety and security, of the proposed programme budget for the year 2024;

## XVII

### **Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council**

*Having considered* the reports of the Secretary-General<sup>120</sup> and the related reports of the Advisory Committee,<sup>121</sup>

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General;

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the reports of the Advisory Committee, subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Approves* the budgets in the amount of 717,725,500 dollars for the 37 continuing special political missions authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council, and an amount of 2,128,800 dollars for the share of special political missions in the budget of the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, Uganda, for 2024, under section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for 2024;

4. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in an amount not exceeding 21,500,000 dollars for the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in the Sudan for the period from 1 January to 30 April 2024;

## XVIII

### **Progress on the renovation of the North Building at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in Santiago**

*Recalling* section VII of its resolution 69/274 A, section VI of its resolution 70/248 B of 1 April 2016, section V of its resolution 72/262 A, section X of its resolution 73/279 A, section XI of its resolution 74/263, section XI of its resolution 75/253 A, section XVI of its resolution 76/246 A and section X of its resolution 77/263 A,

*Having considered* the progress report of the Secretary-General<sup>122</sup> and the related report of the Advisory Committee,<sup>123</sup>

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee;

3. *Acknowledges* the important role played by the host countries in facilitating the maintenance and construction of United Nations facilities, and stresses the value of continued collaboration with host countries in this regard;

4. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Government of Chile, as the host country, for its continued efforts in supporting and facilitating the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

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<sup>120</sup> A/78/6 (Sect. 3)/Add.1, A/78/6 (Sect. 3)/Add.2, A/78/6 (Sect. 3)/Add.3, A/78/6 (Sect. 3)/Add.4, A/78/6 (Sect. 3)/Add.5, A/78/6 (Sect. 3)/Add.6 and A/78/6 (Sect. 3)/Add.7.

<sup>121</sup> A/78/7/Add.1, A/78/7/Add.2, A/78/7/Add.3, A/78/7/Add.4, A/78/7/Add.5, A/78/7/Add.6 and A/78/7/Add.23.

<sup>122</sup> A/78/337.

<sup>123</sup> A/78/7/Add.14.

## VI. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Fifth Committee

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5. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to remain proactive in seeking both voluntary and in-kind contributions from Member States, in full compliance with all relevant rules and regulations of the Organization, and to provide detailed information on the matter in the context of his next progress report;
6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all activities promote cost-efficiency and transparency, are implemented within existing resources and in accordance with the United Nations legislative framework, including the Financial Regulations and Rules, while maintaining full accountability to the General Assembly;
7. *Stresses* the importance of governance, effective oversight, transparency and accountability in the management of the project to ensure that the objectives of the project are achieved within the approved budget and time schedule;
8. *Emphasizes* that the Global Asset Management Policy Service should continue to be actively involved in overseeing the project to ensure the central supervision of capital projects, including risk management and alignment with lessons learned;
9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to closely monitor and mitigate all project risks and take all measures necessary to ensure the delivery of the project within the scope, revised budget and timeline, as approved by the General Assembly, and also requests the Secretary-General to include information on risk management and mitigation measures taken in his next progress report;
10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take into account lessons learned and best practices from past construction and renovation projects and, in particular, to draw from experience and knowledge acquired from other capital projects, to ensure that the objectives of the project are achieved within budget and in a timely manner, and further requests the Secretary-General to provide an update on measures considered and applied in this regard in his next progress report;
11. *Notes with appreciation* that the project is progressing in accordance with its approved objectives in terms of seismic risk mitigation measures, energy efficiency and in compliance with health and safety regulations;
12. *Welcomes* the renovation of the North Building at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean as a sustainable and energy-efficient building where the total amount of energy used by the building on an annual basis is equal to or less than the amount of renewable energy generated on site;
13. *Stresses* that any increase to the maximum overall budget must be approved by the General Assembly before entering into corresponding financial commitments;
14. *Approves* a revised estimated overall maximum cost of the project of 19,137,000 dollars;
15. *Also approves* the continuation of the temporary position of Procurement Officer (P-3) for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2024;
16. *Appropriates* an amount of 10,097,700 dollars for the project in 2024, comprising 475,100 dollars under section 21, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 9,622,600 dollars under section 33, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance, of the proposed programme budget for 2024, which would represent a charge against the contingency fund;

## XIX

### Strategic heritage plan of the United Nations Office at Geneva

*Recalling* part XI of its resolution [64/243](#), section VII of its resolution [66/247](#), section V of its resolution [68/247](#) A, sections III and VII of its resolution [69/262](#), section X of its resolution [70/248](#) A, section XVIII of its resolution [71/272](#) A, section XVI of its resolution [72/262](#) A, section XIII of its resolution [73/279](#) A, section VII of its resolution [74/263](#), section IX of its resolution [75/253](#) A, section XVIII of its resolution [76/246](#) A and section VI of its resolution [77/263](#) A,

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*Having considered* the tenth annual progress report of the Secretary-General<sup>124</sup> and the related report of the Advisory Committee,<sup>125</sup>

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee;
3. *Welcomes* the continued support of the Government of Switzerland for the construction project in Geneva;
4. *Stresses* the importance of close coordination between the strategic heritage plan project team and the Secretariat in New York, in particular the Global Asset Management Policy Service, to ensure success in all aspects of the project;
5. *Also stresses* the importance of effective governance, oversight, transparency and accountability in the management of the project to ensure that the project objectives are achieved on time and within budget;
6. *Reiterates its request* to preserve the historical heritage of the Palais des Nations;
7. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts of the Secretary-General for the progress achieved during the reporting period and the substantial completion of the historic building D and section AC;
8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue documenting best practices and lessons learned from capital construction projects, including value engineering, multistage request for proposals and the use of local materials and knowledge, and to consider their application, as appropriate, to ensure that the objectives of the projects are achieved within the approved budget and timeline;
9. *Notes* the turnover in key staff positions and a high risk of key staff departing before the end of the project, and requests the Secretary-General to report on efforts to mitigate the impact of staff turnover and departure on project implementation;
10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that the procurement of goods and services for the construction project is carried out in strict compliance with the existing regulations, rules and relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions governing procurement in the United Nations;
11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all activities promote cost-efficiency and transparency, are implemented within existing resources and in accordance with the United Nations legislative framework, including the Financial Regulations and Rules, while maintaining full accountability to the General Assembly;
12. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to make every effort to avoid budget increases or schedule overruns, including tight cost control, regular and proactive review of risks, value engineering and cost-saving measures, in order to ensure that the cost of the project will not exceed the approved budget level, notes such measures undertaken to date, and looks forward to receiving further information in his next progress report;
13. *Stresses* that any increase to the maximum overall budget must be approved by the General Assembly before entering into corresponding financial commitments;
14. *Reaffirms* the proposed project scope, schedule and estimated cost of the strategic heritage plan in the maximum amount of 836,500,000 Swiss francs;
15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that any change that affects the scope of the strategic heritage plan project is presented for the consideration and decision of the General Assembly;
16. *Recalls* section VII of its resolution 66/247, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure the finalization of this project and implementation of the other ongoing major capital project in a timely manner;
17. *Decides* to continue to use the multi-year construction-in-progress account established within the regular budget for expenditures related to the strategic heritage plan in 2024;

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<sup>124</sup> [A/78/503](#).

<sup>125</sup> [A/78/7/Add.18](#).

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18. *Also decides* to revert to the establishment of an assessment scheme and currency of appropriation and assessment for the strategic heritage plan at the main part of its seventy-ninth session, and requests the Secretary-General to provide updated detailed information on these issues;

19. *Further decides* to revert to the establishment of the multi-year special account for the strategic heritage plan at the main part of its seventy-ninth session;

20. *Decides* that the annual repayments of the loans to the host country will be funded under the regular budget until decided otherwise by the General Assembly;

21. *Encourages* the Secretary-General, in attracting voluntary and in-kind contributions from Member States, to give priority to those activities within the scope of the project;

22. *Appreciates* the existing voluntary contributions received from Member States to finance the strategic heritage plan, and requests the Secretary-General to remain proactive in seeking both voluntary and in-kind contributions from Member States, as well as donations by private entities, in full compliance with all relevant rules and regulations of the Organization and agreements related to donations for the strategic heritage plan, and to provide detailed information on this matter in the context of his next progress report;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that remaining recommendations of the Board of Auditors are implemented fully and expeditiously;

24. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to ensure that works of art, masterpieces and other gifts are handled appropriately during the design and renovation stages of the strategic heritage plan at the Palais des Nations, and also requests him to cooperate with those Member States that wish to take care of their gifts of works of art, masterpieces and other items;

25. *Approves* the extension of the temporary position of Architect (P-4) until the end of 2024, and also approves the reassignment of the position of Senior Administrative Officer (P-5) to a position of Senior Programme Officer (P-5);

26. *Appropriates* the amount of 24,776,200 dollars (equivalent to 21,699,000 Swiss francs) for 2024, under section 33, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance, of the proposed programme budget for 2024;

### XX

#### International Trade Centre

*Approves* resources in the amount of 21,723,500 dollars (the United Nations share equivalent to 50 per cent of 38,050,400 Swiss francs at the exchange rate of 0.8758 Swiss francs to 1 dollar) proposed for 2024 under section 13, International Trade Centre, of the proposed programme budget for 2024;

### XXI

#### Gross jointly financed budget of the Joint Inspection Unit

*Approves* the gross budget for the Joint Inspection Unit for 2024 in the amount of 8,727,500 dollars;

### XXII

#### Gross jointly financed budget of the International Civil Service Commission

*Approves* the gross budget for the International Civil Service Commission for 2024 in the amount of 12,795,700 dollars;

### XXIII

#### Gross jointly financed budget of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination

*Notes* the gross budget for the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2024 in the amount of 4,334,600 dollars;



## XXIV

### Gross jointly financed budget of the Department of Safety and Security

*Approves* the gross jointly financed budget of the Department of Safety and Security of the Secretariat for 2024 in the amount of 165,226,300 dollars, broken down as follows:

- (a) Field Security Operations: 149,110,800 dollars;
- (b) Security and Safety Services at the United Nations Office at Vienna: 16,115,500 dollars;

## XXV

### Effects of changes in rates of exchange and inflation

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates resulting from changes in rates of exchange and inflation<sup>126</sup> and the related report of the Advisory Committee,<sup>127</sup>

*Takes note* of the revised estimates arising from recosting owing to changes in the rates of exchange and inflation;

## XXVI

### Contingency fund

*Recalls* its resolution 77/263 A, in which the level of the contingency fund for the year 2024 was set at 0.75 per cent of the approved programme budget for 2023, or 25,472,300 dollars,

1. *Notes* that, after a charge of 24,595,700 dollars, a balance of 876,600 dollars remains in the contingency fund for 2024;
2. *Decides* that the contingency fund for the year 2025 shall be set at the level of 0.75 per cent of the approved programme budget for 2024.

## RESOLUTIONS 78/254 A – C

Adopted at the 50th (resumed) plenary meeting, on 22 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/662, para. 83)

### 78/254. Programme budget for 2024

#### A

#### Budget appropriations for 2024

*The General Assembly*

*Resolves* that, for 2024:

1. Appropriations totalling 3,588,431,600 United States dollars are hereby approved for the following purposes:

Section	Amount (United States dollars)
<i>Part I. Overall policymaking, direction and coordination</i>	
1 Overall policymaking, direction and coordination	92 383 700
2 General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management	371 393 200
<b>Subtotal, part I</b>	<b>463 776 900</b>

<sup>126</sup> A/78/614.

<sup>127</sup> A/78/7/Add.42.

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Section	<i>Amount</i> <i>(United States dollars)</i>
Part II. <i>Political affairs</i>	
3 Political affairs	800 937 800
4 Disarmament	16 694 600
5 Peacekeeping operations	57 100 400
6 Peaceful uses of outer space	4 783 800
<b>Subtotal, part II</b>	<b>879 516 600</b>
Part III. <i>International justice and law</i>	
7 International Court of Justice	32 614 800
8 Legal affairs	69 127 800
<b>Subtotal, part III</b>	<b>101 742 600</b>
Part IV. <i>International cooperation for development</i>	
9 Economic and social affairs	96 655 700
10 Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States	8 923 900
11 United Nations system support for the African Union's Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want	9 612 500
12 Trade and development	83 589 400
13 International Trade Centre	21 723 500
14 Environment	21 990 200
15 Human settlements	13 018 400
16 International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice	23 881 700
17 UN-Women	10 788 000
<b>Subtotal, part IV</b>	<b>290 183 300</b>
Part V. <i>Regional cooperation for development</i>	
18 Economic and social development in Africa	95 478 600
19 Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific	56 817 100
20 Economic development in Europe	39 870 400
21 Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean	64 364 200
22 Economic and social development in Western Asia	50 146 300
23 Regular programme of technical cooperation	46 241 700
<b>Subtotal, part V</b>	<b>352 918 300</b>
Part VI. <i>Human rights and humanitarian affairs</i>	
24 Human rights	193 178 800
25 International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees	47 175 700
26 Palestine refugees	71 543 000
27 Humanitarian assistance	28 741 000
<b>Subtotal, part VI</b>	<b>340 638 500</b>
Part VII. <i>Global communications</i>	
28 Global communications	117 916 700
<b>Subtotal, part VII</b>	<b>117 916 700</b>

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<i>Section</i>	<i>Amount (United States dollars)</i>
<i>Part VIII. Common support services</i>	
29A Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance	66 795 800
29B Department of Operational Support	96 246 000
29C Office of Information and Communications Technology	53 826 500
29D Administration, Nairobi	18 354 000
29E Administration, Geneva	89 386 400
29F Administration, Vienna	20 366 000
<b>Subtotal, part VIII</b>	<b>344 974 700</b>
<i>Part IX. Internal oversight</i>	
30 Internal oversight	24 837 300
<b>Subtotal, part IX</b>	<b>24 837 300</b>
<i>Part X. Jointly financed administrative activities and special expenses</i>	
31 Jointly financed administrative activities	8 611 800
32 Special expenses	89 326 800
<b>Subtotal, part X</b>	<b>97 938 600</b>
<i>Part XI. Capital expenditures</i>	
33 Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance	101 476 100
<b>Subtotal, part XI</b>	<b>101 476 100</b>
<i>Part XII. Safety and security</i>	
34 Safety and security	141 234 100
<b>Subtotal, part XII</b>	<b>141 234 100</b>
<i>Part XIII. Development Account</i>	
35 Development Account	18 502 900
<b>Subtotal, part XIII</b>	<b>18 502 900</b>
<i>Part XIV. Staff assessment</i>	
36 Staff assessment	312 775 000
<b>Subtotal, part XIV</b>	<b>312 775 000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 588 431 600</b>

2. The Secretary-General shall be authorized to transfer credits between sections of the budget, with the concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

3. In addition to the appropriations approved under paragraph 1 above, an amount of 75,000 dollars is appropriated for 2024 from the accumulated income of the Library Endowment Fund for the purchase of books, periodicals, maps and library equipment and for such other expenses of the Library at the Palais des Nations in Geneva as are in accordance with the objects and provisions of the endowment.

**B**

**Income estimates for 2024**

*The General Assembly*

*Resolves that, for 2024:*

1. Estimates of income totalling 345,399,000 United States dollars are approved as follows:

<i>Income section</i>	<i>Amount (United States dollars)</i>
1. Income from staff assessment	314 723 800
2. General income	30 675 200
3. Services to the public	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>345 399 000</b>

2. The income from staff assessment shall be credited to the Tax Equalization Fund in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution [973 \(X\)](#) of 15 December 1955;

3. Direct expenses of the United Nations Postal Administration, services to visitors, the sale of statistical products, catering operations and related services, garage operations, television services and the sale of publications not provided for under the budget appropriations shall be charged against the income derived from those activities.

**C**

**Financing of appropriations for the year 2024**

*The General Assembly*

*Resolves that, for 2024:*

1. Budget appropriations totalling 3,588,431,600 United States dollars, approved for 2024 by the General Assembly in paragraph 1 of resolution A above, shall be financed in accordance with regulations 3.1 and 3.2 of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations,<sup>128</sup> as follows:

- (a) 30,675,200 dollars, representing the estimated income other than staff assessment income approved for 2024 under resolution B above;
- (b) 113,645,900 dollars, as reflected in the financial performance report on the programme budget for 2022,<sup>129</sup> approved by the Assembly in section II of its resolution [78/253](#) of 22 December 2023;
- (c) 3,444,110,500 dollars, representing the assessment on Member States in accordance with Assembly resolution [76/238](#) of 24 December 2021 on the scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations;

2. In addition, there shall be added an amount of 21,500,000 dollars, representing the commitment authority relating to special political missions approved by the General Assembly in section XVII of its resolution [78/253](#), resulting in a total amount to be assessed of 3,465,610,500 dollars;

3. There shall be set off against the assessment on Member States, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution [973 \(X\)](#) of 15 December 1955, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund totalling 314,723,800 dollars related to the appropriations for 2024.

<sup>128</sup> [ST/SGB/2013/4](#) and [ST/SGB/2013/4/Amend.1](#).

<sup>129</sup> [A/78/89](#).

## RESOLUTION 78/255

Adopted at the 50th (resumed) plenary meeting, on 22 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee ([A/78/662](#), para. 83)

### 78/255. Unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for 2024

#### *The General Assembly*

1. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General, with the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and subject to the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations<sup>130</sup> and the provisions of paragraph 3 below, to enter into commitments in the year 2024 to meet unforeseen and extraordinary expenses arising either during or subsequent to the year, provided that the concurrence of the Advisory Committee shall not be necessary for:

(a) Such commitments not exceeding a total of 8 million United States dollars as the Secretary-General certifies relate to the maintenance of peace and security;

(b) Such commitments as the President of the International Court of Justice certifies relate to expenses occasioned by:

(i) The designation of ad hoc judges (Statute of the International Court of Justice, Article 31), not exceeding a total of 100,000 dollars;

(ii) The calling of witnesses and the appointment of experts (Statute, Article 50) and the appointment of assessors (Statute, Article 30), not exceeding a total of 25,000 dollars;

(iii) The maintenance in office for the completion of cases of judges who have not been re-elected (Statute, Article 13, paragraph 3), not exceeding a total of 20,000 dollars;

(iv) The payment of pensions and travel and removal expenses of retiring judges and travel and removal expenses and installation grants of members of the Court (Statute, Article 32, paragraph 7), not exceeding a total of 205,000 dollars;

(v) The work of the Court or its Chambers away from The Hague (Statute, Article 22), not exceeding a total of 12,500 dollars;

(c) Such commitments not exceeding a total of 500,000 dollars in the year 2024 as the Secretary-General certifies are required for security measures pursuant to section XI, paragraph 6, of General Assembly resolution [59/276](#) of 23 December 2004;

2. *Resolves* that the Secretary-General shall report to the Advisory Committee and to the General Assembly at its eightieth session all commitments made under the provisions of the present resolution, together with the circumstances relating thereto, and shall submit supplementary estimates to the Assembly in respect of such commitments;

3. *Decides* that, for the year 2024, if a decision of the Security Council results in the need for the Secretary-General to enter into commitments relating to the maintenance of peace and security in an amount exceeding 10 million dollars in respect of the decision, that matter shall be brought to the General Assembly, or, if the Assembly is suspended or not in session, a resumed or special session of the Assembly shall be convened by the Secretary-General to consider the matter.

## RESOLUTION 78/256

Adopted at the 50th (resumed) plenary meeting, on 22 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee ([A/78/662](#), para. 83)

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<sup>130</sup> [ST/SGB/2013/4](#) and [ST/SGB/2013/4/Amend.1](#).

**78/256. Working Capital Fund for 2024**

*The General Assembly*

*Resolves that:*

1. The Working Capital Fund shall be established for 2024 in the amount of 250 million United States dollars;
2. Member States shall make advances to the Working Capital Fund in accordance with the scale of assessments adopted by the General Assembly for contributions of Member States to the budget for 2024;
3. There shall be set off against this allocation of advances:
  - (a) Credits to Member States resulting from transfers made in 1959 and 1960 from the surplus account to the Working Capital Fund in an adjusted amount of 1,025,092 dollars;
  - (b) Cash advances paid by Member States to the Working Capital Fund for 2023 in accordance with General Assembly resolution [77/266](#) of 30 December 2022;
4. Should the credits and advances paid by any Member State to the Working Capital Fund for 2023 exceed the amount of that Member State's advance under the provisions of paragraph 2 above, the excess shall be set off against the amount of the contributions payable by the Member State in respect of 2024;
5. The Secretary-General is authorized to advance from the Working Capital Fund:
  - (a) Such sums as may be necessary to finance budgetary appropriations pending the receipt of contributions; sums so advanced shall be reimbursed as soon as receipts from contributions are available for that purpose;
  - (b) Such sums as may be necessary to finance commitments that may be duly authorized under the provisions of the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, in particular resolution [78/255](#) of 22 December 2023 relating to unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for 2024; the Secretary-General shall make provision in the budget estimates for reimbursing the Working Capital Fund;
  - (c) Such sums as may be necessary to continue the revolving fund to finance miscellaneous self-liquidating purchases and activities, which, together with net sums outstanding for the same purpose, do not exceed 200,000 dollars; advances in excess of 200,000 dollars may be made with the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;
  - (d) With the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee, such sums as may be required to finance payments of advance insurance premiums where the period of insurance extends beyond the end of the year in which payment is made; the Secretary-General shall make provision in the budget estimates of each year, during the life of the related policies, to cover the charges applicable to each year;
  - (e) Such sums as may be necessary to enable the Tax Equalization Fund to meet current commitments pending the accumulation of credits; such advances shall be repaid as soon as credits are available in the Tax Equalization Fund;
6. Should the provision in paragraph 1 above prove inadequate to meet the purposes normally related to the Working Capital Fund, the Secretary-General is authorized to utilize, in 2024, cash from special funds and accounts in his custody, under the conditions approved by the General Assembly in its resolution [1341 \(XIII\)](#) of 13 December 1958, or the proceeds of loans authorized by the Assembly.

**RESOLUTION 78/257**

Adopted at the 50th (resumed) plenary meeting, on 22 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee ([A/78/664](#), para. 12)

**78/257. Investing in prevention and peacebuilding**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recognizing* the vital role of the United Nations in preventing conflicts, assisting parties to conflicts to end hostilities and emerge towards recovery, reconstruction and development and in mobilizing sustained international

attention and assistance, and, in this regard, the need for a coordinated, coherent and integrated approach to conflict prevention, peacebuilding, post-conflict response and reconciliation with a view to achieving sustainable peace,

*Reaffirming* Security Council resolution [1645 \(2005\)](#) and General Assembly resolution [60/180](#) of 20 December 2005, which established the Peacebuilding Fund, to be funded by voluntary contributions, and recalling General Assembly resolution [76/305](#) of 8 September 2022, in which it recognized that financing for peacebuilding remains a critical challenge, affirmed its commitment to consider all options for adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding, including through voluntary, innovative and assessed funding and other means of resource mobilization, and noted the significance non-monetary contributions can play in peacebuilding efforts, and also affirmed that other sources of funding, including assessed contributions, could be used to finance the Fund through modalities determined by the General Assembly, including considerations related to increased transparency, accountability and oversight, while ensuring the continued flexibility and agility of the Fund,

*Recalling* Article 17 of the Charter of the United Nations and rules 153 and 154 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, and further affirming that the use of assessed contributions is determined by the General Assembly and is within its purview,

*Recognizing* the critical contribution made by the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund since their establishment in supporting countries emerging from conflict or at risk of relapsing into conflict,

*Recognizing also* the importance of peacebuilding, and welcoming the valuable work undertaken by the Peacebuilding Fund as a catalytic, rapid-response and flexible pre-positioned pooled fund providing financing to activities to sustain peace in conflict-affected countries, and in advancing strategic alignment within the United Nations system and between the United Nations and the international financial institutions,

*Noting* the fluctuations in voluntary contributions to the Peacebuilding Fund and its narrow donor base, and recognizing that the Fund continues to suffer from persistent funding challenges, stemming in large part from the unpredictability and unsustainability of its exclusive reliance on voluntary contributions, and exacerbated in the past decade by increased demands, including those arising from the transition and closure of United Nations peacekeeping missions,

*Reaffirming* that the use of assessed contributions must be transparent and that the oversight role of the General Assembly in the management and utilization of assessed contributions must be ensured,

*Recognizing* the need to enhance financing to ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and the inclusion of youth in peacebuilding,

*Reaffirming* the primary responsibility of national Governments and authorities in identifying, driving and directing priorities, strategies and activities for peacebuilding and sustaining peace, and in this regard recognizing that national ownership is a condition for access to the Peacebuilding Fund,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>131</sup>
2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,<sup>132</sup> subject to the provisions of the present resolution;
3. *Reaffirms* that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters, and also reaffirms the role of the Fifth Committee in carrying out a thorough analysis of and approving human and financial resources and policies, with a view to ensuring full, effective and efficient implementation of all mandated programmes and activities and the implementation of policies in this regard;
4. *Also reaffirms* the importance of ensuring adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding, notes that the amount of voluntary contributions has not been sufficient to meet increasing demands for the support of the Peacebuilding Fund, and affirms that other sources of funding, including assessed contributions, could be used to finance the Fund through modalities determined by the General Assembly as an extraordinary arrangement, on an exceptional basis, and without setting a precedent, notes that voluntary contributions should remain the primary source

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<sup>131</sup> [A/76/732](#).

<sup>132</sup> [A/76/821](#).



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of funding, and stresses that assessed funding is not meant to be a substitute for voluntary contributions and innovative funding;

5. *Encourages* Member States to make and increase voluntary contributions to peacebuilding, including to the Peacebuilding Fund, to ensure sufficient resources to support peacebuilding, and requests the Secretary-General to intensify resource mobilization efforts in this regard;

6. *Notes* that the provision of assessed contributions to financing for peacebuilding represents a shared commitment of Member States to peacebuilding and sustaining peace;

7. *Decides* to establish a dedicated multi-year special account, entitled Peacebuilding Account, as a modality of financing the Peacebuilding Fund;

8. *Also decides* to approve 50 million United States dollars of assessed contributions per annum, under grants and contributions, to fund the Peacebuilding Account, starting 1 January 2025, subject to the revision of the terms of reference of the Peacebuilding Fund;

9. *Further decides*, on an exceptional basis and without setting a precedent, that the assessment rates applicable to the regular budget are applied to half of the grant to the Peacebuilding Account, while the assessment rates applicable to the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations are applied to the other half;

10. *Decides* that this annual grant of 50 million dollars shall be allocated as an earmarked contribution to fund the Peacebuilding and Recovery Facility of the Peacebuilding Fund, and to include programme support costs for Fund management, in accordance with the terms of reference of the Fund;

11. *Also decides* that the Peacebuilding Account shall be managed by the Peacebuilding Support Office in accordance with the relevant Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations<sup>133</sup> and the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, and that these resources shall be administered by the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office as an earmarked pool of resources separate from any voluntary funding;

12. *Takes note* of paragraph 21 of the report of the Advisory Committee;

13. *Recalls* its resolution 76/305, and requests the Secretary-General to review the terms of reference of the Peacebuilding Fund in accordance with the provisions of the present resolution, including financial, management and oversight arrangements, for the use of assessed funding, while ensuring that enhancing the flexibility and agility of the Fund shall remain the overall objective of such review, in close consultation with Member States, through a structured process, in coordination with the Peacebuilding Commission and open to the participation of all Member States, and to present the revised terms of reference to the General Assembly during the main part of the seventy-ninth session at the latest;

14. *Affirms* the respective roles of the General Assembly and the Peacebuilding Commission in providing policy guidance on the use of the Peacebuilding Fund, including assessed contributions, and in providing advice and oversight of the Fund, to maximize its impact and improve its functioning;

15. *Encourages* the Peacebuilding Fund to work in close coordination with relevant stakeholders to advance efforts to bring greater coherence to peacebuilding efforts, in support of national peacebuilding priorities;

16. *Stresses* the importance of peacebuilding effectiveness and the need to avoid structural duplication, and encourages the Secretary-General to increase transparency, accountability and oversight of the activities related to peacebuilding;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly, on an annual basis, on the proposed programme budget for the Peacebuilding Account, in a format similar to the budget presentation under section 35 of the proposed programme budget, with an annex listing the proposed projects, beneficiary countries, budget per country, and objectives, and also requests the Secretary-General to provide additional supplementary information, such as a summary of available budgetary information, as appropriate, in the course of the sessions of the Fifth Committee;

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<sup>133</sup> ST/SGB/2013/4 and ST/SGB/2013/4/Amend.1.

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18. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report annually on the implementation, performance, progress and expenditure of projects funded by assessed contributions, and on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

19. *Further requests* the Secretary-General, through the Peacebuilding Support Office, to provide the Peacebuilding Fund Advisory Group with a list of proposed projects, beneficiary countries, budget per country, and objectives for its review, and seek strategic and practical guidance and actionable recommendations on these projects, and to report thereon to the Peacebuilding Commission;

20. *Recalls* its resolution [75/201](#) of 21 December 2020, and reiterates its call for a further comprehensive review of United Nations peacebuilding in 2025;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Office of Internal Oversight Services of the Secretariat with conducting an evaluation of the Peacebuilding Account, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its eighty-third session;

22. *Recalls* paragraph 33 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and requests the Advisory Committee to invite the Board of Auditors to conduct an audit of the Peacebuilding Account, separately from the entities and programmes under volume I of the United Nations financial statements, as well as the cost-effectiveness and cost-efficiency of using resources allocated for peacebuilding activities in the United Nations, and to report thereon at its eighty-second session;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to conduct a comprehensive study of innovative and other means of resource mobilization and options of attaining more non-monetary contributions and their further use in activities carried out by the Peacebuilding Fund, and to report on the conclusions and results of this study to the General Assembly at its eighty-third session;

24. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to review the implementation of the present resolution and to report to the General Assembly, including on projected needs of the Peacebuilding Fund, at its eighty-fourth session.



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## RESOLUTION 78/102

Adopted at the 45th plenary meeting, on 7 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/432, para. 8)<sup>1</sup>

### 78/102. Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 59/281 of 29 March 2005, in which it endorsed the recommendation of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations that the Secretary-General make available to the United Nations membership a comprehensive report on the issue of sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations peacekeeping operations,<sup>2</sup>

*Recalling also* that the Secretary-General, on 24 March 2005, transmitted to the President of the General Assembly a report of his Adviser concerning sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations peacekeeping personnel,<sup>3</sup>

*Recalling further* its resolution 59/300 of 22 June 2005, in which it endorsed the recommendation of the Special Committee that a group of legal experts be established to provide advice on the best way to proceed so as to ensure that the original intent of the Charter of the United Nations can be achieved, namely, that United Nations staff and experts on mission would never be effectively exempt from the consequences of criminal acts committed at their duty station, nor unjustly penalized, without due process,<sup>4</sup>

*Underlining* the importance of a zero-tolerance policy for misconduct and the commission of crimes by United Nations officials and experts on mission,

*Recognizing* the valuable contribution of United Nations officials and experts on mission towards the fulfilment of the purposes and principles of the Charter,

*Honouring* the heroic work of tens of thousands of United Nations officials and experts on mission, underscoring that the United Nations should not let the actions of a few tarnish the achievements of the whole, and commending the Member States that have taken steps to prevent, investigate and hold accountable their personnel for criminal conduct, such as that involving sexual exploitation and abuse,

*Reaffirming* the need to promote and ensure respect for the principles and rules of international law,

*Reaffirming also* that the present resolution is without prejudice to the privileges and immunities of United Nations officials and experts on mission and the United Nations under international law,

*Reaffirming further* the obligation of United Nations officials and experts on mission to respect the national laws of the host State, as well as the right of the host State to exercise, where applicable, its criminal jurisdiction, in accordance with the relevant rules of international law and agreements governing operations of United Nations missions,

*Underlining* the importance of appropriate training of United Nations officials and experts on mission to prevent any criminal conduct,

*Deeply concerned* by reports of criminal conduct, and conscious that such conduct, if not investigated and, as appropriate, prosecuted, would create the negative impression that United Nations officials and experts on mission operate with impunity,

*Reaffirming* the need to ensure that all United Nations officials and experts on mission function in a manner that preserves the image, credibility, impartiality and integrity of the United Nations,

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<sup>1</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was introduced in the Committee by the representative of Bangladesh on behalf of the Bureau.

<sup>2</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 19 (A/59/19/Rev.1)*, part one, chap. III, sect. D, para. 56.

<sup>3</sup> See A/59/710.

<sup>4</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 19 (A/59/19/Rev.1)*, part two, chap. II, sect. N, para. 40 (a).

## VII. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Sixth Committee

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*Emphasizing* that crimes committed by such persons are unacceptable and have a detrimental effect on the fulfilment of the mandate of the United Nations, in particular with respect to the relations between the United Nations and the local population in the host country,

*Conscious* of the critical importance of providing expeditious support and protecting the rights of victims of criminal conduct perpetrated by United Nations officials and experts on mission, in particular through voluntary contributions to the trust fund in support of victims of sexual exploitation and abuse, as well as of ensuring adequate protection for witnesses, and recalling the adoption of its resolution [62/214](#) of 21 December 2007 on the United Nations Comprehensive Strategy on Assistance and Support to Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by United Nations Staff and Related Personnel, as well as of its resolution [71/297](#) of 30 June 2017 on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse,

*Emphasizing* that genuine accountability rests on the cooperation of the Member States,

*Emphasizing also* the need to enhance international cooperation to ensure the criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission,

*Taking note* of the report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations on uniting our strengths for peace: politics, partnership and people,<sup>5</sup> and of the subsequent report of the Secretary-General entitled “The future of United Nations peace operations: implementation of the recommendations of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations”,<sup>6</sup>

*Taking note also* of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on fraud prevention, detection and response in United Nations system organizations,<sup>7</sup> the Anti-Fraud and Anti-Corruption Framework of the United Nations Secretariat of September 2016<sup>8</sup> and the report of the Secretary-General on his practice in disciplinary matters and cases of possible criminal behaviour from 1 January to 31 December 2021,<sup>9</sup>

*Recalling* its resolution [61/29](#) of 4 December 2006, by which it established the Ad Hoc Committee on criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission,

*Having considered* at its previous sessions the report of the Group of Legal Experts established by the Secretary-General pursuant to its resolution [59/300](#)<sup>10</sup> and the reports of the Ad Hoc Committee,<sup>11</sup> as well as the note by the Secretariat<sup>12</sup> and the reports of the Secretary-General<sup>13</sup> on criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission,

*Recalling* its resolutions [62/63](#) of 6 December 2007, [63/119](#) of 11 December 2008, [64/110](#) of 16 December 2009, [65/20](#) of 6 December 2010, [66/93](#) of 9 December 2011, [67/88](#) of 14 December 2012, [68/105](#) of 16 December 2013, [69/114](#) of 10 December 2014, [70/114](#) of 14 December 2015, [71/134](#) of 13 December 2016, [72/112](#) of 7 December 2017, [73/196](#) of 20 December 2018, [74/181](#) of 18 December 2019, [75/132](#) of 15 December 2020, [76/106](#) of 9 December 2021 and [77/98](#) of 7 December 2022,

*Recalling also* its decision that, bearing in mind its resolutions [62/63](#) and [63/119](#) as well as its resolution [77/98](#), the consideration of the report of the Group of Legal Experts, in particular its legal aspects, taking into account the views of Member States and also noting the inputs by the Secretariat, would be continued during its seventy-ninth session in the framework of a working group of the Sixth Committee,

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<sup>5</sup> See [A/70/95-S/2015/446](#).

<sup>6</sup> [A/70/357-S/2015/682](#).

<sup>7</sup> [A/71/731](#).

<sup>8</sup> [ST/IC/2016/25](#), annex.

<sup>9</sup> [A/77/606](#).

<sup>10</sup> See [A/60/980](#).

<sup>11</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 54 (A/62/54)*; and *ibid.*, *Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 54 (A/63/54)*.

<sup>12</sup> [A/62/329](#).

<sup>13</sup> [A/63/260](#), [A/63/260/Add.1](#), [A/64/183](#), [A/64/183/Add.1](#), [A/65/185](#), [A/66/174](#), [A/66/174/Add.1](#), [A/67/213](#), [A/68/173](#), [A/69/210](#), [A/70/208](#), [A/72/121](#), [A/72/126](#), [A/72/205](#), [A/73/128](#), [A/73/129](#), [A/73/155](#), [A/74/142](#), [A/74/145](#), [A/75/217](#), [A/75/228](#), [A/76/205](#), [A/76/208](#), [A/77/225](#) and [A/77/237](#).

## VII. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Sixth Committee

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*Convinced* of the continuing need for the United Nations and its Member States to urgently take strong and effective steps to ensure the criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission in the interest of justice,

*Emphasizing* that the development of harmonized United Nations standards of investigation of crimes allegedly committed by United Nations officials and experts on mission can be critical to strengthening the United Nations system of accountability,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General,<sup>14</sup> in particular annexes I and II to the report submitted pursuant to paragraphs 31 and 32 of its resolution 77/98,<sup>15</sup> which provide additional information on the nature of the allegations and information received from States on all referrals since 1 July 2007 and notifications received from States with respect to investigations or prosecutions of crimes allegedly committed by United Nations officials or experts on mission since 1 July 2016;

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse,<sup>16</sup> and recalls all of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and on the United Nations action on sexual exploitation and abuse, as well as the findings of the Office of Internal Oversight Services of the Secretariat in its evaluation report of 22 March 2021;<sup>17</sup>

3. *Welcomes* the commitment of the Secretary-General to refer credible allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse to the Member State of the United Nations officials or experts on mission for appropriate action;

4. *Also welcomes* the work of the Special Coordinator on Improving the United Nations Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, and requests the Secretary-General to regularly update Member States on progress with respect to the implementation of the mandate of the Special Coordinator;

5. *Expresses its concern* with respect to all alleged crimes on the part of United Nations officials and experts on mission, including allegations of fraud, corruption and other financial crimes, and in that regard welcomes the reaffirmation by the Secretary-General that there will be no tolerance for any corruption at the United Nations;

6. *Urges* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that his zero-tolerance policy for criminal activities, such as sexual exploitation and abuse, fraud and corruption, is made known to all United Nations officials and experts on mission at all levels, especially those in managerial positions, and is fully implemented in a coherent and coordinated manner throughout the United Nations, including funds and programmes, and calls upon all entities in the United Nations to inform and to cooperate fully with the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat in all cases involving allegations that a crime may have been committed by a United Nations official or expert on mission;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure greater quality and consistency in investigations by investigative entities of the Organization through the development of harmonized standards of investigation, including verification of allegations and information received;

8. *Expresses its concern* with respect to the low rate of response from States to referred allegations and to requests for information on their provisions addressing the establishment of jurisdiction over crimes, as urged in its resolution 77/98, and in particular expresses its deep concern with regard to the significant number of instances where States to which allegations have been referred have failed to advise the United Nations of any steps taken in response to such referrals, and also with regard to the failure to acknowledge such referrals;

9. *Strongly urges* States to take all appropriate measures to ensure that crimes by United Nations officials and experts on mission do not go unpunished and that the perpetrators of such crimes are brought to justice, without prejudice to the privileges and immunities of such persons and the United Nations under international law, and in accordance with international human rights standards, including due process;

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<sup>14</sup> A/78/248 and A/78/275.

<sup>15</sup> A/78/248.

<sup>16</sup> A/77/748.

<sup>17</sup> A/75/820, entitled "Evaluation of the prevention, response and victim support efforts against sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations Secretariat staff and related personnel".



10. *Strongly urges* all States to consider establishing, to the extent that they have not yet done so, jurisdiction over crimes, particularly those of a serious nature, as known in their existing national criminal laws, committed by their nationals while serving as United Nations officials or experts on mission, at least where the conduct as defined in the law of the State establishing jurisdiction also constitutes a crime under the laws of the host State, and, further, urges States and appropriate international organizations to provide technical and other appropriate assistance in developing such legal measures to States requesting such support;

11. *Encourages* all States and the United Nations to cooperate with each other in the exchange of information and in facilitating the conduct of investigations and, as appropriate, the prosecution of United Nations officials and experts on mission who are alleged to have committed crimes of a serious nature, in accordance with their national law and applicable United Nations rules and regulations, fully respecting due process rights, as well as to consider strengthening the capacities of their national authorities to investigate and prosecute such crimes;

12. *Encourages* all States:

(a) To afford each other assistance in connection with criminal investigations or criminal or extradition proceedings in respect of crimes of a serious nature committed by United Nations officials and experts on mission, including assistance in obtaining evidence at their disposal, in accordance with their national law or any treaties or other arrangements on extradition and mutual legal assistance that may exist between them;

(b) In accordance with their national law, to explore ways and means of facilitating the possible use of information and material obtained from the United Nations for purposes of criminal proceedings initiated in their territory for the prosecution of crimes of a serious nature committed by United Nations officials and experts on mission, bearing in mind due process considerations;

(c) In accordance with their national law, to provide effective protection for victims of, witnesses to and others who provide information in relation to crimes of a serious nature alleged to have been committed by United Nations officials and experts on mission and to facilitate access of victims to victim assistance programmes, without prejudice to the rights of the alleged offender, including those relating to due process;

(d) In accordance with their national law, to explore ways and means of responding adequately to requests by host States for support and assistance in order to enhance their capacity to conduct effective investigations in respect of crimes of a serious nature alleged to have been committed by United Nations officials and experts on mission;

13. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to ensure that requests to Member States seeking personnel to serve as experts on mission make States aware of the expectation that persons who serve in that capacity should meet high standards in their conduct and behaviour and be aware that certain conduct may amount to a crime for which they may be held accountable, and also requests the Secretariat to take all appropriate measures to continue to ensure that all such personnel, as well as United Nations officials, are properly vetted by the States contributing personnel and by the Organization for any prior misconduct while serving with the United Nations;

14. *Urges* the Secretary-General to make Member States contributing personnel to serve as experts on mission aware of the necessity of providing appropriate conduct-related training prior to deployment, and also urges the Secretary-General to continue to take such practical measures as are within his authority to strengthen existing training on United Nations standards of conduct, including through predeployment and in-mission induction training for United Nations officials and experts on mission;

15. *Reiterates* its decision that, bearing in mind its resolutions [62/63](#) and [63/119](#) as well as its resolution [77/98](#), the consideration of the report of the Group of Legal Experts, in particular its legal aspects, taking into account the views of Member States and also noting the inputs by the Secretariat, shall be continued during its seventy-ninth session in the framework of a working group of the Sixth Committee, and, for that purpose, invites further comments from Member States on that report, including on the question of future action;

16. *Takes note* of the briefings by the Secretariat during the seventieth to seventy-eighth sessions, and decides to organize another briefing at the seventy-ninth session with a view to furthering discussion on measures that could be taken to help to ensure the accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission and prevent future crimes;

17. *Recognizes* the efforts of Member States towards devising concrete proposals to ensure the accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission, and encourages all Member States to redouble their efforts

informally during the intersessional period, with the support of the Secretariat, in particular through the organization of informal briefings;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring credible allegations that reveal that a crime may have been committed by a United Nations official or expert on mission to the attention of the States against whose nationals such allegations are made and to request from those States updates, as set out in paragraph 20 below, on the status of their efforts to investigate and, as appropriate, prosecute crimes of a serious nature, as well as the types of appropriate assistance that States may wish to receive from the Secretariat for the purposes of such investigations and prosecutions;

19. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to seek, from all States that have notified the United Nations with respect to investigations or prosecutions of crimes allegedly committed by United Nations officials or experts on mission, updates on the status of their investigations or prosecutions, provided that this would not prejudice national investigations or national proceedings;

20. *Urges* the States referred to in paragraphs 18 and 19 above to provide to the Secretary-General periodic updates on their handling of the allegations, in order to demonstrate that Member States are taking steps to ensure accountability for crimes committed by United Nations officials and experts on mission, in particular by informing the Secretary-General of whether any disciplinary or criminal proceedings have been brought and of the outcome of any such proceedings or the reasons for not initiating them, provided that this would not be contrary to national laws or prejudice national investigations or national proceedings, and requests the Secretary-General to continue and undertake the necessary follow-up with the States concerned, by all appropriate forms of communication, with a view to encouraging those States to respond;

21. *Encourages* all States to provide to the Secretary-General a point of contact in order to strengthen and enable efficient communication and cooperation between the United Nations and Member States, and requests the Secretary-General to maintain and update a list of points of contact;

22. *Requests* the United Nations, when its investigations into allegations suggest that crimes of a serious nature may have been committed by United Nations officials or experts on mission, to consider any appropriate measures that may facilitate the possible use of information and material for purposes of criminal proceedings initiated by States, bearing in mind due process considerations;

23. *Encourages* the United Nations, when allegations against United Nations officials or experts on mission are determined by a United Nations administrative investigation to be unfounded, to take appropriate measures, in the interests of the Organization, to restore the credibility and the reputation of such officials and experts on mission;

24. *Urges* the United Nations to continue to cooperate with States exercising jurisdiction in order to provide them, within the framework of the relevant rules of international law and agreements governing activities of the United Nations, with information and material for purposes of criminal proceedings initiated by States;

25. *Recalls* the Secretary-General's bulletin on protection against retaliation for reporting misconduct and for cooperating with duly authorized audits or investigations,<sup>18</sup> underlines the importance of a culture in which individuals are encouraged and supported by the Organization to report alleged crimes, emphasizes that the United Nations, in accordance with the applicable rules of the Organization, should take no action that would retaliate against or intimidate United Nations officials and experts on mission who report allegations concerning crimes of a serious nature committed by United Nations officials and experts on mission, and stresses the need for appropriate safeguards against retaliation;

26. *Stresses* the critical importance of ensuring that victims of criminal conduct perpetrated by United Nations officials and experts on mission are made aware of available victim assistance and support, including from a gender perspective, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the Sixth Committee on available victim assistance and support during the briefing at its seventy-ninth session;

27. *Takes note with appreciation* of the information provided by Governments in response to its resolutions 62/63, 63/119, 64/110, 65/20, 66/93, 67/88, 68/105, 69/114, 70/114, 71/134, 72/112, 73/196, 74/181, 75/132, 76/106 and 77/98, and urges Governments to continue to take the measures necessary for the implementation of those

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<sup>18</sup> [ST/SGB/2017/2/Rev.1](#).

resolutions, including their provisions addressing the establishment of jurisdiction over crimes, particularly those of a serious nature, as known in their existing national criminal laws, committed by their nationals while serving as United Nations officials or experts on mission, as well as cooperation among States, and to provide specific details thereon, in particular with respect to paragraph 10 above, in the information provided to the Secretary-General;

28. *Recalls its request* in resolution 77/98 for Governments to provide specific details on the measures taken, as necessary, for the implementation of its resolutions 62/63, 63/119, 64/110, 65/20, 66/93, 67/88, 68/105, 69/114, 70/114, 71/134, 72/112, 73/196, 74/181, 75/132 and 76/106, and notes that, in response to those resolutions, 185 submissions and 18 questionnaire responses were received from 71 Member States between 6 December 2007 and 1 September 2023;

29. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep up to date the online compilation of the full submissions and questionnaire responses as well as the online summary table of national provisions, based on information received from Member States since 2007, regarding the establishment of jurisdiction over their nationals whenever they serve as United Nations officials or experts on mission, in relation to crimes as known in their existing national criminal laws, particularly those of a serious nature, and also requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report containing a general overview of national provisions, based on the information received, for the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly, provided that sufficient information has been received from Member States;

30. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General setting out updates to all relevant existing policies and procedures of the United Nations system regarding the allegations referred to in paragraphs 18 and 19 above,<sup>19</sup> and requests the Secretary-General to continue to report on any updates to those policies and procedures and to develop recommendations to help to ensure that such policies and procedures relating to the reporting, investigation, referral and follow-up of credible allegations revealing that a crime may have been committed by a United Nations official or expert on mission are coherent, systematic and coordinated throughout the United Nations system;

31. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution, in particular with respect to paragraphs 10, 12, 13, 15, 18, 20 and 30 above, as well as any practical problems in its implementation, on the basis of information received from Governments and the Secretariat;

32. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to improve reporting methods and expand the scope of reporting by providing information on the allegations referred to in paragraphs 18 and 19 above, as well as information received pursuant to paragraph 20 since 1 July 2007, limited to the United Nations entity involved, the year of referral, the dates and methods of follow-up requests from the Secretary-General, information about the type of crime and a summary of allegations, the status of investigations, prosecutorial and disciplinary actions taken, including with respect to individuals concerned who have left the duty mission or the service of the United Nations, any requests for waivers of immunity, as applicable, and information on jurisdictional, evidentiary or other obstacles to prosecution, while protecting the privacy of the victims as well as respecting the privacy and rights of those subject to the allegations;

33. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session the item entitled “Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission”.

### RESOLUTION 78/103

Adopted at the 45th plenary meeting, on 7 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/433, para. 13)<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> A/78/275.

<sup>20</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Zambia.

**78/103. Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its fifty-sixth session**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 2205 (XXI) of 17 December 1966, by which it established the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law with a mandate to further the progressive harmonization and unification of the law of international trade and in that respect to bear in mind the interests of all peoples, in particular those of developing countries, in the extensive development of international trade,

*Reaffirming its belief* that the progressive modernization and harmonization of international trade law, in reducing or removing legal obstacles to the flow of international trade, especially those affecting developing countries, would contribute significantly to universal economic cooperation among all States on a basis of equality, equity, common interest and respect for the rule of law, to the elimination of discrimination in international trade and, thereby, to peace, stability and the well-being of all peoples,

*Having considered* the report of the Commission,<sup>21</sup>

*Reiterating* the importance of coordinating the activities of bodies active in the field of international trade law, a core element of the mandate of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, as a means of avoiding duplication of efforts and promoting efficiency, consistency and coherence in the unification and harmonization of international trade law,

*Reaffirming* the mandate of the Commission, as the core legal body within the United Nations system in the field of international trade law, to coordinate legal activities in this field, in particular to avoid duplication of efforts, including among organizations formulating rules of international trade, and to promote efficiency, consistency and coherence in the modernization and harmonization of international trade law, and to continue, through its secretariat, to maintain close cooperation with other international organs and organizations, including regional organizations, active in the field of international trade law,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law;
2. *Commends* the Commission for the finalization and adoption of:

(a) In the area of investor-State dispute settlement reform, the Model Provisions on Mediation for International Investment Disputes,<sup>22</sup> the Guidelines on Mediation for International Investment Disputes,<sup>23</sup> the Code of Conduct for Arbitrators in International Investment Dispute Resolution,<sup>24</sup> and, in principle, the Code of Conduct for Judges in International Investment Dispute Resolution;<sup>25</sup>

(b) In the area of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, the recommendations on access to credit for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises;<sup>26</sup>

(c) In the area of dispute settlement, the guidance text on early dismissal and preliminary determination;<sup>27</sup>

3. *Commends* the secretariat of the Commission for holding the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law Colloquium on Climate Change and International Trade Law to consider areas in which international trade law can effectively support the achievement of climate action goals set by the international community, the scope and value of legal harmonization in those areas and the need for international guidance for legislators, policymakers, courts and dispute resolution bodies;<sup>28</sup>

<sup>21</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/78/17).*

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*, chap. IV, sect. B.2, and annex I.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*, chap. IV, sect. C.2, and annex II.

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*, chap. IV, sect. D.3, and annex III.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*, chap. IV, sect. D.3, and annex IV.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*, chap. V, sect. D, and annex V.

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.*, chap. VI, and annex VII.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*, chap. XII, sect. B.3 (a).

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to operate, through the secretariat of the Commission, the repository of published information in accordance with article 8 of the Rules on Transparency in Treaty-based Investor-State Arbitration,<sup>29</sup> as a continuation of the project until the end of 2024, to be funded entirely by voluntary contributions, notes with satisfaction the contributions by the European Union, Germany and the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries Fund for International Development in this regard, and also requests the Secretary-General to keep the General Assembly informed of developments regarding the funding and budgetary situation of the transparency repository;<sup>30</sup>

5. *Notes with interest* the progress made by the Commission in its work in the areas of dispute settlement, investor-State dispute settlement reform, electronic commerce, insolvency law and negotiable multimodal transport documents,<sup>31</sup> and encourages the Commission to continue to move forward efficiently to achieve tangible work outcomes in those areas;

6. *Takes note with interest* of the decision of the Commission to task one of its working groups with the development of a model law on warehouse receipts;<sup>32</sup>

7. *Welcomes* the decision by the Commission to authorize the publication of a legal toolkit on the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and international trade law instruments, including electronically, in the six official languages of the United Nations,<sup>33</sup> and encourages States and other stakeholders to consult the toolkit and the secretariat to use it in its awareness-raising and promotional activities;

8. *Also welcomes* the decision by the Commission to proceed with its exploratory work on the stocktaking of developments in dispute resolution in the digital economy<sup>34</sup> and the aspects of international trade law related to voluntary carbon credits;<sup>35</sup>

9. *Endorses* the efforts and initiatives of the Commission, as the core legal body within the United Nations system in the field of international trade law, aimed at increasing coordination of and cooperation on legal activities of international and regional organizations active in the field of international trade law, including on legal issues relating to the digital economy as reaffirmed by the Commission at its fifty-third session,<sup>36</sup> and at promoting the rule of law at the national and international levels in this field, and in this regard appeals to relevant international and regional organizations to coordinate their activities with those of the Commission, to avoid duplication of efforts and to promote efficiency, consistency and coherence in the modernization and harmonization of international trade law;

10. *Reaffirms* the importance, in particular for developing countries, of the work of the Commission concerned with technical cooperation and assistance in the field of international trade law reform and development, and in this connection:

(a) Welcomes the initiatives of the Commission towards expanding, through its secretariat, its technical cooperation and assistance programme, and in that respect encourages the Secretary-General to seek partnerships with State and non-State actors to increase awareness about the work of the Commission and facilitate the effective implementation of legal standards resulting from its work, and notes with appreciation the organization by the secretariat of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law Day events in partnership with Governments and regional universities in Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as a series of United Nations Commission on International Trade Law Day events held for the first time in Africa, in 2022, aimed at promoting awareness and encouraging the study and discussion of Commission texts;<sup>37</sup>

<sup>29</sup> Ibid., *Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/68/17)*, annex I.

<sup>30</sup> Ibid., *Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/78/17)*, chap. XIV, sect. D.4, and chap. XVI, sect. B.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid., chaps. VII–XI.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid., chap. XII, sect. B.1.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid., chap. XII, sect. B.2.

<sup>34</sup> Ibid., chap. XII, sect. B.5.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid., chap. XII, sect. B.3 (b).

<sup>36</sup> Ibid., *Seventy-fifth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/75/17)*, part two, chap. X, sect. C.4.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid., *Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/78/17)*, chap. XIV, sect. B.2.

(b) Expresses its appreciation to the Commission for carrying out technical cooperation and assistance activities and for providing assistance with legislative drafting in the field of international trade law, and draws the attention of the Secretary-General to the limited resources that are made available in this field;

(c) Expresses its appreciation to the Governments whose contributions enabled the technical cooperation and assistance activities to take place, and appeals to Governments, the relevant bodies of the United Nations system, organizations, institutions and individuals to make voluntary contributions to the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law trust fund for symposiums and, where appropriate, for the financing of special projects and otherwise to assist the secretariat of the Commission in carrying out technical cooperation and assistance activities, in particular in developing countries;

(d) Reiterates its appeal to the United Nations Development Programme and other bodies responsible for development assistance, such as the World Bank and regional development banks, as well as to Governments in their bilateral aid programmes, to support the technical cooperation and assistance programme of the Commission and to cooperate with the Commission and coordinate their activities with those of the Commission in the light of the relevance and importance of the work and programmes of the Commission for the promotion of the rule of law at the national and international levels and for the implementation of the international development agenda, including the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;<sup>38</sup>

(e) Recalls its resolutions stressing the need to strengthen support to Member States, upon their request, in the domestic implementation of their respective international obligations through enhanced technical assistance and capacity-building, and welcomes the efforts of the Secretary-General to ensure greater coordination and coherence among United Nations entities and with donors and recipients;

11. *Recalls* the importance of adherence to the rules of procedure and methods of work of the Commission, including transparent and inclusive deliberations, taking into account the summary of conclusions as reproduced in annex III to the report on the work of its forty-third session,<sup>39</sup> requests the Secretariat to issue, prior to meetings of the Commission and of its working groups, a reminder of those rules of procedure and methods of work with a view to ensuring the high quality of the work of the Commission and encouraging the assessment of its instruments, recalls in this regard its previous resolutions related to this matter, and also recalls the agreement reached by the Commission on the conditions that should be met with regard to informal meetings of the working groups between formal sessions;<sup>40</sup>

12. *Welcomes* the activities of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific, in the Republic of Korea, towards providing capacity-building and technical assistance services to States in the Asia-Pacific region, including to international and regional organizations, expresses its appreciation to the Republic of Korea and China, whose contributions enabled continuing operation of the Regional Centre, notes that the continuation of the regional presence relies entirely on extrabudgetary resources, including but not limited to voluntary contributions from States, and requests the Secretary-General to keep the General Assembly informed of developments regarding the establishment of regional centres, in particular their funding and budgetary situation;

13. *Appeals* to Governments, the relevant bodies of the United Nations system, organizations, institutions and individuals to make voluntary contributions to the trust fund established to provide travel assistance to developing countries that are members of the Commission, at their request and in consultation with the Secretary-General, in order to enable renewal of the provision of that assistance and to increase expert representation from developing countries at sessions of the Commission and its working groups, necessary to build local expertise and capacities in those countries to put in place a regulatory and enabling environment for business, trade and investment;

14. *Decides*, in order to ensure full participation of all Member States in the sessions of the Commission and its working groups, to continue, in the competent Main Committee during the seventy-eighth session of the General Assembly, its consideration of granting travel assistance to the least developed countries, at their request and in consultation with the Secretary-General, and notes the contributions from France, Germany, the European Union and

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<sup>38</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>39</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/65/17)*.

<sup>40</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/78/17)*, chap. XII, sect. C.



the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation to the trust fund, which would facilitate the participation of representatives of developing States in the deliberations of Working Group III;<sup>41</sup>

15. *Endorses* the conviction of the Commission that the implementation and effective use of modern private law standards in international trade are essential for advancing good governance, sustained economic development and the eradication of poverty and hunger and that the promotion of the rule of law in commercial relations should be an integral part of the broader agenda of the United Nations to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, including through the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group, supported by the Rule of Law Unit in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General;

16. *Notes* the role of the Commission in promoting the rule of law, the respective discussions in the Commission at its fifty-sixth session, and the comments transmitted by the Commission, pursuant to paragraph 20 of General Assembly resolution [77/110](#) of 7 December 2022, highlighting the relevance of its current work to the promotion of the rule of law and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals;<sup>42</sup>

17. *Notes with satisfaction* that, in paragraph 8 of the declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the rule of law at the national and international levels, adopted by consensus as resolution [67/1](#) of 24 September 2012, Member States recognized the importance of fair, stable and predictable legal frameworks for generating inclusive, sustainable and equitable development, economic growth and employment, generating investment and facilitating entrepreneurship and, in this regard, commended the work of the Commission in modernizing and harmonizing international trade law and that, in paragraph 7 of the declaration, Member States expressed their conviction that the rule of law and development were strongly interrelated and mutually reinforcing;

18. *Also notes with satisfaction* that, in paragraph 89 of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, adopted by the General Assembly by consensus as resolution [69/313](#) of 27 July 2015, States endorsed the efforts and initiatives of the Commission, as the core legal body within the United Nations system in the field of international trade law, aimed at increasing coordination of and cooperation on legal activities of international and regional organizations active in the field of international trade law and at promoting the rule of law at the national and international levels in this field;

19. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General, in conformity with resolutions of the General Assembly on documentation-related matters,<sup>43</sup> which, in particular, emphasize that any invitation to limit, where appropriate, the length of documents should not adversely affect either the quality of the presentation or the substance of the documents, to bear in mind the particular characteristics of the mandate and functions of the Commission in the progressive development and codification of international trade law when implementing page limits with respect to the documentation of the Commission;<sup>44</sup>

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue the publication of Commission standards and the provision of summary records of the meetings of the Commission, including committees of the whole established by the Commission for the duration of its annual session, relating to the formulation of normative texts;

21. *Recalls* paragraph 48 of its resolution [66/246](#) of 24 December 2011 regarding the rotation scheme of meetings between Vienna and New York;

22. *Stresses* the importance of promoting the use of texts emanating from the work of the Commission for the global unification and harmonization of international trade law, and to this end urges States that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to conventions, enacting model laws and encouraging the use of other relevant texts;

23. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Secretariat on the system for the collection and dissemination of case law on Commission texts (the CLOUT system) in the six official languages of the United Nations, notes the resource-intensive nature of the system, acknowledges the need for further resources to sustain and expand it, notes with interest the progress towards a rejuvenation of the CLOUT system, and its focus on developing a more active

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<sup>41</sup> Ibid., chap. VIII.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid., chap. XVII, sect. B.

<sup>43</sup> Resolutions [52/214](#), sect. B, [57/283](#) B, sect. III, and [58/250](#), sect. III.

<sup>44</sup> See resolutions [59/39](#), para. 9, and [65/21](#), para. 18; see also *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/59/17)*, paras. 124–128.



and productive network of CLOUT system contributors and covering an expanded range of Commission texts, in this regard welcomes the renewed efforts by the Commission and its secretariat towards building partnerships with interested institutions, and appeals to Governments, the relevant bodies of the United Nations system, organizations, institutions and individuals to assist the secretariat of the Commission in raising awareness as to the availability and usefulness of the CLOUT system in professional, academic and judiciary circles and in securing the funding required for the coordination and expansion of the system and the establishment, within the secretariat of the Commission, of a pillar focused on the promotion of ways and means of interpreting Commission texts in a uniform manner;

24. *Welcomes* the continuing work of the Secretariat on digests of case law related to Commission texts, including their wide dissemination, as well as the continuing increase in the number of abstracts available through the CLOUT system, in view of the role of the digests and the CLOUT system as important tools for the promotion of the uniform interpretation of international trade law, in particular by building local capacity of judges, arbitrators and other legal practitioners to interpret those standards in the light of their international character and the need to promote uniformity in their application and the observance of good faith in international trade, and notes the satisfaction of the Commission with the performance of the New York Convention website<sup>45</sup> and the successful coordination between that website and the CLOUT system;

25. *Recalls* its resolutions affirming the importance of high-quality, user-friendly and cost-effective United Nations websites and the need for their multilingual development, maintenance and enrichment,<sup>46</sup> commends the fact that the website of the Commission has been migrated to a mobile device-friendly platform and that it continues to be published simultaneously in the six official languages of the United Nations, and welcomes the continuous efforts of the Commission to maintain and improve its website, and to enhance the visibility of its work by utilizing social media features in accordance with the applicable guidelines.<sup>47</sup>

#### RESOLUTION 78/104

Adopted at the 45th plenary meeting, on 7 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/433, para. 13)<sup>48</sup>

#### **78/104. Model Provisions on Mediation for International Investment Disputes and Guidelines on Mediation for International Investment Disputes of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 2205 (XXI) of 17 December 1966, by which it established the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law with a mandate to further the progressive harmonization and unification of the law of international trade and in that respect to bear in mind the interests of all peoples, in particular those of developing countries, in the extensive development of international trade,

*Recalling also* its resolution 76/107 of 9 December 2021, by which it recommended the use of the Mediation Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law in the settlement of disputes arising in the context of international commercial relations, mindful of the value of mediation as a means of amicably settling such disputes,

*Noting* that the Commission, at its fiftieth session, in 2017, entrusted its Working Group III (Investor-State Dispute Settlement Reform) with a broad mandate to work on the possible reform of investor-State dispute settlement and to develop relevant solutions,

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<sup>45</sup> <https://newyorkconvention1958.org/>.

<sup>46</sup> Resolutions 52/214, sect. C, para. 3; 55/222, sect. III, para. 12; 56/64 B, sect. X; 57/130 B, sect. X; 58/101 B, sect. V, paras. 61–76; 59/126 B, sect. V, paras. 76–95; 60/109 B, sect. IV, paras. 66–80; and 61/121 B, sect. IV, paras. 65–77.

<sup>47</sup> See resolution 63/120, para. 20.

<sup>48</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was introduced in the Committee by the representative of Singapore on behalf of the Bureau.

*Mindful* of the desirability of encouraging the use of mediation for resolving international investment disputes in a cost- and time-efficient manner,

*Recognizing* that there are significant benefits to mediation, such as allowing parties to exercise control over the process to reach a self-tailored outcome and preserve their relationship, as well as providing necessary safeguards for due process,

*Noting* that the preparation of the Model Provisions on Mediation for International Investment Disputes and the Guidelines on Mediation for International Investment Disputes of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law benefited from consultations with Governments and interested intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

*Noting also* that the Model Provisions and the Guidelines on Mediation were adopted by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law at its fifty-sixth session, after due deliberations,

*Mindful* that Working Group III of the Commission is continuing to make progress with regard to a number of investor-State dispute settlement reform elements to be recommended to the Commission, including a multilateral instrument to implement the reform elements, which could provide additional means to apply the Model Provisions,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law for having formulated and adopted the Model Provisions on Mediation for International Investment Disputes, the text of which is contained in annex I to the report of the Commission on the work of its fifty-sixth session,<sup>49</sup> and the Guidelines on Mediation for International Investment Disputes, the text of which is contained in annex II to the same report;<sup>50</sup>

2. *Recommends* the use of the Model Provisions by States and other relevant stakeholders involved in the negotiation of international investment instruments and their incorporation into such instruments;

3. *Also recommends* the use of the Guidelines on Mediation by States, investors, mediators, interested institutions and other relevant stakeholders to foster a better understanding of mediation with regard to resolution of international investment disputes;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make all efforts to ensure that the Model Provisions and the Guidelines become generally known and available by disseminating them broadly to Governments and other interested bodies.

### RESOLUTION 78/105

Adopted at the 45th plenary meeting, on 7 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/433, para. 13)<sup>51</sup>

#### **78/105. Code of Conduct for Arbitrators in International Investment Dispute Resolution and Code of Conduct for Judges in International Investment Dispute Resolution with respective commentary of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 2205 (XXI) of 17 December 1966, by which it established the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law with a mandate to further the progressive harmonization and unification of the law of international trade and in that respect to bear in mind the interests of all peoples, in particular those of developing countries, in the extensive development of international trade,

*Noting* that the Commission, at its fiftieth session, in 2017, entrusted its Working Group III (Investor-State Dispute Settlement Reform) with a broad mandate to work on the possible reform of investor-State dispute settlement and to develop relevant solutions,

*Believing* that it would be desirable to develop a set of ethical standards for adjudicators responsible for resolving international investment disputes in the light of the concerns identified about the perceived or apparent lack of

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<sup>49</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth session, Supplement No. 17 (A/78/17)*, annex I.

<sup>50</sup> *Ibid.*, annex II.

<sup>51</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was introduced in the Committee by the representative of Austria on behalf of the Bureau.

independence and impartiality of some adjudicators, which often gave rise to criticism about the legitimacy of the investor-State dispute settlement system,

*Convinced* that establishing and promulgating clear obligations on adjudicators with regard to, among other things, independence and impartiality, limitation on multiple roles, ex parte communication, confidentiality and disclosure, would be an appropriate response to the identified concerns,

*Also convinced* that the development of uniform standards that would apply to arbitrators involved in the resolution of international investment disputes would be highly desirable,

*Mindful* that the Working Group is continuing to consider whether to recommend a number of investor-State dispute settlement reform elements to the Commission, including the possible establishment of a standing mechanism to resolve international investment disputes and that a code of conduct for members of such a standing mechanism (referred to as “judges”) could form part of the rules governing that mechanism,

*Mindful also* that the Working Group is considering the development of a multilateral instrument to implement the investor-State dispute settlement reform elements, which could provide additional means to apply the Codes of Conduct,

*Noting* that the Commission adopted the Code of Conduct for Arbitrators in International Investment Dispute Resolution and accompanying commentary at its fifty-sixth session, and adopted, in principle, the Code of Conduct for Judges in International Investment Dispute Resolution and accompanying commentary at the same session, both after due deliberations,

*Noting also* that the preparation of the Code of Conduct for Arbitrators and the Code of Conduct for Judges, as well as their accompanying commentary, benefited from consultations with Governments and interested intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and joint work of the secretariats of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes and the Commission,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law for having formulated and adopted the Code of Conduct for Arbitrators in International Investment Dispute Resolution, the text of which is contained in annex III to the report of the Commission on the work of its fifty-sixth session,<sup>52</sup> and for having formulated and adopted, in principle, the Code of Conduct for Judges in International Investment Dispute Resolution, the text of which is contained in annex IV to the same report;<sup>53</sup>

2. *Recommends* the use of the Code of Conduct for Arbitrators by arbitrators, former arbitrators, candidates and disputing parties, as well as administering institutions, with regard to international investment disputes;

3. *Also recommends* the use of the Code of Conduct for Judges by standing mechanisms, where relevant;

4. *Further recommends* that Governments and other relevant stakeholders involved in the negotiation of international investment instruments and the enactment of legislation governing foreign investments make reference to the Code of Conduct for Arbitrators and the Code of Conduct for Judges, as appropriate;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make all efforts to ensure that the Code of Conduct for Arbitrators and the Code of Conduct for Judges become generally known and available by disseminating them broadly to Governments and other interested bodies.

## RESOLUTION 78/106

Adopted at the 45th plenary meeting, on 7 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/433, para. 13)<sup>54</sup>

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<sup>52</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth session, Supplement No. 17 (A/78/17)*, annex III.

<sup>53</sup> *Ibid.*, annex IV.

<sup>54</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was introduced in the Committee by the representative of El Salvador on behalf of the Bureau.

**78/106. Guide on Access to Credit for Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution [2205 \(XXI\)](#) of 17 December 1966, by which it established the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law with a mandate to further the progressive harmonization and unification of the law of international trade and in that respect to bear in mind the interests of all peoples, in particular those of developing countries, in the extensive development of international trade,

*Recalling also* its resolution [77/160](#) of 14 December 2022 on entrepreneurship for sustainable development, in which it recognized the importance of encouraging the participation and growth of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in international, regional and national markets, including through access to financial services such as affordable microfinance and credit,

*Aware* of the significant unsatisfied demand for financing from micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, in particular those owned by women,

*Mindful* of the many obstacles faced by micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in obtaining financing because of their small size and other particular features,

*Recognizing* that a combination of private or commercial law, regulatory and policy measures may help to remove many of those obstacles as well as reduce the credit risk faced by financiers when lending to micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises,

*Convinced* that the guidance provided by the *Legislative Guide on Key Principles of a Business Registry*, the *Legislative Guide on Limited Liability Enterprises*, the *Model Law on Secured Transactions*, the *Legislative Guide on Insolvency Law* and the *Legislative Guide on Insolvency Law for Micro- and Small Enterprises* of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law can assist States in creating a sound legal framework that promote access to credit for small businesses,

*Noting* that the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law adopted the recommendations on access to credit for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises at its fifty-sixth session and approved in principle the accompanying commentary at the same session,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law for having formulated and adopted the recommendations on access to credit for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, the text of which is contained in annex V to the report of the Commission on the work of its fifty-sixth session;<sup>55</sup>

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to publish the recommendations and the commentary as the *Guide on Access to Credit for Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises* of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, as part of its micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises series, including electronically, in the six official languages of the United Nations, and to disseminate it, together with any relevant information materials, so as to make it widely known and available to Governments and other interested bodies;

3. *Recommends* that States give due consideration to the *Guide* when adopting or revising legislation relevant to access to credit by micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, and encourages States to ensure that all such enterprises have equal access to credit.

**RESOLUTION 78/107**

Adopted at the 45th plenary meeting, on 7 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee ([A/78/434](#), para. 7)<sup>56</sup>

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<sup>55</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth session, Supplement No. 17 (A/78/17).*

<sup>56</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was introduced in the Committee by the representative of Ghana on behalf of the Bureau.

**78/107. United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 2099 (XX) of 20 December 1965, in which the General Assembly established the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law to contribute towards a better knowledge of international law as a means of strengthening international peace and security and promoting friendly relations and cooperation among States,

*Reaffirming* that the Programme of Assistance is a core activity of the United Nations and that it has provided the foundation for the efforts of the United Nations to promote a better knowledge of international law for more than half a century,

*Recognizing* the major contribution of the Programme of Assistance to the teaching and dissemination of international law for the benefit of lawyers in all countries, legal systems and regions of the world for more than half a century and the importance of ensuring the successful continuation of the Programme for the benefit of present and future generations of lawyers,

*Emphasizing* the important contribution of the Programme of Assistance, in particular the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law and the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law, to the furtherance of United Nations rule of law programmes and activities,

*Reaffirming* that the increasing demand for international law training and dissemination activities creates new challenges for the Programme of Assistance,

*Recognizing* the importance of the Programme of Assistance effectively reaching its beneficiaries, including with regard to languages, while bearing in mind limitations on available resources,

*Taking note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Assistance<sup>57</sup> and the views of the Advisory Committee on the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law, which are contained in the report,

*Noting with satisfaction* that resources have been provided under the programme budget for the organization of the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law on an annual basis and the further development of the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law,

*Welcoming* the organization, for the fifth time in the history of the Programme of Assistance, of all three of the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law, for Africa, for Asia-Pacific and for Latin America and the Caribbean, in the same calendar year,

*Noting with satisfaction* that the 2020 Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea, which had been postponed owing to the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, was undertaken in person in 2023,

*Considering* that international law should occupy an appropriate place in the teaching of legal disciplines at all universities,

*Convinced* that States, international and regional organizations, universities and institutions should be encouraged to give further support to the Programme of Assistance and to increase their activities to promote the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law, in particular those activities that are of special benefit to persons from developing countries,

*Reaffirming* that in the conduct of the Programme of Assistance it would be desirable to use as far as possible the resources and facilities made available by Member States, international and regional organizations, universities, institutions and others,

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<sup>57</sup> A/78/514.

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*Reaffirming also* the hope that, in appointing highly qualified lecturers for the seminars to be held within the framework of the fellowship programmes in international law, account would be taken of the need to secure the representation of major legal systems and balance among various geographical regions,

1. *Reiterates its approval* of the guidelines and recommendations contained in section III of the reports of the Secretary-General,<sup>58</sup> in particular those designed to strengthen and revitalize the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law in response to the increasing demand for international law training and dissemination activities;

2. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to carry out the activities specified in his report<sup>59</sup> in 2024, including the following activities to be financed from provisions in the regular budget:

(a) The International Law Fellowship Programme, with a minimum of 20 fellowships;

(b) The United Nations Regional Courses in International Law for Africa, for Asia-Pacific and for Latin America and the Caribbean, with a minimum of 20 fellowships for each course;

(c) The continuation and further development of the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law, including the availability of its Historic Archives in the official languages of the United Nations;

(d) The dissemination of legal publications and lectures of the Audiovisual Library to developing countries to the extent that there are sufficient resources;

3. *Also authorizes* the Secretary-General to further expand the activities referred to in paragraph 2 above, to be financed from voluntary contributions received pursuant to paragraphs 16, 25 and 26 below;

4. *Commends* the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat for the cost-saving measures undertaken with regard to the International Law Fellowship Programme and the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law to increase the number of fellowships for the training programmes financed from provisions in the regular budget, taking into account the number of applications for these programmes;

5. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to award additional fellowships for the training programmes from available resources under the programme budget for the Programme of Assistance and from voluntary contributions received pursuant to paragraph 26 below;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consider admitting, for participation in the training programmes, self-funded candidates present in the host country or from countries willing to bear the entire cost of their participation;

7. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to award a minimum of one scholarship in 2024 under the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea, subject to the availability of funds from voluntary contributions and limitations that may be imposed owing to the COVID-19 pandemic;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to include resources under the proposed programme budget for 2025 for the International Law Fellowship Programme, the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law for Africa, for Asia-Pacific and for Latin America and the Caribbean and for the continuation and further development of the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law;

9. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for the activities conducted under the Programme of Assistance and, in particular, for the efforts to strengthen, expand and enhance the international law training and dissemination activities within the framework of the Programme in 2023;

10. *Also expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for supporting the establishment of an alumni network of participants of the training programmes organized under the Programme of Assistance;

11. *Commends* the Secretary-General for the continuation and further development of the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law as a major contribution to the teaching and dissemination of international law around the world, and notes with appreciation the efforts of the Codification Division to enhance the accessibility of the Audiovisual Library by making all lectures in the Lecture Series available as podcasts;

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<sup>58</sup> [A/70/423](#), [A/71/432](#), [A/72/517](#), [A/72/517/Corr.1](#), [A/73/415](#), [A/74/496](#), [A/75/389](#), [A/76/404](#), [A/77/515](#) and [A/78/514](#).

<sup>59</sup> [A/78/514](#).



12. *Recognizes* the importance of the United Nations legal publications prepared by the Office of Legal Affairs, and once again requests the Secretary-General to issue the publications referred to in his previous report<sup>60</sup> in various formats, including hard copy publications, which are essential for developing countries;

13. *Expresses its appreciation* for the efforts undertaken by the Codification Division to bring up to date the United Nations legal publications, which greatly enhanced the timely issuance thereof and made possible the preparation of legal training materials, and encourages the Division to continue to explore ways of sustaining such efforts into the next budget cycle, subject to the availability of resources;

14. *Notes with satisfaction* the issuance of publications by the Codification Division, as specified in the report of the Secretary-General;

15. *Expresses its appreciation* for the issuance of the English-language edition of the *International Law Handbook: Collection of Instruments* as a valuable resource for international law education on a broad range of core subjects of international law in its training programmes and for academic institutions in developing countries to promote international law education in those countries;

16. *Also expresses its appreciation* for the issuance of the *Recueil de droit international: Collection d'instruments*, the French language equivalent of the *International Law Handbook*, and requests Member States to provide the voluntary contributions necessary to ensure the completion of such a handbook in the other official languages of the United Nations, as well as its dissemination in developing countries;

17. *Requests* the Codification Division to continue to maintain and expand its websites listed in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General as an invaluable tool for the dissemination of international law materials, as well as for advanced legal research;

18. *Requests* that interns and research assistants be enlisted for the preparation of materials for the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law;

19. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Codification Division to revitalize and conduct the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law as an important training activity;

20. *Expresses its appreciation* to Ethiopia, Chile and Thailand for hosting the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law for Africa, for Latin America and the Caribbean and for Asia-Pacific in 2023;

21. *Expresses its appreciation* to the African Union for the valuable contribution that it continues to make to the United Nations Regional Course in International Law for Africa;

22. *Once again encourages* the Codification Division to cooperate with the African Institute of International Law, dedicated to offering higher learning and research in international law needed for the development of Africa, in the implementation of the relevant activities under the Programme of Assistance, including the second International Law Seminar for African Universities, to be held in Ethiopia in 2024 in furtherance of paragraph 20 of its resolution [71/139](#) of 13 December 2016, subject to available resources, and encourages Member States and interested organizations to make voluntary contributions to the International Law Seminar for African Universities;

23. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Hague Academy of International Law for the valuable contribution it continues to make to the Programme of Assistance, which has enabled candidates under the International Law Fellowship Programme to attend and participate in the Fellowship Programme in conjunction with courses at the Academy;

24. *Notes with appreciation* the contributions of the Hague Academy to the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law, and calls upon Member States and interested organizations to give favourable consideration to the appeal of the Academy for a continuation of support and a possible increase in their financial contributions, to enable the Academy to carry out its activities, particularly those relating to the summer and winter courses, regional courses and programmes of the Centre for Studies and Research in International Law and International Relations;

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<sup>60</sup> [A/70/423](#), para. 45.



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25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to publicize the Programme of Assistance and periodically to invite Member States, universities, philanthropic foundations and other interested national and international institutions and organizations, as well as individuals, to make voluntary contributions towards the financing of the Programme or otherwise to assist in its implementation and possible expansion;

26. *Reiterates its request* to Member States and interested organizations, institutions and individuals to make voluntary contributions for the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law and for the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law organized by the Codification Division as an important complement to the International Law Fellowship Programme;

27. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States that have made voluntary contributions to support the Programme of Assistance;

28. *Decides* to appoint 25 Member States, 6 from African States, 5 from Asia-Pacific States, 3 from Eastern European States, 5 from Latin American and Caribbean States and 6 from Western European and other States, as members of the Advisory Committee on the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law for a period of four years, beginning on 1 January 2024;<sup>61</sup>

29. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session on the implementation of the Programme of Assistance in 2024 and, following consultations with the Advisory Committee on the Programme of Assistance, to submit recommendations regarding the Programme in subsequent years;

30. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session the item entitled “United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law”.

### RESOLUTION 78/108

Adopted at the 45th plenary meeting, on 7 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/435, para. 11)<sup>62</sup>

#### 78/108. Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its seventy-fourth session

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the report of the International Law Commission on the work of its seventy-fourth session,<sup>63</sup>

*Emphasizing* the importance of furthering the progressive development and codification of international law as a means of implementing the purposes and principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and in the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,<sup>64</sup>

*Recognizing* the desirability of referring legal and drafting questions to the Sixth Committee, including topics that might be submitted to the International Law Commission for closer examination, and of enabling the Sixth Committee and the Commission to enhance further their contribution to the progressive development and codification of international law,

*Recalling* the need to keep under review those topics of international law which, given their new or renewed interest for the international community, may be suitable for the progressive development and codification of international law and therefore may be included in the future programme of work of the International Law Commission,

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<sup>61</sup> The following States have been appointed members of the Advisory Committee on the Programme of Assistance: Canada, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, France, Ghana, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Italy, Kenya, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago and United States of America.

<sup>62</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was introduced in the Committee by the representative of Colombia on behalf of the Bureau.

<sup>63</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/78/10).*

<sup>64</sup> Resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.

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*Recalling* also the role of Member States in submitting proposals for new topics for the consideration of the International Law Commission, and noting in this regard the recommendation of the Commission that such proposals be accompanied by a statement of reasons,

*Reaffirming* the importance for the successful work of the International Law Commission of the information provided by Member States concerning their views and practice,

*Recognizing* the importance of the work of the special rapporteurs of the International Law Commission,

*Welcoming* the holding of the International Law Seminar, and the voluntary contributions made to the United Nations trust fund for the International Law Seminar,

*Acknowledging* the importance of facilitating the timely publication of the *Yearbook of the International Law Commission* and of eliminating the backlog,

*Noting* the establishment of a trust fund for assistance to Special Rapporteurs of the International Law Commission or Chairs of its Study Groups and matters ancillary thereto,

*Stressing* the usefulness of focusing and structuring the debate on the report of the International Law Commission in the Sixth Committee in such a manner that conditions are provided for concentrated attention to each of the main topics dealt with in the report and for discussions on specific topics,

*Wishing* to enhance further, in the context of the revitalization of the debate on the report of the International Law Commission, the interaction between the Sixth Committee as a body of governmental representatives and the Commission as a body of independent legal experts, with a view to improving the dialogue between the two bodies,

*Welcoming* initiatives to hold interactive debates, panel discussions and question time in the Sixth Committee, as envisaged in General Assembly resolution 58/316 of 1 July 2004 on further measures for the revitalization of the work of the Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the International Law Commission on the work of its seventy-fourth session;<sup>65</sup>
2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the International Law Commission for the work accomplished at its seventy-fourth session, and notes in particular the completion of the first reading of the draft conclusions on general principles of law and the commentaries thereto;<sup>66</sup>
3. *Recommends* that the International Law Commission continue its work on the topics in its current programme of work, taking into account the comments and observations of Governments, whether submitted in writing or expressed orally in debates in the Sixth Committee;
4. *Draws the attention* of Governments to the importance for the International Law Commission of having their views on the various aspects of the topics on the agenda of the Commission, in particular on all the specific issues identified in chapter III of its report,<sup>67</sup> regarding:
  - (a) Prevention and repression of piracy and armed robbery at sea;
  - (b) Subsidiary means for the determination of rules of international law;
  - (c) Sea-level rise in relation to international law;
5. *Also draws the attention* of Governments to the importance for the International Law Commission of having their comments and observations by 1 December 2024 on the draft conclusions on general principles of law;<sup>68</sup>
6. *Further draws the attention* of Governments to the importance that the International Law Commission attaches to receiving their comments and observations on the topic “Immunity of State officials from foreign criminal jurisdiction” ahead of its second reading;<sup>69</sup>

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<sup>65</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/78/10).*

<sup>66</sup> *Ibid.*, chap. IV, sect. C.

<sup>67</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/78/10).*

<sup>68</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 38.

<sup>69</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 29.

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7. *Takes note* of the decision of the International Law Commission to include the topic “Non-legally binding international agreements” in its programme of work,<sup>70</sup> and encourages the Commission to continue the examination of the topics that are in its long-term programme of work;<sup>71</sup>
8. *Encourages* the International Law Commission to take particular account of the capacity and views of Member States, as well as of the workload of the Commission, when including topics in its current programme of work;
9. *Takes note with appreciation* of the recommendation of the International Law Commission, contained in paragraphs 275 and 276 of its report, regarding the commemoration of its seventy-fifth anniversary, and encourages States, in association with regional organizations, professional associations, academic institutions and members of the Commission concerned, to convene national or regional meetings, which would be dedicated to the work of the Commission;
10. *Takes note* of paragraph 277 of the report of the International Law Commission, and requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to identify concrete options for support for the work of special rapporteurs, additional to those provided under General Assembly resolution [56/272](#) of 27 March 2002;
11. *Welcomes* the efforts of the International Law Commission to improve its methods of work, and encourages the Commission to continue this practice;
12. *Invites* the International Law Commission to continue to take measures to enhance its efficiency and productivity and to consider making proposals to Member States to that end;
13. *Recalls* the importance of an in-depth analysis of State practice and the consideration of the diversity of legal systems of Member States to the work of the International Law Commission;
14. *Takes note* of paragraph 283 of the report of the International Law Commission, recalls the paramount importance of multilingualism as set forth in General Assembly resolution [76/268](#) of 10 June 2022 on multilingualism, underlines the importance of having the documents of the Commission published in due time in the six official languages of the United Nations while ensuring their accuracy in all official languages, and to this end requests special rapporteurs to submit their reports within the time limits specified by the Secretariat, and the Secretariat to give due consideration to the quality of the translation of the documents of the Commission in the six official languages;
15. *Encourages* the International Law Commission to continue to take cost-saving measures at its future sessions, without prejudice to the efficiency and effectiveness of its work;
16. *Recalls* that the seat of the International Law Commission is at the United Nations Office at Geneva;
17. *Takes note* of paragraph 291 of the report of the International Law Commission, and decides that the next session of the Commission shall be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 15 April to 31 May 2024, which will coincide with the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Commission, and from 1 July to 2 August 2024;
18. *Also takes note* of paragraph 291 of the report of the International Law Commission, and endorses the request of the Commission that the Secretariat proceed with the necessary administrative and organizational arrangements to facilitate the holding of the first part of the seventy-seventh session of the Commission in New York;
19. *Stresses* the desirability of further enhancing the dialogue between the International Law Commission, in particular the special rapporteurs, and the Sixth Committee, and in this context encourages, inter alia, the continued practice of informal consultations in the form of discussions between the members of the Sixth Committee and the members of the Commission throughout the year;

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<sup>70</sup> Ibid., para. 249.

<sup>71</sup> The following topics are currently in the long-term programme of work of the International Law Commission: “Ownership and protection of wrecks beyond the limits of national maritime jurisdiction”, “Jurisdictional immunity of international organizations”, “Protection of personal data in transborder flow of information”, “Extraterritorial jurisdiction”, “The fair and equitable treatment standard in international investment law”, “Evidence before international courts and tribunals”, “Universal criminal jurisdiction” and “Reparation to individuals for gross violations of international human rights law and serious violations of international humanitarian law”.

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20. *Encourages* delegations, during the debate on the report of the International Law Commission, to continue to adhere as far as possible to the structured work programme agreed to by the Sixth Committee and to consider presenting concise and focused statements;

21. *Encourages* Member States to consider being represented at the level of legal adviser during the first week in which the report of the International Law Commission is discussed in the Sixth Committee (International Law Week) to enable high-level discussions on issues of international law;

22. *Underlines* in this regard the necessity to allow sufficient time for the consideration of the report of the International Law Commission in the Sixth Committee;

23. *Requests* the International Law Commission to continue to pay special attention to indicating in its annual report, for each topic, any specific issues on which expressions of views by Governments, either in the Sixth Committee or in written form, would be of particular interest in providing effective guidance for the Commission in its further work;

24. *Takes note* of paragraphs 293 to 298 of the report of the International Law Commission with regard to cooperation and interaction with other bodies, and encourages the Commission to continue the implementation of articles 16 (e), 25 and 26 of its statute in order to further strengthen cooperation between the Commission and other bodies concerned with international law, having in mind the usefulness of such cooperation;

25. *Notes* that consulting with national organizations and individual experts concerned with international law may assist Governments in considering whether to make comments and observations on drafts submitted by the International Law Commission and in formulating their comments and observations;

26. *Reaffirms* its previous decisions concerning the indispensable role of the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat in providing assistance to the International Law Commission, including in the preparation of memorandums and studies on topics on the agenda of the Commission;

27. *Also reaffirms* its previous decisions concerning the documentation and summary records of the International Law Commission;<sup>72</sup>

28. *Takes note* of paragraph 281 of the report of the International Law Commission, stresses the need to expedite the preparation of the summary records of the International Law Commission, welcomes the continuation of the measures taken to streamline the processing of summary records during the sixty-fifth session of the Commission,<sup>73</sup> which have led to a more rational use of resources, and expresses its satisfaction that the summary records of the Commission, constituting *travaux préparatoires* in the progressive development and codification of international law, will not be subject to arbitrary length restrictions;

29. *Welcomes* the institutionalization of the practice of the Secretariat to include on the website of the International Law Commission the provisional summary records in English and French relating to the work of the Commission;

30. *Also welcomes* the efforts of the Secretariat in seeking to ensure the timely and efficient processing of the documents of the International Law Commission and the institutionalization of the experimental measures taken during the sixty-eighth session of the Commission to streamline the editing of those documents;

31. *Takes note* of paragraph 280 of the report of the International Law Commission, and underlines the importance of the publications of the Codification Division to the work of the Commission, welcomes in particular the issuance of the tenth edition of *The Work of the International Law Commission* in Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish and of volume 26 of the *United Nations Legislative Series* entitled *Materials on the Provisional Application of Treaties*,<sup>74</sup> and reiterates its request that the Secretary-General continue to publish *The Work of the International Law Commission* in all six official languages at the beginning of each quinquennium, the *Reports of*

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<sup>72</sup> See resolutions 32/151, para. 10, and 37/111, para. 5, and all subsequent resolutions on the annual reports of the International Law Commission to the General Assembly; see also *Yearbook of the International Law Commission* 1982, vol. II (Part Two), paras. 267–269 and 271, as well as all subsequent annual reports of the International Law Commission.

<sup>73</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/68/10)*, para. 183.

<sup>74</sup> See resolution 76/113, para. 5, and *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/76/10)*, para. 49.

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*International Arbitral Awards* in English or French and the *Summaries of the Judgments, Advisory Opinions and Orders of the International Court of Justice* in all six official languages every five years;

32. *Also takes note* of paragraph 284 of the report of the International Law Commission, expresses its appreciation to the United Nations Library at Geneva for the dedicated assistance accorded to the Commission, and notes the Commission's emphasis on the need for adequate funding to ensure the continuation of the Library's ability to function as a research library to assist the Commission in the performance of its mandate in the codification and progressive development of international law;

33. *Further takes note* of paragraph 285 of the report of the International Law Commission, stresses the unique value of the *Yearbook of the International Law Commission*, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure its timely publication in all official languages;

34. *Expresses its appreciation* to Governments that have made voluntary contributions to the trust fund on the backlog relating to the *Yearbook of the International Law Commission*, and encourages further contributions to the trust fund;

35. *Takes note* of paragraph 286 of the report of the International Law Commission, expresses its satisfaction with the remarkable progress achieved in the past few years in reducing the backlog of the *Yearbook of the International Law Commission* in all six languages, welcomes the efforts made by the Division of Conference Management of the United Nations Office at Geneva, especially its Editing Section, in effectively implementing relevant resolutions of the General Assembly calling for the reduction of the backlog, encourages that Division to provide continuous necessary support to the Editing Section in advancing the *Yearbook of the International Law Commission*, and requests that updates on progress made in this respect be provided to the Commission on a regular basis;

36. *Welcomes* the continuous efforts of the Codification Division to maintain and improve the website relating to the work of the International Law Commission;

37. *Takes note* of paragraph 287 of the report of the International Law Commission and expresses its appreciation for contributions made to date to the trust fund to receive voluntary contributions for assistance to Special Rapporteurs of the International Law Commission or Chairs of its Study Groups and matters ancillary thereto, and invites further contributions to the trust fund, in accordance with the terms of the trust fund, including the need for the financial contributions not to be earmarked for any specific activity of the International Law Commission, its Special Rapporteurs or Chairs of its Study Groups;

38. *Expresses the hope* that the International Law Seminar will continue to be held in connection with the sessions of the International Law Commission and that an increasing number of participants representing the principal legal systems of the world and from different countries in the various regions, including in particular those from developing countries, will be given the opportunity to attend the Seminar, as well as delegates to the Sixth Committee, and appeals to States to continue to make urgently needed voluntary contributions to the United Nations trust fund for the International Law Seminar;

39. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the International Law Seminar with adequate services, including interpretation, as required, and encourages him to continue to consider ways to improve the structure and content of the Seminar;

40. *Underlines* the importance of the records and topical summary of the debate in the Sixth Committee for the deliberations of the International Law Commission, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to forward to the Commission, for its attention, the records of the debate on the report of the Commission, together with such written statements as delegations may circulate in conjunction with their oral statements, and to prepare and distribute a topical summary of the debate, following established practice;

41. *Requests* the Secretariat to circulate to States, as soon as possible after the conclusion of the session of the International Law Commission, chapter II of its report containing a summary of the work of that session, chapter III containing the specific issues on which the views of Governments would be of particular interest to the Commission and any draft provisions adopted on either first or second reading by the Commission;

42. *Also requests* the Secretariat to make the complete report of the International Law Commission available as soon as possible after the conclusion of the session of the Commission for the consideration of Member States with due anticipation and no later than the prescribed time limit for reports in the General Assembly;

43. *Encourages* the International Law Commission to continue to consider ways in which specific issues on which the views of Governments would be of particular interest to the Commission could be framed so as to help Governments to have a better appreciation of the issues on which responses are required;

44. *Recommends* that the debate on the report of the International Law Commission at the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly commence on 21 October 2024.

### RESOLUTION 78/109

Adopted at the 45th plenary meeting, on 7 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/435, para. 11)<sup>75</sup>

#### 78/109. Peremptory norms of general international law (*jus cogens*)

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* chapter IV of the report of the International Law Commission on the work of its seventy-third session,<sup>76</sup> which contains the draft conclusions on identification and legal consequences of peremptory norms of general international law (*jus cogens*), with their annex,

*Taking note* of the recommendation of the International Law Commission contained in paragraph 41 of its report,<sup>77</sup>

*Emphasizing* the continuing importance of the codification and progressive development of international law, as referred to in Article 13, paragraph 1 (a), of the Charter of the United Nations,

*Noting* that the subject of identification and legal consequences of peremptory norms of general international law (*jus cogens*) is of major importance in international relations,

1. *Welcomes* the conclusion of the work of the International Law Commission on peremptory norms of general international law (*jus cogens*), and takes note of the adoption by the Commission of the draft conclusions on identification and legal consequences of peremptory norms of general international law (*jus cogens*) and the annex and commentaries thereto;<sup>78</sup>

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the International Law Commission for its continuing contribution to the codification and progressive development of international law;

3. *Takes note* of the draft conclusions on identification and legal consequences of peremptory norms of general international law (*jus cogens*) and the annex and commentaries thereto;

4. *Also takes note* of the range of comments and observations on the draft conclusions on identification and legal consequences of peremptory norms of general international law (*jus cogens*) and the annex and commentaries thereto, whether submitted in writing by Governments or expressed in debates of the Sixth Committee,<sup>79</sup> including those made at the seventy-seventh session of the General Assembly.

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<sup>75</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was introduced in the Committee by the representative of Slovakia on behalf of the Bureau.

<sup>76</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-seventh Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/77/10).*

<sup>77</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 41.

<sup>78</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 44.

<sup>79</sup> The written comments of the Governments are available on the website of the International Law Commission, at [https://legal.un.org/ilc/guide/1\\_14.shtml](https://legal.un.org/ilc/guide/1_14.shtml). The statements made in the Sixth Committee are available in full (in the original languages) on the website of the Sixth Committee, at [www.un.org/en/ga/sixth/](http://www.un.org/en/ga/sixth/).

## RESOLUTION 78/110

Adopted at the 45th plenary meeting, on 7 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/437, para. 7)<sup>80</sup>

### 78/110. Expulsion of aliens

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* chapter IV of the report of the International Law Commission on the work of its sixty-sixth session, which contains the draft articles on the expulsion of aliens,<sup>81</sup>

*Noting* that the International Law Commission decided to recommend to the General Assembly (a) to take note of the draft articles on the expulsion of aliens in a resolution, to annex the articles to the resolution, and to encourage their widest possible dissemination; and (b) to consider, at a later stage, the elaboration of a convention on the basis of the draft articles,<sup>82</sup>

*Emphasizing* the continuing importance of the codification and progressive development of international law, as referred to in Article 13, paragraph 1 (a), of the Charter of the United Nations,

*Noting* that the subject of the expulsion of aliens is of major importance in the relations of States,

*Taking note* of the comments of Governments and the discussion in the Sixth Committee at the sixty-ninth, seventy-second and seventy-fifth sessions of the General Assembly on the subject,<sup>83</sup>

*Recalling* its resolutions 69/119 of 10 December 2014, 72/117 of 7 December 2017 and 75/137 of 15 December 2020,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the International Law Commission for its continuing contribution to the codification and progressive development of international law;

2. *Acknowledges* the comments expressed by Governments in the Sixth Committee at the seventy-eighth session of the General Assembly on the subject;<sup>84</sup>

3. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its eighty-first session the item entitled “Expulsion of aliens”, with a view to examining, inter alia, the question of the form that might be given to the articles or any other appropriate action, and invites Member States to further engage on the subject and to address in their interventions not only this question, but also their views on the content of the articles.

## RESOLUTION 78/111

Adopted at the 45th plenary meeting, on 7 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/438, para. 10)<sup>85</sup>

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<sup>80</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was introduced in the Committee by the representative of Haiti on behalf of the Bureau.

<sup>81</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/69/10)*, para. 44.

<sup>82</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 42.

<sup>83</sup> See A/C.6/69/SR.19, A/C.6/69/SR.20, A/C.6/69/SR.21, A/C.6/69/SR.22, A/C.6/69/SR.24, A/C.6/69/SR.27, A/C.6/72/SR.14, A/C.6/72/SR.15 and A/C.6/75/SR.16.

<sup>84</sup> See A/C.6/78/SR.34.

<sup>85</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was introduced in the Committee by the representative of Egypt on behalf of the Bureau.



**78/111. Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution [3499 \(XXX\)](#) of 15 December 1975, by which it established the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization, and its relevant resolutions adopted at subsequent sessions,

*Recalling also* its resolution [47/233](#) of 17 August 1993 on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly,

*Recalling further* its resolution [47/62](#) of 11 December 1992 on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council,

*Taking note* of the report of the Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters related to the Security Council,<sup>86</sup>

*Recalling* the elements relevant to the work of the Special Committee contained in its resolution [47/120 B](#) of 20 September 1993,

*Recalling also* its resolution [51/241](#) of 31 July 1997 on the strengthening of the United Nations system and its resolution [51/242](#) of 15 September 1997, entitled “Supplement to an Agenda for Peace”, by which it adopted the texts on coordination and the question of sanctions imposed by the United Nations, which are annexed to that resolution,

*Concerned* about the special economic problems confronting certain States arising from the carrying-out of preventive or enforcement measures taken by the Security Council against other States, and taking into account the obligation of Members of the United Nations under Article 49 of the Charter to join in affording mutual assistance in carrying out the measures decided upon by the Council,

*Recalling* the right of third States confronted with special economic problems of that nature to consult the Security Council with regard to a solution of those problems, in accordance with Article 50 of the Charter,

*Recalling also* that the International Court of Justice is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, and reaffirming its authority and independence,

*Mindful* of the adoption of the revised working papers on the working methods of the Special Committee,<sup>87</sup>

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled “*Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs and Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*”,<sup>88</sup>

*Recalling* paragraphs 106 to 110, 176 and 177 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome,<sup>89</sup>

*Mindful* of the decision of the Special Committee in which it expressed its readiness to engage, as appropriate, in the implementation of any decisions that might be taken at the high-level plenary meeting of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly in September 2005 that concerned the Charter and any amendments thereto,<sup>90</sup>

*Recalling* the provisions of its resolutions [50/51](#) of 11 December 1995, [51/208](#) of 17 December 1996, [52/162](#) of 15 December 1997, [53/107](#) of 8 December 1998, [54/107](#) of 9 December 1999, [55/157](#) of 12 December 2000, [56/87](#) of 12 December 2001, [57/25](#) of 19 November 2002, [58/80](#) of 9 December 2003 and [59/45](#) of 2 December 2004,

*Recalling also* its resolution [64/115](#) of 16 December 2009 and the document entitled “Introduction and implementation of sanctions imposed by the United Nations” annexed thereto,

*Having considered* the report of the Special Committee on the work of its session held in 2023,<sup>91</sup>

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<sup>86</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 47 (A/63/47).*

<sup>87</sup> *Ibid.*, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 33 (A/61/33), para. 72.

<sup>88</sup> [A/78/296](#).

<sup>89</sup> Resolution [60/1](#).

<sup>90</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixtieth Session, Supplement No. 33 (A/60/33)*, para. 77.

<sup>91</sup> *Ibid.*, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 33 (A/78/33).

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*Noting with appreciation* the work done by the Special Committee to encourage States to focus on the need to prevent and to settle peacefully their disputes which are likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization;

2. *Decides* that the Special Committee shall hold its next session from 20 to 28 February 2024;

3. *Requests* the Special Committee, at its session in 2024, in accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution [50/52](#) of 11 December 1995:

(a) To continue its consideration of all proposals concerning the question of the maintenance of international peace and security in all its aspects in order to strengthen the role of the United Nations and, in this context, to consider other proposals relating to the maintenance of international peace and security already submitted or which may be submitted to the Special Committee at its session in 2024, including strengthening the relationship and cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations or arrangements in the peaceful settlement of disputes;

(b) To consider, in accordance with paragraph 2 of the annex to resolution [71/146](#) of 13 December 2016, in an appropriate, substantive manner and framework, the question of the implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations relating to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions (Article 50 of the Charter) based on all of the related reports of the Secretary-General<sup>92</sup> and the proposals submitted on the question, and requests the Secretary-General to submit his next report on this issue to the General Assembly at its eightieth session;

(c) To keep on its agenda the question of the peaceful settlement of disputes between States;

(d) To consider, as appropriate, any proposal referred to it by the General Assembly in the implementation of the decisions of the high-level plenary meeting of the sixtieth session of the Assembly in September 2005 that concern the Charter and any amendments thereto;

(e) To continue to consider, on a priority basis, ways and means of improving its working methods and enhancing its efficiency and utilization of resources with a view to identifying widely acceptable measures for future implementation;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in accordance with paragraph 3 of the annex to resolution [71/146](#) of 13 December 2016, to brief the Special Committee at its next session on the document entitled “Introduction and implementation of sanctions imposed by the United Nations” contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution [64/115](#);

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to brief the Special Committee at its next session on the information referred to in paragraph 15 of his report on the implementation of the provisions of the Charter related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions;<sup>93</sup>

6. *Recalls* its decision, in its resolution [72/118](#) of 7 December 2017, to undertake an annual thematic debate in the Special Committee, under the agenda item on the peaceful settlement of disputes, to discuss the means for the settlement of disputes, in accordance with Chapter VI of the Charter, including in particular those contained in Article 33 thereof, and consistent with the Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes,<sup>94</sup> and in that regard:

(a) Bearing in mind paragraph 5 (b) of its resolution [77/109](#) of 7 December 2022, invites Member States to focus their comments during the thematic debate, to be held at the next session of the Special Committee, at the seventy-eighth session of the General Assembly, on the subtopic “Exchange of information on State practices

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<sup>92</sup> [A/48/573-S/26705](#), [A/49/356](#), [A/50/60-S/1995/1](#), [A/50/361](#), [A/50/423](#), [A/51/317](#), [A/52/308](#), [A/53/312](#), [A/54/383](#), [A/54/383/Add.1](#), [A/55/295](#), [A/55/295/Add.1](#), [A/56/303](#), [A/57/165](#), [A/57/165/Add.1](#), [A/58/346](#), [A/59/334](#), [A/60/320](#), [A/61/304](#), [A/62/206](#), [A/62/206/Corr.1](#), [A/63/224](#), [A/64/225](#), [A/65/217](#), [A/66/213](#), [A/67/190](#), [A/68/226](#), [A/69/119](#), [A/70/119](#), [A/71/166](#), [A/72/136](#), [A/74/152](#), [A/76/186](#) and [A/78/114](#).

<sup>93</sup> [A/78/114](#).

<sup>94</sup> Resolution [37/10](#), annex.

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regarding the use of good offices”, while ensuring that the other means of dispute settlement will be discussed at the subsequent sessions of the Special Committee;

(b) Further invites Member States to comment on the subtopics of the annual debate in their general statements with a view to having the texts of those statements posted on the website of the Special Committee;<sup>95</sup>

(c) Calls upon the Special Committee to include a summary of the subtopics of the annual debate in its annual report for further consideration;

7. *Also recalls* its endorsement of the decisions and recommendations adopted by the Special Committee at its 2016 session, in particular as set forth in paragraphs 2 and 3 of the annex to resolution 71/146;

8. *Invites* the Special Committee, at its session in 2024, to continue to identify new subjects for consideration in its future work with a view to contributing to the revitalization of the work of the United Nations;

9. *Notes* the readiness of the Special Committee to provide, within its mandate, such assistance as may be sought at the request of other subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly in relation to any issues before them;

10. *Requests* the Special Committee to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session;

11. *Recognizes* the important role of the International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, in adjudicating disputes among States and the value of its work, as well as the importance of having recourse to the Court in the peaceful settlement of disputes, notes that, consistent with Article 96 of the Charter, the Court’s advisory jurisdiction may be requested by the General Assembly, the Security Council or other authorized organs of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, and requests the Secretary-General to distribute, in due course, the advisory opinions requested by the principal organs of the United Nations as official documents of the United Nations;

12. *Commends* the Secretary-General for the progress made in the preparation of studies for the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs*, including the use of the internship programme of the United Nations and cooperation with academic institutions for this purpose, as well as the progress made towards updating the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*;

13. *Further encourages* Member States to identify academic institutions that have the capacity to contribute to the preparation of studies for the *Repertory* and to provide the contact details of such institutions, and in this regard further welcomes the initiative of the Secretariat also to invite members of the International Law Commission to recommend academic institutions that the Secretariat could contact for this purpose;

14. *Notes with appreciation* the contributions made by Member States to the trust fund for the elimination of the backlog in the *Repertory* and to the trust fund for the updating of the *Repertoire*, as well as other contributions, including the sponsoring of associate experts to assist in the updating of the *Repertoire*;

15. *Reiterates its call for* voluntary contributions to the trust fund for the elimination of the backlog in the *Repertory* so as to further support the Secretariat in carrying out the effective elimination of that backlog; voluntary contributions to the trust fund for the updating of the *Repertoire* so as to sustain the annual publication schedule; and the sponsoring, on a voluntary basis and with no cost to the United Nations, of associate experts to assist in the updating of the two publications;

16. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts towards updating the two publications and making them available electronically in all their respective language versions, and encourages the continued updating of the websites for the *Repertory*<sup>96</sup> and for the *Repertoire*;<sup>97</sup>

17. *Notes with concern* that the backlog in the preparation of all volumes of the *Repertory*, in particular volume III, although slightly reduced, has not been eliminated, and calls upon the Secretary-General to address that issue

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<sup>95</sup> <http://legal.un.org/committees/charter>.

<sup>96</sup> <http://legal.un.org/repertory>.

<sup>97</sup> [www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/repertoire/structure](http://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/repertoire/structure).

effectively and on a priority basis, while commending the Secretary-General for progress made in reducing the backlog;

18. *Reiterates* the responsibility of the Secretary-General for the quality of the *Repertory* and the *Repertoire*, and with regard to the *Repertoire* calls upon the Secretary-General to continue to follow the modalities outlined in paragraphs 102 to 106 of his report dated 18 September 1952;<sup>98</sup>

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session a report on both the *Repertory* and the *Repertoire*;

20. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session the item entitled “Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization”.

## RESOLUTION 78/112

Adopted at the 45th plenary meeting, on 7 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/439, para. 8)<sup>99</sup>

### 78/112. The rule of law at the national and international levels

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 77/110 of 7 December 2022,

*Reaffirming its commitment* to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which are indispensable foundations of a more peaceful, prosperous and just world, and reiterating its determination to foster strict respect for them and to establish a just and lasting peace all over the world,

*Reaffirming* that human rights, the rule of law and democracy are interlinked and mutually reinforcing and that they belong to the universal and indivisible core values and principles of the United Nations,

*Reaffirming also* the need for universal adherence to and implementation of the rule of law at both the national and international levels and its solemn commitment to an international order based on the rule of law and international law, which, together with the principles of justice, is essential for peaceful coexistence and cooperation among States,

*Bearing in mind* that the activities of the United Nations carried out in support of efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate the rule of law are undertaken in accordance with the Charter, and stressing the need to strengthen support to Member States, upon their request, in the domestic implementation of their respective international obligations through enhanced technical assistance and capacity-building,

*Convinced* that the advancement of the rule of law at the national and international levels is essential for the realization of sustained economic growth, sustainable development, the eradication of poverty and hunger and the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and acknowledging that collective security depends on effective cooperation, in accordance with the Charter and international law, against transnational threats,

*Reaffirming* the duty of all States to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations and to settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security and justice are not endangered, in accordance with Chapter VI of the Charter, and calling upon States that have not yet done so to consider accepting the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice in accordance with its Statute,

*Recalling* that the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations<sup>100</sup> was adopted in 1970,

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<sup>98</sup> A/2170.

<sup>99</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was introduced in the Committee by the representative of Mexico on behalf of the Bureau.

<sup>100</sup> Resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.

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*Convinced* that the promotion of and respect for the rule of law at the national and international levels, as well as justice and good governance, should guide the activities of the United Nations and its Member States,

*Recalling* paragraph 134 (e) of the 2005 World Summit Outcome,<sup>101</sup>

*Noting* the tenth anniversary of the declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the rule of law at the national and international levels, as adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution [67/1](#) of 24 September 2012, without a vote,

*Taking note* of the high-level debate of the General Assembly held on 15 June 2023 on the theme “Equal access to justice for all: advancing reforms for peaceful, just and inclusive societies” pursuant to its resolution [77/237](#) of 15 December 2022,

*Recalling* its resolution [75/274](#) of 28 April 2021 on the International Day of Women Judges, in which it reaffirmed that the active participation of women, on equal terms with men, at all levels of decision-making is essential to the achievement of equality, sustainable development, peace and democracy,

1. *Recalls* the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the rule of law at the national and international levels, held during the high-level segment of its sixty-seventh session, and the declaration adopted at that meeting,<sup>102</sup> takes note of the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to paragraph 41 of the declaration,<sup>103</sup> and requests the Sixth Committee to continue its consideration of ways and means of further developing the linkages between the rule of law and the three pillars of the United Nations;

2. *Acknowledges* the efforts to strengthen the rule of law through voluntary pledges, encourages all States to consider making pledges, individually or jointly, based on their national priorities, and also encourages those States that have made pledges to continue to exchange information, knowledge and best practices in this regard;

3. *Takes note* of the annual report of the Secretary-General on strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities;<sup>104</sup>

4. *Encourages* the Secretary-General and the United Nations system to accord high priority to rule of law activities;

5. *Reaffirms* the role of the General Assembly in encouraging the progressive development of international law and its codification, and further reaffirms that States shall abide by all of their obligations under international law;

6. *Also reaffirms* the imperative of upholding and promoting the rule of law at the international level in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and in this regard recalls the importance of the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;

7. *Recalls* its resolution [77/322](#) of 1 August 2023, including its invitation to Member States to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the Permanent Court of Arbitration through appropriate activities funded through voluntary contributions;

8. *Reaffirms its commitment* to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>105</sup> and recalls that the goals and targets are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development;

9. *Recognizes* the role of multilateral and bilateral treaties and treaty processes in advancing the rule of law, and encourages States to further consider the promotion of treaties in areas where international cooperation could benefit from treaties;

10. *Welcomes* the dialogue initiated by the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group and the Rule of Law Unit in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General with Member States on the topic “Promoting the rule of

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<sup>101</sup> Resolution [60/1](#).

<sup>102</sup> Resolution [67/1](#).

<sup>103</sup> [A/68/213/Add.1](#).

<sup>104</sup> [A/78/184](#).

<sup>105</sup> Resolution [70/1](#).

law at the international level”, and calls for the continuation of this dialogue with a view to fostering the rule of law at the international level;

11. *Recognizes* the importance of the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law to the furtherance of United Nations rule of law programmes and activities, emphasizes that further technical assistance and capacity-building initiatives, focused on increasing and improving the participation of Member States in the multilateral treaty process, should be examined, and invites States to support these activities;

12. *Stresses* the importance of adherence to the rule of law at the national level and the need to strengthen support to Member States, upon their request, in the domestic implementation of their respective international obligations through enhanced technical assistance and capacity-building in order to develop, reinforce and maintain domestic institutions active in the promotion of rule of law at the national and international levels, subject to national ownership, strategies and priorities;

13. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to ensure greater coordination and coherence among the United Nations entities and with donors and recipients, and reiterates its call for greater evaluation of the effectiveness of such activities, including possible measures to improve the effectiveness of those capacity-building activities;

14. *Calls*, in this context, for dialogue to be enhanced among all stakeholders, with a view to placing national perspectives at the centre of rule of law assistance in order to strengthen national ownership, while recognizing that rule of law activities must be anchored in a national context and that States have different national experiences in the development of their systems of the rule of law, taking into account their legal, political, socioeconomic, cultural, religious and other local specificities, while also recognizing that there are common features founded on international norms and standards;

15. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General and the United Nations system to systematically address, as appropriate, aspects of the rule of law in relevant activities, including the participation of women in rule of law-related activities, recognizing the importance of the rule of law to virtually all areas of United Nations engagement;

16. *Expresses full support* for the overall coordination and coherence role of the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group within the United Nations system, within existing mandates, supported by the Rule of Law Unit and under the leadership of the Deputy Secretary-General;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit, in a timely manner, his next annual report on United Nations rule of law activities, in accordance with paragraph 5 of its resolution [63/128](#) of 11 December 2008, addressing, in a balanced manner, the national and international dimensions of the rule of law;

18. *Recognizes* the importance of restoring confidence in the rule of law as a key element of transitional justice;

19. *Recalls* the commitment of Member States to take all necessary steps to provide fair, transparent, effective, non-discriminatory and accountable services that promote access to justice for all, including legal aid, encourages further dialogue and the sharing of national practices and expertise in strengthening the rule of law through access to justice, including with regard to the provision of birth registration for all, appropriate registration and documentation of refugees, migrants, asylum seekers and stateless persons, and legal aid, where appropriate, in both criminal and civil proceedings, and in this regard recognizes the role of knowledge and technology, including in judicial systems, and stresses the need to intensify the assistance extended to Governments upon their request;

20. *Stresses* the importance of promoting the sharing of national practices and of inclusive dialogue, welcomes the proposals made by the Secretary-General, inviting Member States to voluntarily exchange national best practices on the rule of law in informal meetings and on an electronic depository of best practices on the United Nations rule of law website, and invites Member States to do so;

21. *Invites* the International Court of Justice, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law and the International Law Commission to continue to comment, in their respective reports to the General Assembly, on their current roles in promoting the rule of law;

22. *Invites* the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group and the Rule of Law Unit to continue their dialogue with all Member States by interacting with them in a regular, transparent and inclusive manner, in particular in informal briefings;



23. *Stresses* the need for the Rule of Law Unit to carry out its tasks in an effective and sustainable manner and the need to provide it with reasonable means required to that effect;

24. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session the item entitled “The rule of law at the national and international levels”; and invites Member States to focus their comments during the upcoming Sixth Committee debate on the subtopic “The full, equal and equitable participation at all levels in the international legal system”.

### RESOLUTION 78/113

Adopted at the 45th plenary meeting, on 7 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/440, para. 8)<sup>106</sup>

#### 78/113. The scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming its commitment* to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, to international law and to an international order based on the rule of law, which is essential for peaceful coexistence and cooperation among States,

*Recalling* its resolutions 64/117 of 16 December 2009, 65/33 of 6 December 2010, 66/103 of 9 December 2011, 67/98 of 14 December 2012, 68/117 of 16 December 2013, 69/124 of 10 December 2014, 70/119 of 14 December 2015, 71/149 of 13 December 2016, 72/120 of 7 December 2017, 73/208 of 20 December 2018, 74/192 of 18 December 2019, 75/142 of 15 December 2020, 76/118 of 9 December 2021 and 77/111 of 7 December 2022,

*Taking into account* the comments and observations of Governments and observers and the discussions held in the Sixth Committee at the sixty-fourth to seventy-eighth sessions of the General Assembly on the scope and application of universal jurisdiction,<sup>107</sup>

*Noting* the constructive dialogue in the Sixth Committee, including in the context of its working group, recognizing the diversity of views expressed by States, including concerns expressed in relation to the abuse or misuse of the principle of universal jurisdiction, and acknowledging, in order to make progress, the need for continuing discussions on the scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction in the Sixth Committee,

*Noting also* the decision of the International Law Commission at its seventieth session to recommend the inclusion of the topic “Universal criminal jurisdiction” in its long-term programme of work,

*Reiterating its commitment* to fighting impunity, and noting the views expressed by States that the legitimacy and credibility of the use of universal jurisdiction are best ensured by its responsible and judicious application consistent with international law,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General prepared on the basis of comments and observations of Governments and relevant observers;<sup>108</sup>

2. *Decides* that the Sixth Committee shall continue its consideration of the scope and application of universal jurisdiction, without prejudice to the consideration of this topic and related issues in other forums of the United

<sup>106</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was introduced in the Committee by the representative of Mauritius on behalf of the Bureau.

<sup>107</sup> See A/C.6/64/SR.12, A/C.6/64/SR.13, A/C.6/64/SR.25, A/C.6/64/SR.1–28/Corrigendum, A/C.6/65/SR.10, A/C.6/65/SR.11, A/C.6/65/SR.12, A/C.6/65/SR.27, A/C.6/65/SR.28, A/C.6/66/SR.12, A/C.6/66/SR.13, A/C.6/66/SR.17, A/C.6/66/SR.29, A/C.6/67/SR.12, A/C.6/67/SR.13, A/C.6/67/SR.24, A/C.6/67/SR.25, A/C.6/68/SR.12, A/C.6/68/SR.13, A/C.6/68/SR.14, A/C.6/68/SR.23, A/C.6/69/SR.11, A/C.6/69/SR.12, A/C.6/69/SR.28, A/C.6/70/SR.12, A/C.6/70/SR.13, A/C.6/70/SR.27, A/C.6/71/SR.13, A/C.6/71/SR.14, A/C.6/71/SR.15, A/C.6/71/SR.31, A/C.6/72/SR.13, A/C.6/72/SR.14, A/C.6/72/SR.28, A/C.6/73/SR.10, A/C.6/73/SR.11, A/C.6/73/SR.12, A/C.6/73/SR.33, A/C.6/74/SR.14, A/C.6/74/SR.15, A/C.6/74/SR.16, A/C.6/74/SR.17, A/C.6/75/SR.11, A/C.6/75/SR.12, A/C.6/76/SR.14, A/C.6/76/SR.15, A/C.6/77/SR.12, A/C.6/77/SR.13, A/C.6/77/SR.35, A/C.6/77/SR.36, A/C.6/78/SR.12 and A/C.6/78/SR.13.

<sup>108</sup> A/78/130; see also A/65/181, A/66/93, A/66/93/Add.1, A/67/116, A/68/113, A/69/174, A/70/125, A/71/111, A/72/112, A/73/123, A/73/123/Add.1, A/74/144, A/75/151, A/76/203 and A/77/186.



Nations, and for this purpose reiterates its decision to establish, at its seventy-ninth session, a working group of the Sixth Committee to continue to undertake a thorough discussion of the scope and application of universal jurisdiction;

3. *Invites* the working group of the Sixth Committee, to be established at its seventy-ninth session, to consider and comment on the question “on the relevant elements of a working concept of universal jurisdiction”;

4. *Invites* Member States and relevant observers to the General Assembly, as appropriate, to submit, before 26 April 2024, information and observations on the scope and application of universal jurisdiction, including, where appropriate, information on the relevant applicable international treaties and on their national legal rules and judicial practice, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Assembly at its seventy-ninth session reviewing all the submissions of Member States and relevant observers, as well as views expressed in the debates of the Sixth Committee, since the sixty-second session of the Assembly and identifying possible convergences and divergences on the definition, scope and application of universal jurisdiction for the consideration of the Committee;

5. *Decides* that the working group shall be open to all Member States and that relevant observers to the General Assembly will be invited to participate in the work of the working group;

6. *Also decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session the item entitled “The scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction”.

#### RESOLUTION 78/114

Adopted at the 45th plenary meeting, on 7 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/446, para. 8)<sup>109</sup>

##### 78/114. Responsibility of international organizations

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 66/100 of 9 December 2011, the annex to which contains the text of the articles on the responsibility of international organizations, and its resolutions 69/126 of 10 December 2014, 72/122 of 7 December 2017 and 75/143 of 15 December 2020 commending the articles to the attention of Governments and international organizations,

*Recalling also* that the International Law Commission decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the draft articles on the responsibility of international organizations in a resolution and annex them to that resolution, and that it consider, at a later stage, the elaboration of a convention on the basis of the draft articles,<sup>110</sup>

*Emphasizing* the continuing importance of the codification and progressive development of international law, as referred to in Article 13, paragraph 1 (a), of the Charter of the United Nations,

*Noting* that the subject of responsibility of international organizations is of major importance in the relations of States and international organizations,

*Taking note* of the comments of Governments and international organizations<sup>111</sup> and the discussions in the Sixth Committee at the sixty-sixth, sixty-ninth, seventy-second, seventy-fifth and seventy-eighth sessions of the General Assembly on this topic,

*Noting* the compilation of decisions of international courts, tribunals and other bodies referring to the articles, prepared by the Secretary-General,<sup>112</sup>

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<sup>109</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was introduced in the Committee by the representative of Brazil on behalf of the Bureau.

<sup>110</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/66/10)*, para. 85.

<sup>111</sup> A/72/80, A/75/282 and A/78/135.

<sup>112</sup> A/72/81, A/75/80 and A/78/83.

1. *Takes note once again* of the articles on the responsibility of international organizations,<sup>113</sup> and commends them to the attention of Governments and international organizations without prejudice to the question of their future adoption or other appropriate action;
2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to update the compilation of decisions of international courts, tribunals and other bodies referring to the articles and to invite Governments and international organizations to submit information on their practice in this regard, as well as written comments on any future action regarding the articles, and also requests the Secretary-General to submit this material well in advance of its eighty-first session;
3. *Invites* States to engage in substantive dialogue on this topic on an informal basis during the intersessional periods;
4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its eighty-first session the item entitled “Responsibility of international organizations”, with a view to further examining the recommendation of the International Law Commission contained in paragraph 85 (b) of its report on the work of its sixty-third session, namely “to consider, at a later stage, the elaboration of a convention on the basis of the draft articles”, or any other appropriate action, and invites the Sixth Committee to consider at a later stage the framework, if any, in which it could continue its examination of this topic.

#### RESOLUTION 78/115

Adopted at the 45th plenary meeting, on 7 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/443, para. 9)<sup>114</sup>

##### 78/115. Measures to eliminate international terrorism

*The General Assembly,*

*Guided by* the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

*Reaffirming*, in all its aspects, the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted on 8 September 2006,<sup>115</sup> which enhances the overall framework for the efforts of the international community to effectively counter the scourge of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and recalling the subsequent reviews of the Strategy,<sup>116</sup> the relevant review resolutions<sup>117</sup> and the debates that were held on those occasions,<sup>118</sup>

*Recalling* its resolution 66/10 of 18 November 2011,

*Recalling also* its resolution 73/305 of 28 June 2019 on the enhancement of international cooperation to assist victims of terrorism, and taking note with appreciation of the first United Nations Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism, held in New York on 8 and 9 September 2022,

*Recalling further* its resolution 71/291 of 15 June 2017, by which it decided to establish the Office of Counter-Terrorism,

*Recalling* the Declaration on the Occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations<sup>119</sup> and the declaration on the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations,<sup>120</sup>

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<sup>113</sup> Resolution 66/100, annex.

<sup>114</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was introduced in the Committee by the representative of Canada on behalf of the Bureau.

<sup>115</sup> Resolution 60/288.

<sup>116</sup> The first to eighth reviews of the Strategy, held on 4 and 5 September 2008, 8 September 2010, 28 and 29 June 2012, 12 and 13 June 2014, 30 June and 1 July 2016, 26 and 27 June 2018, 30 June and 6 and 7 July 2021 and 22 and 23 June 2023, respectively.

<sup>117</sup> Resolutions 62/272, 64/297, 66/282, 68/276, 70/291, 72/284, 75/291 and 77/298.

<sup>118</sup> See A/62/PV.117, A/62/PV.118, A/62/PV.119, A/62/PV.120, A/64/PV.116, A/64/PV.117, A/66/PV.118, A/66/PV.119, A/66/PV.120, A/68/PV.94, A/68/PV.95, A/68/PV.96, A/68/PV.97, A/70/PV.108, A/70/PV.109, A/70/PV.110, A/72/PV.101, A/72/PV.102, A/72/PV.103, A/75/PV.88, A/75/PV.89, A/75/PV.90, A/77/PV.80, A/77/PV.81 and A/77/PV.82.

<sup>119</sup> Resolution 50/6.

<sup>120</sup> Resolution 75/1.

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*Recalling also* the United Nations Millennium Declaration,<sup>121</sup>

*Recalling further* the 2005 World Summit Outcome,<sup>122</sup> and reaffirming, in particular, the section on terrorism,

*Recalling* the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 49/60 of 9 December 1994, and the Declaration to Supplement the 1994 Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, contained in the annex to Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996,

*Recalling also* all General Assembly resolutions on measures to eliminate international terrorism and Security Council resolutions on threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts,

*Convinced* of the importance of the consideration of measures to eliminate international terrorism by the General Assembly as the universal organ having competence to do so,

*Deeply disturbed* by the persistence of terrorist acts, which have been carried out worldwide,

*Reaffirming its strong condemnation* of the heinous acts of terrorism that have caused enormous loss of human life, destruction and damage, including those which prompted the adoption of General Assembly resolution 56/1 of 12 September 2001, as well as Security Council resolutions 1368 (2001) of 12 September 2001, 1373 (2001) of 28 September 2001 and 1377 (2001) of 12 November 2001, and those that have occurred since,

*Reaffirming also its strong condemnation* of the atrocious and deliberate attacks that have occurred against United Nations offices in various parts of the world,

*Affirming* that States must ensure that any measure taken to combat terrorism complies with all their obligations under international law and must adopt such measures in accordance with international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law,

*Stressing* the need to strengthen further international cooperation among States and among international organizations and agencies, regional and subregional organizations and arrangements and the United Nations in order to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomsoever committed, in accordance with the principles of the Charter, international law and the relevant international conventions,

*Noting* the role of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism in monitoring the implementation of that resolution, including the taking of the necessary financial, legal and technical measures by States and the ratification or acceptance of the relevant international conventions and protocols,

*Mindful* of the need to enhance the role of the United Nations and the relevant specialized agencies in combating international terrorism and of the proposals of the Secretary-General to enhance the role of the Organization in this respect,

*Recalling* the third United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States, convened on the overarching theme of “Addressing terrorism through reinvigorated multilateralism and institutional cooperation” in New York on 19 and 20 June 2023, as part of the third Counter-Terrorism Week at the United Nations, held from 19 to 23 June 2023, the participants of which included representatives of Member States, international and regional organizations, civil society organizations and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities,

*Noting* the intention of the Secretary-General to organize regional high-level conferences on counter-terrorism, and encouraging the Secretary-General to consult Member States in this regard,

*Mindful* of the essential need to strengthen international, regional and subregional cooperation aimed at enhancing the national capacity of States to prevent and effectively suppress international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations,

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<sup>121</sup> Resolution 55/2.

<sup>122</sup> Resolution 60/1.

*Encouraging* women to continue to play an important role in countering terrorism,

*Reiterating its call upon* States to review urgently the scope of the existing international legal provisions on the prevention, repression and elimination of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, with the aim of ensuring that there is a comprehensive legal framework covering all aspects of the matter,

*Emphasizing* that tolerance and dialogue among civilizations and the enhancement of interfaith and intercultural understanding are among the most important elements in promoting cooperation and success in combating terrorism, and welcoming the various initiatives to this end,

*Aware* of the need to address underlying conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism through a comprehensive approach,

*Reaffirming* that no terrorist act can be justified in any circumstances,

*Reiterating* that terrorism is a global phenomenon, which is not and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group,

*Recalling* Security Council resolution [1624 \(2005\)](#) of 14 September 2005, and bearing in mind that States must ensure that any measure taken to combat terrorism complies with their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law,

*Noting* recent developments and initiatives at the international, regional and subregional levels to prevent and suppress international terrorism,

*Noting also* regional and subregional efforts to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomsoever committed, including through the elaboration of and adherence to regional conventions,

*Recalling* its decision in resolutions [54/110](#) of 9 December 1999, [55/158](#) of 12 December 2000, [56/88](#) of 12 December 2001, [57/27](#) of 19 November 2002, [58/81](#) of 9 December 2003, [59/46](#) of 2 December 2004, [60/43](#) of 8 December 2005, [61/40](#) of 4 December 2006, [62/71](#) of 6 December 2007, [63/129](#) of 11 December 2008, [64/118](#) of 16 December 2009, [65/34](#) of 6 December 2010, [66/105](#) of 9 December 2011 and [67/99](#) of 14 December 2012 that the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution [51/210](#) of 17 December 1996 should address, and keep on its agenda, the question of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a joint organized response of the international community to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations,

*Recalling also* that, in the Final Document of the Eighteenth Summit of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, adopted in Baku on 26 October 2019,<sup>123</sup> the Heads of State or Government reiterated the collective position of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries on combating international terrorism and reaffirmed its previous initiative calling for an international summit conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a joint organized response of the international community to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as well as other relevant initiatives,

*Noting* the importance of continuing to strive towards achieving a world free of terrorism,

*Bearing in mind* its resolutions [57/219](#) of 18 December 2002, [58/187](#) of 22 December 2003, [59/191](#) of 20 December 2004, [60/158](#) of 16 December 2005, [61/171](#) of 19 December 2006, [62/159](#) of 18 December 2007, [63/185](#) of 18 December 2008, [64/168](#) of 18 December 2009, [65/221](#) of 21 December 2010, [66/171](#) of 19 December 2011, [68/178](#) of 18 December 2013, [70/148](#) of 17 December 2015, [72/180](#) of 19 December 2017, [74/147](#) of 18 December 2019 and [76/169](#) of 16 December 2021,

*Having examined* the report of the Secretary-General<sup>124</sup> and the oral report of the Chair of the Working Group of the Sixth Committee on its work during the seventy-eighth session,<sup>125</sup>

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<sup>123</sup> [A/74/548](#), annex.

<sup>124</sup> [A/78/221](#).

<sup>125</sup> See [A/C.6/78/SR.36](#).

## VII. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Sixth Committee

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1. *Strongly condemns* all acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations as criminal and unjustifiable, wherever and by whomsoever committed;
2. *Calls upon* all Member States, the United Nations and other appropriate international, regional and subregional organizations to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, as well as the resolutions relating to the subsequent reviews of the Strategy, in all its aspects at the international, regional, subregional and national levels without delay, including by mobilizing resources and expertise;
3. *Recalls* the pivotal role of the General Assembly in following up the implementation and the updating of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, looks forward to the ninth review, in 2026, and in this regard recalls its invitation to the Secretary-General to contribute to the future deliberations of the Assembly, and requests the Secretary-General when doing so to provide information on relevant activities within the Secretariat to ensure overall coordination and coherence in the counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations system;
4. *Reiterates* that criminal acts intended or calculated to provoke a state of terror in the general public, a group of persons or particular persons for political purposes are in any circumstances unjustifiable, whatever the considerations of a political, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnic, religious or other nature that may be invoked to justify them;
5. *Reiterates its call upon* all States to adopt further measures in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant provisions of international law, including international standards of human rights, to prevent terrorism and to strengthen international cooperation in combating terrorism and, to that end, to consider, in particular, the implementation of the measures set out in paragraphs 3 (a) to (f) of General Assembly resolution 51/210;
6. *Also reiterates its call upon* all States, with the aim of enhancing the efficient implementation of relevant legal instruments, to intensify, as and where appropriate, the exchange of information on facts related to terrorism and, in so doing, to avoid the dissemination of inaccurate or unverified information;
7. *Reiterates its call upon* States to refrain from financing, encouraging, providing training for or otherwise supporting terrorist activities;
8. *Expresses concern* at the increase in incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking with demands for ransom and/or political concessions by terrorist groups, and expresses the need to address this issue;
9. *Expresses grave concern* over the acute and growing threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, namely, individuals who travel to a State other than their States of residence or nationality for the purpose of the perpetration, planning or preparation of, or participation in, terrorist acts or providing or receiving terrorist training, including in connection with armed conflict, emphasizes the need for States to address this issue, including through the implementation of their international obligations, and underlines the importance of United Nations capacity-building and facilitation of capacity-building in accordance with existing mandates to assist States, including those in the most affected regions, upon their request;
10. *Emphasizes* the need for States to cooperate resolutely against international terrorism by taking speedy and effective measures to eliminate this scourge, and in this regard calls upon all States, in accordance with their obligations under applicable international law and the Charter, to deny safe haven and bring to justice or, where appropriate, extradite, on the basis of the principle of extradite or prosecute, the perpetrators of terrorist acts or any person who supports, facilitates or participates or attempts to participate in the financing, planning or preparation of terrorist acts;
11. *Urges* States to ensure that their nationals or other persons and entities within their territory that wilfully provide or collect funds for the benefit of persons or entities who commit, or attempt to commit, facilitate or participate in the commission of terrorist acts are punished by penalties consistent with the grave nature of such acts;
12. *Reminds* States of their obligations under relevant international conventions and protocols, and Security Council resolutions, including Council resolution 1373 (2001), to ensure that perpetrators of terrorist acts are brought to justice, and recalls the General Assembly resolutions on measures to eliminate international terrorism;
13. *Reaffirms* that international cooperation as well as actions by States to combat terrorism should be conducted in conformity with the principles of the Charter, international law and relevant international conventions;

14. *Recalls* the adoption of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism,<sup>126</sup> the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material,<sup>127</sup> the Protocol of 2005 to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation<sup>128</sup> and the Protocol of 2005 to the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf,<sup>129</sup> and urges all States to consider, as a matter of priority, becoming parties to these instruments;

15. *Urges* all States that have not yet done so to consider, as a matter of priority and in accordance with Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and Council resolution 1566 (2004) of 8 October 2004, becoming parties to the relevant conventions and protocols as referred to in paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 51/210, as well as the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings,<sup>130</sup> the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism,<sup>131</sup> the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, and calls upon all States to enact, as appropriate, the national legislation necessary to implement the provisions of those conventions and protocols, to ensure that the jurisdiction of their courts enables them to bring to trial the perpetrators of terrorist acts and to cooperate with and provide support and assistance to other States and relevant international, regional and subregional organizations to that end;

16. *Urges* States to cooperate with the Secretary-General and with one another, as well as with interested intergovernmental organizations, with a view to ensuring, where appropriate within existing mandates, that technical and other expert advice is provided to those States requiring and requesting assistance in becoming parties to and implementing the conventions and protocols referred to in paragraph 15 above;

17. *Notes with appreciation and satisfaction* that, consistent with the call contained in paragraphs 14 and 15 of General Assembly resolution 77/113 of 7 December 2022, a number of States became parties to the relevant conventions and protocols referred to therein, thereby realizing the objective of wider acceptance and implementation of those conventions;

18. *Reaffirms* the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 49/60, and the Declaration to Supplement the 1994 Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, contained in the annex to Assembly resolution 51/210, and calls upon all States to implement them;

19. *Calls upon* all States to cooperate to prevent and suppress terrorist acts;

20. *Urges* all States and the Secretary-General, in their efforts to prevent international terrorism, to make the best use of the existing institutions of the United Nations;

21. *Notes* that the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre is performing its duties within the Office of Counter-Terrorism and that the Centre is supporting the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and encourages all Member States to collaborate with the Centre and to contribute to the implementation of its activities within the Office;

22. *Requests* the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Vienna to continue its efforts to enhance, through its mandate, the capabilities of the United Nations in the prevention of terrorism, and recognizes, in the context of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), its role in assisting States in becoming parties to and implementing the relevant international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism, including the most recent among them, and in

<sup>126</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2445, No. 44004.

<sup>127</sup> Adopted on 8 July 2005 by the Conference to Consider and Adopt Proposed Amendments to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (International Atomic Energy Agency, document GOV/INF/2005/10-GC(49)/INF/6, attachment).

<sup>128</sup> Adopted on 14 October 2005 by the Diplomatic Conference on the Revision of the SUA Treaties (International Maritime Organization, document LEG/CONF.15/21).

<sup>129</sup> Adopted on 14 October 2005 by the Diplomatic Conference on the Revision of the SUA Treaties (International Maritime Organization, document LEG/CONF.15/22).

<sup>130</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2149, No. 37517.

<sup>131</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2178, No. 38349.



strengthening international cooperation mechanisms in criminal matters related to terrorism, including through national capacity-building upon request;

23. *Invites* regional intergovernmental organizations to submit to the Secretary-General information on the measures that they have adopted at the regional level to eliminate international terrorism, as well as on intergovernmental meetings held by those organizations;

24. *Decides* to recommend that the Sixth Committee, at the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly, establish a working group with a view to finalizing the process on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism as well as discussions on the item included in its agenda by Assembly resolution 54/110 concerning the question of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations;

25. *Recognizes* the valuable dialogue and efforts of Member States towards resolving any outstanding issues, and encourages all Member States to redouble their efforts during the intersessional period;

26. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session the item entitled “Measures to eliminate international terrorism”.

### RESOLUTION 78/116

Adopted at the 45th plenary meeting, on 7 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/78/447, para. 8)<sup>132</sup>

#### 78/116. Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country,<sup>133</sup>

*Recalling* Article 105 of the Charter of the United Nations, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations,<sup>134</sup> the Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations,<sup>135</sup> the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations<sup>136</sup> and the responsibilities of the host country,

*Recalling also* that, in accordance with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 2819 (XXVI) of 15 December 1971, the Committee should consider, and advise the host country on, issues arising in connection with the implementation of the Headquarters Agreement, and noting that bringing issues to the attention of the host country may in some cases help to have them be expeditiously resolved,

*Recognizing* that effective measures should continue to be taken by the competent authorities of the host country, in particular to prevent any acts violating the security of missions and the safety of their personnel,

*Recognizing also* that the Headquarters Agreement provides that it shall be construed in the light of its primary purpose to enable the United Nations at its headquarters in the United States, fully and efficiently, to discharge its responsibilities and fulfil its purposes,

*Emphasizing* that the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations does not distinguish between permanent and visiting representatives,

1. *Endorses* the recommendations and conclusions of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country contained in paragraph 146 of its report;

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<sup>132</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire and Cyprus.

<sup>133</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 26 (A/78/26).*

<sup>134</sup> Resolution 22 A (I).

<sup>135</sup> See resolution 169 (II).

<sup>136</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 500, No. 7310.



2. *Considers* that the maintenance of appropriate conditions for ensuring normal functioning of the delegations and the missions accredited to the United Nations and the observance of their privileges and immunities, which cannot be subject to any restrictions arising from the bilateral relations of the host country, are in the interest of the United Nations and all Member States, notes the efforts made by the host country to this end and also notes with concern that numerous issues raised before the Committee continue to remain unresolved, takes seriously concerns raised by permanent missions regarding the normal performance of their functions, notes that the Committee expresses its readiness to effectively address them and expects that all issues raised at its meetings that remain unresolved will be duly settled expeditiously, in a spirit of cooperation and in accordance with international law, notes that the Committee encourages Member States to bring issues to the attention of the host country and the Committee as soon as they occur, requests the host country to continue to solve, preferably through negotiations, problems that might arise and to take all appropriate steps to protect the premises of missions against any intrusion or damage and to prevent any disturbance of the peace of missions or impairment of their dignity, and urges the host country to continue to take appropriate action, such as the training of police, security, customs and border control officers, with a view to maintaining respect for diplomatic privileges and immunities, and to continue efforts to ensure that diplomats transiting to and from United Nations Headquarters are treated respectfully, and, if violations occur, to ensure that such cases are properly investigated and remedied, in accordance with applicable law, and in this regard that the Committee notes the serious concerns raised by a Member State expressing the inappropriate treatment and screening of certain of its high-ranking officials by host country Customs and Border Protection officers and requests the host country to carefully investigate these concerns and take the necessary preventive and remedial action, as appropriate;

3. *Recalls* the privileges and immunities applicable to the premises of the permanent missions to the United Nations enjoyed under international law, in particular the instruments listed in paragraph 146 (a) of the report of the Committee, and the obligations of the host country to observe such privileges and immunities, takes note of the alleged ongoing violations thereof by the host country and of the repeated concerns expressed thereon, urges the host country to remove without delay any restrictions applied to the premises of a Permanent Mission inconsistent with those privileges and immunities, and in that regard to ensure respect for such privileges and immunities, expresses concern regarding the lack of resolution of these matters, remains seized of these matters, and anticipates that they shall be duly addressed in a spirit of cooperation and in accordance with international law;

4. *Also recalls* that, prior to the institution by the host country of any proceedings that require any person referred to in article IV, section 11, of the Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, including representatives of a Member State, to leave the host country, article IV, section 13 (b) (1) of the Headquarters Agreement, inter alia, requires the host country to consult with the Member State, the Secretary-General or other principal executive officer, as appropriate, and considers that, given the seriousness of any such measure being exercised by the host country, the consultation should be meaningful;

5. *Notes* the problems experienced by some permanent missions to the United Nations in connection with the implementation of the Parking Programme for Diplomatic Vehicles,<sup>137</sup> and notes that the Committee shall remain seized of the matter, with a view to continuing to maintain the proper implementation of the Parking Programme in a manner that is fair, non-discriminatory, effective and therefore consistent with international law;

6. *Strongly urges* the host country to remove all travel restrictions imposed by it on staff of certain missions and staff members of the Secretariat of certain nationalities, and, recalling privileges and immunities enjoyed by the representatives of Member States and staff members of the Secretariat under applicable international law, notes the easing in 2023 of travel restrictions on two Missions as well as the modification of restrictions for Secretariat staff by increasing authorized ports of entry and recalls the lifting in 2021 of the more stringent travel restrictions applicable to one Mission, while remaining concerned about the more stringent travel restrictions applied to a Mission in 2021 and additional restrictions applied to the same Mission in late 2022 and extremely narrow implementation thereof, and the statements of affected delegations that travel restrictions impede their ability to carry out their functions and negatively impact their staff and families, and notes the positions of affected States, as reflected in the report of the Secretary-General, of the host country and of the Legal Counsel, as set out in document [A/AC.154/415](#), according to which, inter alia, “there is no room for the application of measures based on reciprocity in the treatment accorded to permanent missions accredited to the United Nations in New York”;

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<sup>137</sup> [A/AC.154/355](#), annex.

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7. *Recalls* article IV of the Headquarters Agreement, notes the concerns expressed by some delegations concerning the denial and delay of entry visas to representatives of Member States, and further notes a relative decrease in the percentage of visas not issued and at the same time that the Committee remains seized of a range of visa issues that should be expeditiously resolved in a spirit of cooperation and in accordance with international law, including the Headquarters Agreement;

8. *Expresses serious concern* regarding multiple cases of denial and non-issuance of entry visas, including in particular to delegates participating in high-level events and in the work of the Main Committees at the seventy-seventh session of the General Assembly, emphasizes the importance of the full participation of all delegations in the work of the United Nations, and takes note of the statements of the Legal Counsel at the 297th and 298th meetings of the Committee, reiterating his statement at the emergency, 295th, meeting of the Committee, set out in document [A/AC.154/415](#), where he confirmed that the legal position regarding the host country's obligations with respect to the issuance of visas to persons covered by the Headquarters Agreement remains unchanged from that which was provided by the then Legal Counsel to the Committee in 1988, set out in document [A/C.6/43/7](#), according to which, *inter alia*, "the Headquarters Agreement makes it clear that there is an unrestricted right of persons mentioned in section 11 to enter the United States for the purpose of proceeding to the Headquarters district";

9. *Anticipates* that the host country will ensure the issuance of entry visas to all representatives of Member States and members of the Secretariat pursuant to article IV, sections 11 and 13, of the Headquarters Agreement, in a timely manner, to enable persons recruited to serve in the Secretariat or assigned as members of permanent missions to take up their assignments as promptly as possible and to enable representatives of Member States to travel, in a timely manner, to New York on United Nations business, including to attend official United Nations meetings, and notes that the Committee anticipates that the host country will continue to enhance efforts, including visa issuance, to facilitate the participation of representatives of Member States in other United Nations meetings, as appropriate;

10. *Notes* that a number of delegations have requested shortening the time frame applied by the host country for issuance and renewal of visas to representatives of Member States and members of their families, since the present time frame poses difficulties for the full-fledged participation of Member States in United Nations meetings, and invites the host country to inform the Committee, as appropriate, of efforts to address such difficulties, and while acknowledging that action taken in 2023 led to a relative reduction in processing times for certain Missions, remains seriously concerned that other Missions and Secretariat staff members of certain nationalities continue to be adversely impacted by processing times, and also notes that the Committee calls upon the host country to review its differing processes of granting visas to the personnel of certain missions, including single-entry visas, and the waiting time for issuance, with a view to ensuring that delegations are able to participate fully in the work of the United Nations;

11. *Notes with concern* the difficulties experienced by some permanent missions to the United Nations in obtaining suitable banking services, and welcomes the continued efforts of the host country to facilitate the opening of bank accounts for those permanent missions;

12. *Stresses* the need for the permanent missions and the United Nations to benefit from appropriate banking services, and anticipates that the host country will continue to assist the permanent missions accredited to the United Nations and their staff in obtaining such services;

13. *Expresses its appreciation* for the efforts made by the United States Mission to the United Nations, including to respond to requests from the diplomatic community in the challenging circumstances caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic since March 2020, and expects that the issues raised at the meetings of the Committee will be resolved in a spirit of cooperation and in accordance with international law, including the Headquarters Agreement;

14. *Affirms* the importance of the Committee being in a position to fulfil its mandate and meet on short notice to deal with urgent and important matters concerning the relations between the United Nations and the host country, and in that connection requests the Secretariat and the Committee on Conferences to accord priority to requests from the Committee on Relations with the Host Country for conference-servicing facilities for meetings of that Committee that must be held while the General Assembly and its Main Committees are meeting, without prejudice to the requirements of those bodies and on an "as available" basis;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to remain actively engaged in all aspects of the relations of the United Nations with the host country at various levels in order to resolve the issues raised in the report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country, and to more actively engage in the work of the Committee with a view to ensuring

the representation of the interests concerned, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2819 (XXVI), and in this regard recalls the statements of the Legal Counsel at the emergency, 295th, meeting of the Committee, as set out in document [A/AC.154/415](#), and also at its online informal meeting on 17 September 2020, recalls the position of the Committee as set out in paragraph 144 (p) of its previous report<sup>138</sup> and that of the General Assembly as set out in paragraph 15 of its resolution 77/114 of 7 December 2022, notes the resourceful engagement of the Legal Counsel and the Secretary-General in discussions that have been formalized since the inclusion of subparagraph (p) in chapter IV of the report of the Committee in 2019<sup>139</sup> with the competent authorities of the host country regarding unresolved issues and the Legal Counsel's reports on the outcome of these discussions, most recently at its 309th and 310th meetings, and further notes with concern that serious issues still persist without effective resolution, recalls in this regard, once more, that serious consideration should be given to taking steps under section 21 of the Headquarters Agreement if certain issues raised in the report of the Committee remained unresolved following a reasonable and finite period of time, and accordingly once again reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to now give the most serious consideration and take any appropriate steps under section 21 of the Headquarters Agreement and intensify efforts to expedite resolution of the issues;

16. *Requests* the Committee to continue its work in conformity with General Assembly resolution 2819 (XXVI) and, in this framework, to continue to consider additional appropriate measures to enhance the work of the Committee and its effectiveness and to make recommendations in its report to the Assembly at its seventy-ninth session;

17. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session the item entitled "Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country".

#### RESOLUTION 78/117

Adopted at the 45th plenary meeting, on 7 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee ([A/78/457](#), para. 7)<sup>140</sup>

##### **78/117. Observer status for the Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture in the General Assembly**

*The General Assembly,*

*Wishing* to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture,

1. *Decides* to invite the Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;
2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the action necessary to implement the present resolution.

#### RESOLUTION 78/236

Adopted at the 50th (resumed) plenary meeting, on 22 December 2023, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee ([A/78/442](#), para. 6)<sup>141</sup>

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<sup>138</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-seventh Session, Supplement No. 26* ([A/77/26](#)).

<sup>139</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 26* ([A/74/26](#)).

<sup>140</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Andorra, Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Spain, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

<sup>141</sup> The draft resolution recommended in the report was introduced in the Committee by the representative of Singapore on behalf of the Bureau.

**78/236. Strengthening and promoting the international treaty framework**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 23 (I) of 10 February 1946, 97 (I) of 14 December 1946, 364 B (IV) of 1 December 1949, 482 (V) of 12 December 1950, 32/144 of 16 December 1977, 33/141 A of 19 December 1978, 51/158 of 16 December 1996, 73/210 of 20 December 2018, 75/144 of 15 December 2020 and 76/120 of 9 December 2021,

*Recalling also* its resolutions 71/328 of 11 September 2017, 73/346 of 16 September 2019 and 76/268 of 10 June 2022, which reaffirm that multilingualism is a core value of the Organization that contributes to the achievement of the goals of the United Nations, and requesting the Secretary-General to continue to make efforts to ensure that multilingualism is not undermined by the measures taken in response to the liquidity situation and the coronavirus disease (COVID-19),

*Conscious* of the obligations resulting from Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations and the importance of treaties in the development of international law and the international legal order,

*Noting with appreciation* the role of the Secretariat, in particular the Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs, in the implementation of Article 102 of the Charter,

*Noting* that the considerable increase in the number of multilateral treaties deposited with the Secretary-General and treaties submitted for registration over the past years has led to the growth in the volume of work carried out by the Treaty Section,

*Noting also* that, while the authentic texts of registered treaties are promptly made available online through the electronic treaty database, there is currently a significant backlog in the publication of the United Nations *Treaty Series* due to the limited resources available for the translation and publication process, contributing to the accumulation of unpublished treaties,

*Recognizing* the importance of the expeditious processing, registration and publication of treaties and treaty-related actions,

*Supporting* the efforts of the Secretary-General to increase the efficiency of the registration and publication process within available resources and to enhance the role played by the Treaty Section in assisting Member States in this area,

*Welcoming* the measures taken by the Treaty Section to expedite the publication of the United Nations *Treaty Series* and to provide electronic access to all of its publications on the website of the United Nations Treaty Collection, and recognizing the role that new technology can play in the accessibility of the United Nations *Treaty Series*,

*Recognizing* that practice and technology have developed considerably over the past years, and acknowledging the importance of maintaining consistency with treaty-making practice in the international community,

*Recognizing also* the important role performed by depositaries of multilateral treaties,

*Noting with appreciation* the role of the Treaty Section in discharging the functions entrusted to the Secretary-General as depositary of over 600 multilateral instruments,

*Bearing in mind* the provisions of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, adopted on 22 May 1969 by the United Nations Conference on the Law of Treaties,<sup>142</sup>

*Convinced* of the need to further gather and exchange views on practice relating to the strengthening and promoting of the international treaty framework,

1. *Recalls* Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations, reaffirms the importance of the registration and publication of treaties, as well as their accessibility, and stresses that the regulations to give effect to Article 102 should be useful and relevant to Member States and should be kept updated to assist States in implementing their obligations thereunder;

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<sup>142</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1155, No. 18232.

2. *Notes* that some Member States continue to consider that there remain outstanding issues where the regulations may need further consideration;
3. *Reaffirms its support* for the annual treaty event organized by the Secretary-General;
4. *Welcomes* the organization of workshops on treaty law and practice by the Treaty Section at Headquarters and at the national and regional levels as an important capacity-building initiative, encourages the Treaty Section to continue to organize these workshops as regularly as possible, including through the use of information and communications technology when necessary owing to extraordinary circumstances, and invites States and interested international organizations and institutions to continue to support this activity;
5. *Notes* that workshops on treaty law and practice at the national and regional levels could not be organized since 2016, including owing to insufficiency of funds, invites States and interested organizations and institutions to make voluntary contributions to the trust fund established by the Secretary-General for the Office of Legal Affairs to support the promotion of international law, towards the financing of such workshops, or otherwise to assist in their implementation and possible expansion, as a complement to workshops on treaty law and practice held at Headquarters, and expresses its appreciation for the voluntary contribution made to support the organization of such workshops;
6. *Welcomes* efforts to build the capacity of States in treaty law and practice, and invites Member States to consider providing targeted technical assistance, upon request, at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels, in particular to developing countries, in order to develop and enhance their treaty practice, including in the use of information and communications technology;
7. *Also welcomes* the efforts made to develop and enhance the United Nations electronic treaty database, which provides online access to comprehensive information on the depositary functions of the Secretary-General and the registration and publication of treaties under Article 102 of the Charter, and encourages the continuation of such efforts in the future, while bearing in mind the challenges that many developing countries face in accessing information and communications technology;
8. *Notes* that most submissions of treaties for registration are in electronic format, and encourages the Secretary-General to develop, in consultation with and on the basis of feedback from Member States and within existing resources, an online treaty registration system to facilitate submissions of treaties for registration, as an additional option to the existing ways of submission in electronic or hard-copy format;
9. *Recognizes* the importance of the legal publications prepared by the Treaty Section, and stresses the need to update the *Summary of Practice of the Secretary-General as Depositary of Multilateral Treaties* in the light of new developments and practices;
10. *Acknowledges* the efforts of the depositaries in the registration of treaties under Article 102 of the Charter, and encourages the continuation of such efforts in the future;
11. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to ensure the expedited publication of the United Nations *Treaty Series*, in accordance with the regulations, through the prompt provision of editorial and translation services, to enable effective dissemination of and access to treaties;
12. *Also calls upon* the Secretary-General to strengthen the capacity of the Treaty Section to perform its responsibilities and functions under the Charter, multilateral treaties deposited with the Secretary-General and relevant General Assembly resolutions, as well as to meet the increasing demands in the performance of these functions;
13. *Welcomes* the thematic debate on “Best practices of depositaries of multilateral treaties”;
14. *Takes note* of the subtopics suggested by some Member States for consideration for future thematic debates, and requests the Secretariat to maintain a non-exhaustive indicative list of such subtopics and circulate it sufficiently in advance of the meetings of the Sixth Committee on the agenda item;
15. *Decides* to undertake a regular thematic debate in the Sixth Committee to foster a technical exchange of views on practice relating to the strengthening and promoting of the international treaty framework, and in that regard invites Member States to focus their comments during the debate at the eightieth session of the General Assembly on the subtopic “The role of technology in shaping treaty-making practice”, and requests the Secretary-General to invite

## VII. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Sixth Committee

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Governments and international organizations to submit information on their practice in this regard, and to provide, at its eightieth session, a report with information on practice related to the subtopic taking into account these submissions;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to strengthen the capacity of the Treaty Section to support the regular thematic debate in the Sixth Committee, including for the preparation of the report on the subtopic selected for each session so that it can be made available sufficiently in advance of the meetings of the Sixth Committee on the agenda item;

17. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its eightieth session the item entitled “Strengthening and promoting the international treaty framework”.





# Annex I

## Allocation of agenda items<sup>a</sup>

### Plenary meetings

1. Opening of the session by the President of the General Assembly.
  2. Minute of silent prayer or meditation.
  3. Credentials of representatives to the seventy-eighth session of the General Assembly:
    - (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;
    - (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.
  4. Election of the President of the General Assembly.
  6. Election of the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly.
  7. Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items: reports of the General Committee.
  8. General debate.
- A. Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences**
9. Report of the Economic and Social Council.
  10. Implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the political declarations on HIV/AIDS.
  11. Sport for development and peace: building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal.
  12. Improving global road safety.
  13. Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields.
  14. Culture of peace.
- B. Maintenance of international peace and security**
26. Report of the Security Council.
  27. Report of the Peacebuilding Commission.
  28. Elimination of unilateral extraterritorial coercive economic measures as a means of political and economic compulsion.
  29. Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies.
  30. The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict.
  31. Prevention of armed conflict:
    - (a) Prevention of armed conflict;
    - (b) Strengthening the role of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution.

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<sup>a</sup> Organized under headings corresponding to the priorities of the Organization.

32. Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development.
33. Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic.
34. The situation in the Middle East.
35. Question of Palestine.
36. The situation in Afghanistan.
37. Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte.
38. Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.
39. The situation in Central America: progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development.
40. Question of Cyprus.
41. Armed aggression against the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
42. Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).
43. The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti.
44. Armed Israeli aggression against the Iraqi nuclear installations and its grave consequences for the established international system concerning the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and international peace and security.
45. Consequences of the Iraqi occupation of and aggression against Kuwait.
61. Peacebuilding and sustaining peace.
62. The situation in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine.
63. Use of the veto.
64. Zone of peace, trust and cooperation of Central Asia.

**C. Development of Africa**

65. New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support:
  - (a) New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support;
  - (b) Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa.

**D. Promotion of human rights**

66. Report of the Human Rights Council.
69. Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

**E. Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts**

72. Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance:
  - (a) Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations;
  - (b) Assistance to the Palestinian people;
  - (c) Special economic assistance to individual countries or regions.

**F. Promotion of justice and international law**

- 73. Report of the International Court of Justice.
- 74. Report of the International Criminal Court.
- 75. Oceans and the law of the sea:
  - (a) Oceans and the law of the sea;
  - (b) Sustainable fisheries, including through the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and related instruments;
  - (c) Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction.
- 88. Request for an advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the separation of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius in 1965.

**G. Disarmament**

- 89. Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency.
- 99. General and complete disarmament.

**I. Organizational, administrative and other matters**

- 110. Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization.
- 111. Report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund.
- 112. Notification by the Secretary-General under Article 12, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations.
- 113. Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs:
  - (a) Election of non-permanent members of the Security Council;
  - (b) Election of members of the Economic and Social Council;
  - (c) Election of members of the International Court of Justice.
- 114. Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections:
  - (a) Election of members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination;
  - (b) Election of members of the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission;
  - (c) Election of members of the Human Rights Council;
  - (d) Election of the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme.
- 115. Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments:
  - (f) Appointment of members of the Committee on Conferences;
  - (g) Appointment of members of the Board of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns.
- 116. Admission of new Members to the United Nations.
- 117. Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit.
- 118. Commemoration of the abolition of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade.
- 119. Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations.
- 120. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly.

121. Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council.
122. Strengthening of the United Nations system.
123. United Nations reform: measures and proposals.
124. Multilingualism.
125. Global health and foreign policy.
126. International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals.
127. Investigation into the conditions and circumstances resulting in the tragic death of Dag Hammarskjöld and of the members of the party accompanying him.
128. Sexual exploitation and abuse: implementing a zero-tolerance policy.
129. The responsibility to protect and the prevention of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.
130. Report of the United Nations Youth Office.
135. Programme planning.

### **First Committee**

5. Election of the officers of the Main Committees.

### **G. Disarmament**

90. Reduction of military budgets.
91. Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace.
92. African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty.
93. Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament.
94. Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security.
95. Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East.
96. Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.
97. Prevention of an arms race in outer space:
  - (a) Prevention of an arms race in outer space;
  - (b) No first placement of weapons in outer space;
  - (c) Further practical measures for the prevention of an arms race in outer space;
  - (d) Reducing space threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviours.
98. Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament.
99. General and complete disarmament:
  - (a) Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices;
  - (b) Nuclear disarmament;
  - (c) Notification of nuclear tests;
  - (d) Relationship between disarmament and development;

- (e) Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes;
  - (f) Regional disarmament;
  - (g) Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels;
  - (h) Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament;
  - (i) Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas;
  - (j) Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control;
  - (k) Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons;
  - (l) Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction;
  - (m) Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction;
  - (n) Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them;
  - (o) Reducing nuclear danger;
  - (p) The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects;
  - (q) Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments;
  - (r) Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation;
  - (s) Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction;
  - (t) Confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context;
  - (u) Problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus;
  - (v) Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities;
  - (w) Follow-up to nuclear disarmament obligations agreed to at the 1995, 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;
  - (x) The Arms Trade Treaty;
  - (y) Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (Bangkok Treaty);
  - (z) Steps to building a common roadmap towards a world without nuclear weapons;
  - (aa) Follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament;
  - (bb) Humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons;
  - (cc) Ethical imperatives for a nuclear-weapon-free world;
  - (dd) Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions;
  - (ee) Nuclear disarmament verification;
  - (ff) Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons;
  - (gg) Youth, disarmament and non-proliferation.
100. Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly:
- (a) Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons;
  - (b) United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa;

- (c) United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean;
  - (d) United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific;
  - (e) Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa;
  - (f) United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament.
101. Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session:
- (a) Report of the Conference on Disarmament;
  - (b) Report of the Disarmament Commission.
102. The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East.
103. Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects.
104. Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region.
105. Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.
106. Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction.

**I. Organizational, administrative and other matters**

120. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly.
135. Programme planning.

**Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)**

5. Election of the officers of the Main Committees.

**B. Maintenance of international peace and security**

46. Assistance in mine action.
47. Effects of atomic radiation.
48. International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.
49. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.
50. Israeli practices and settlement activities affecting the rights of the Palestinian people and other Arabs of the occupied territories.
51. Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects.
52. Comprehensive review of special political missions.
53. Questions relating to information.
54. Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations.
55. Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories.
56. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations.

- 57. Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories.
- 58. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

**I. Organizational, administrative and other matters**

- 120. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly.
- 135. Programme planning.

**Second Committee**

- 5. Election of the officers of the Main Committees.

**A. Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences**

- 15. Information and communications technologies for sustainable development.
- 16. Macroeconomic policy questions:
  - (a) International trade and development;
  - (b) International financial system and development;
  - (c) External debt sustainability and development;
  - (d) Commodities;
  - (e) Financial inclusion for sustainable development;
  - (f) Promotion of international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows and strengthen good practices on assets return to foster sustainable development;
  - (g) Promoting investments for sustainable development;
  - (h) Promotion of inclusive and effective international cooperation on tax matters at the United Nations.
- 17. Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development.
- 18. 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) Education for sustainable development;
  - (h) Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all;
  - (i) Combating sand and dust storms;



- (j) Strengthening cooperation for integrated coastal zone management for achieving sustainable development.
- 19. Globalization and interdependence:
  - (a) Science, technology and innovation for sustainable development;
  - (b) Culture and sustainable development;
  - (c) Development cooperation with middle-income countries.
- 20. Groups of countries in special situations:
  - (a) Follow-up to the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;
  - (b) Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries.
- 21. Eradication of poverty and other development issues:
  - (a) Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027);
  - (b) Eradicating rural poverty to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- 22. Operational activities for development:
  - (a) Operational activities for development of the United Nations system;
  - (b) South-South cooperation for development.
- 23. Agriculture development, food security and nutrition:
  - (a) Agriculture development, food security and nutrition;
  - (b) Natural plant fibres and sustainable development.

**B. Maintenance of international peace and security**

- 59. Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources.

**I. Organizational, administrative and other matters**

- 120. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly.
- 135. Programme planning.

**Third Committee**

- 5. Election of the officers of the Main Committees.

**A. Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences**

- 24. Social development:
  - (a) Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly;
  - (b) Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, persons with disabilities and the family;
- 25. Advancement of women:
  - (a) Advancement of women;
  - (b) Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.

**B. Maintenance of international peace and security**

60. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions.

**D. Promotion of human rights**

66. Report of the Human Rights Council.
67. Promotion and protection of the rights of children.
68. Rights of Indigenous Peoples:
- (a) Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
  - (b) Follow-up to the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.
69. Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance:
- (a) Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;
  - (b) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.
70. Right of peoples to self-determination.
71. Promotion and protection of human rights:
- (a) Implementation of human rights instruments;
  - (b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms;
  - (c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives;
  - (d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.

**H. Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations**

107. Crime prevention and criminal justice.
108. Countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes.

**I. Organizational, administrative and other matters**

120. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly.
135. Programme planning.

**Fifth Committee**

5. Election of the officers of the Main Committees.

**I. Organizational, administrative and other matters**

115. Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments:
- (a) Appointment of members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;
  - (b) Appointment of members of the Committee on Contributions;
  - (c) Confirmation of the appointment of members of the Investments Committee;
  - (d) Appointment of a member of the Board of Auditors;

- (e) Appointment of members of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee.
- 120. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly.
- 131. Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors:
  - (a) United Nations;
  - (b) United Nations peacekeeping operations;
  - (c) International Trade Centre;
  - (d) United Nations University;
  - (e) United Nations Development Programme;
  - (f) United Nations Capital Development Fund;
  - (g) United Nations Children's Fund;
  - (h) United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East;
  - (i) United Nations Institute for Training and Research;
  - (j) Voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;
  - (k) Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme;
  - (l) United Nations Population Fund;
  - (m) United Nations Human Settlements Programme;
  - (n) United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;
  - (o) United Nations Office for Project Services;
  - (p) United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women);
  - (q) International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals;
  - (r) United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund.
- 132. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations.
- 133. Programme budget for 2023.
- 134. Proposed programme budget for 2024.
- 135. Programme planning.
- 136. Improving the financial situation of the United Nations.
- 137. Pattern of conferences.
- 138. Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations.
- 139. Human resources management.
- 140. Report on the activities of the Ethics Office.
- 141. Joint Inspection Unit.
- 142. United Nations common system.
- 143. Report on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services.
- 144. Administration of justice at the United Nations.
- 145. Financing of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals.
- 146. Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations.
- 147. Financing of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei.

148. Financing of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic.
149. Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire.
150. Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus.
151. Financing of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
152. Financing of the United Nations Mission in East Timor.
153. Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo.
154. Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia.
155. Financing of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali.
156. Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East:
  - (a) United Nations Disengagement Observer Force;
  - (b) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.
157. Financing of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan.
158. Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara.
159. Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur.
160. Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 1863 (2009).

### **Sixth Committee**

5. Election of the officers of the Main Committees.

#### **F. Promotion of justice and international law**

76. Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission.
77. Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its fifty-sixth session.
78. United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law.
79. Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its seventy-third and seventy-fourth sessions.
80. Crimes against humanity.
81. Expulsion of aliens.
82. Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization.
83. The rule of law at the national and international levels.
84. The scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction.
85. Responsibility of international organizations.
86. Protection of persons in the event of disasters.
87. Strengthening and promoting the international treaty framework.

#### **H. Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations**

109. Measures to eliminate international terrorism.

**I. Organizational, administrative and other matters**

- 120. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly.
- 135. Programme planning.
- 144. Administration of justice at the United Nations.
- 161. Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.
- 162. Observer status for the Cooperation Council of Turkic-speaking States in the General Assembly.
- 163. Observer status for the Eurasian Economic Union in the General Assembly.
- 164. Observer status for the Community of Democracies in the General Assembly.
- 165. Observer status for the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands Secretariat in the General Assembly.
- 166. Observer status for the Global Environment Facility in the General Assembly.
- 167. Observer status for the International Organization of Employers in the General Assembly.
- 168. Observer status for the International Trade Union Confederation in the General Assembly.
- 169. Observer status for the Boao Forum for Asia in the General Assembly.
- 170. Observer status for the International Parliamentarians' Congress in the General Assembly.
- 171. Observer status for the Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture in the General Assembly.

## Annex II

### Checklist of resolutions

<i>Resolution number</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Plenary meeting</i>	<i>Date of adoption</i>	<i>Page</i>
78/1.	Political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly	13 and 117	15th	29 September 2023	3
78/2.	Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations: requests under Article 19 of the Charter	138	16th	5 October 2023	1182
78/3.	Political declaration of the General Assembly high-level meeting on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response	125	16th	5 October 2023	11
78/4.	Political declaration of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage	125	16th	5 October 2023	20
78/5.	Political declaration of the high-level meeting on the fight against tuberculosis	125	16th	5 October 2023	33
78/6.	Report of the International Criminal Court	74	25th	1 November 2023	43
78/7.	Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba	38	26th	2 November 2023	47
78/8.	Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency	89	30th	8 November 2023	48
78/9.	Commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia	13	37th	20 November 2023	49
78/10.	Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal	11	38th	21 November 2023	50
78/11.	The Syrian Golan	34	40th	28 November 2023	54
78/12.	World Duchenne Awareness Day	125	41st	29 November 2023	56
78/13.	Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace	91	42nd	4 December 2023	222
78/14.	African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty	92	42nd	4 December 2023	223
78/15.	Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament	93	42nd	4 December 2023	224
78/16.	Programme of action to advance responsible State behaviour in the use of information and communications technologies in the context of international security	94	42nd	4 December 2023	226
78/17.	Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East	95	42nd	4 December 2023	229
78/18.	Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons	96	42nd	4 December 2023	231
78/19.	Prevention of an arms race in outer space	97 (a)	42nd	4 December 2023	234
78/20.	Reducing space threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviours	97 (d)	42nd	4 December 2023	236

## Annex II – Checklist of resolutions

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78/247.	Report on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services	132 and 143	50th (resumed)	22 December 2023	1198
78/248.	Administration of justice at the United Nations	144	50th (resumed)	22 December 2023	1199
78/249.	Financing of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals	145	50th (resumed)	22 December 2023	1201
78/250.	Financing of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali	155	50th (resumed)	22 December 2023	1203
78/251.	Proposed programme budget for 2024: section 26, Palestine refugees	134	50th (resumed)	22 December 2023	1204
78/252.	Questions relating to the proposed programme budget for 2024	134	50th (resumed)	22 December 2023	1205
78/253.	Special subjects relating to the proposed programme budget for 2024	134	50th (resumed)	22 December 2023	1213

## Annex II – Checklist of resolutions

78/254.	Programme budget for 2024				1233
A.	Budget appropriations for 2024	134	50th (resumed)	22 December 2023	1233
B.	Income estimates for 2024	134	50th (resumed)	22 December 2023	1236
C.	Financing of appropriations for the year 2024	134	50th (resumed)	22 December 2023	1236
78/255.	Unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for 2024	134	50th (resumed)	22 December 2023	1237
78/256.	Working Capital Fund for 2024	134	50th (resumed)	22 December 2023	1237
78/257.	Investing in prevention and peacebuilding	132	50th (resumed)	22 December 2023	1238
78/258.	Fight against corruption and impunity in Honduras	107	50th (resumed)	22 December 2023	217