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Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Cabo Verde, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, Guyana, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan, Peru, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Türkiye, United Republic of Tanzania and Uzbekistan: draft resolution

International Year of Glaciers' Preservation, 2025

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 day or year should not be proclaimed before the basic arrangements for its organization and financing have been made,

Noting that glaciers are a critical component of the Earth system and that the current accelerated melting and retreat of glaciers have severe impacts on the environment, human well-being and sustainable development,

Recognizing that the accelerated melting of glaciers will cause a temporary increase in river levels, often leading to a higher incidence of flooding and landslides,



Noting that, over the past decades, global warming has led to widespread shrinking of the cryosphere, with mass loss from ice sheets and glaciers, which has decreased the stability of high mountain areas and changed the amount and seasonality of run-off and water resources in snow-dominated and glacier-fed river basins, as well as contributed to localized declines in agricultural yields in some high mountain regions and reduced downstream water availability,

Recognizing that the need for a worldwide inventory of existing perennial ice and snow masses was first considered during the International Hydrological Decade, declared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for the period 1965–1974,

Noting that continuous global temperature rise may result in irreversible impacts on certain ecosystems with low resilience, such as polar, mountain and coastal ecosystems, impacted by ice sheet or glacier melt or by accelerating and higher committed sea level rise,

Stressing the urgent need to raise awareness of and to promote and facilitate actions towards preserving glaciers in order to contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda,

Recognizing the importance of initiatives related to the Earth's cryosphere for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and for the implementation of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028,

Welcoming the outcomes of the second High-level International Conference on the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028, held in Dushanbe from 6 to 9 June 2022, which support the initiative of Tajikistan on declaring an international year of glaciers' preservation in 2025, and noting with appreciation the intention to strengthen an international mechanism to facilitate access to accurate and timely information on the cryosphere,

1. *Decides* to declare 2025 the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation and to proclaim 21 March of each year the World Day for Glaciers, to be observed starting in 2025;

2. *Invites* all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, other international and regional organizations and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, individuals and other relevant stakeholders, to observe the International Year and the World Day, as appropriate, at all levels through activities aimed at raising awareness of the importance of glaciers, snow and ice in the climate system and the economic, social and environmental impacts of the impending changes in the Earth's cryosphere, and to share best practices and knowledge in this regard;

3. *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Meteorological Organization, 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 and observance of the World Day, to take appropriate steps to organize the activities of the Year and the Day and to develop necessary proposals on all activities, such as establishing an integrated global cryosphere information system and an international mechanism to facilitate access to accurate and timely information on the cryosphere, to support Member States in the implementation of the Year and observance of the Day;

4. *Supports* the generous offer of the Government of Tajikistan to convene an international conference dedicated to glaciers' preservation in Tajikistan in 2025;

5. *Invites* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups, other relevant stakeholders and donors to contribute to the trust fund in support of activities undertaken by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Meteorological Organization and the World Glacier Monitoring Service, to support countries in addressing issues related to accelerated melting of glaciers and its consequences;

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

7. *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Meteorological Organization, mindful of the provisions of paragraphs 23 to 27 of the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution [1980/67](#), to keep the General Assembly informed at its eighty-first session and further sessions about the implementation of the present resolution, including an evaluation of the implementation of the International Year and observance of the World Day;

8. *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 of the International Year and the World Day.
