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Macroeconomic policy questions: international trade and development

Pakistan:* draft resolution

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 and [76/190](#) 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,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.



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 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,¹ 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 equal and active 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 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 strengthen Africa's resilience, 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,

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 traditionally underrepresented groups 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

¹ Resolution [69/15](#), annex.

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, especially for the poorest and the most vulnerable, 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 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,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development² and the note by the Secretary-General;³

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 an equitable multilateral trading system should contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the promotion of export-led growth in the developing countries, through inter alia, increasing preferential trade access for developing countries, providing policy space for industrialization and eliminating trade barriers that are not consistent with World Trade Organization agreements;

4. *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 and addressing the new challenges of global trade; this work must be member-driven, open, transparent, inclusive and must address the interests of all members;

5. *Notes* that geopolitical tensions are expected to significantly influence international trade patterns, and reaffirms that stable trade flows contribute to urgently addressing the multiple global crises of food, energy and finance faced by developing countries;

6. *Underscores* the urgency of keeping food, fertilizer and agricultural markets open, equitable, transparent, non-discriminatory and predictable, by, inter alia, eliminating trade-restrictive measures and distortions, speculations and hoarding through the reform of the agricultural multilateral trade rules, according to World Trade Organization mandates and of ensuring sustained food security of countries, particularly least developed and net-food importing developing countries;

7. *Notes with concern* that the majority of support for agricultural producers is either price-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, and looks forward to continuing the World Trade Organization negotiations to further reform

² [A/77/15 \(Part I\)](#) and [A/77/15 \(Part II\)](#).

³ [A/77/207](#).

agricultural trade rules, with a view to achieving concrete and positive results at the thirteenth Ministerial Conference;

8. *Stresses* the importance of the provision and mobilization of new and additional means of implementation, such as climate finance, technology transfer and capacity-building to developing countries, for expanding trade in renewable energy, that can contribute to addressing stable access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy and in line with their national development priorities, including through making renewable energy technologies available for all;

9. *Recognizes* the role of services in supporting global and regional connectivity and business continuity in times of crises and post-crisis recovery, and in this respect calls upon Member States to highlight the critical role of digital technology and creative economy;

10. *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 and the commencement of actual trading under the Agreement aimed at doubling intra-African trade to strengthen Africa's resilience, COVID-19 recovery and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and notes the progress made in the entry into force of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement;

11. *Reiterates* that States will not be able to achieve the ambitious Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁴ 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;

12. *Reaffirms* the commitments made through the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development⁵ in, inter alia, international trade as an important action area for sustainable development;

13. *Recommits firmly* to promoting a universal, rules-based, open, transparent, predictable, inclusive, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, as well as meaningful trade liberalization;

14. *Welcomes* the successful conclusion of the twelfth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held from 12 to 17 June 2022 in Geneva, under the presidency of the Government of Kazakhstan;

15. *Emphasizes* the need to continue combating protectionism in all its forms and to rectify any trade-distorting measures 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 maintain development at its centre, with provisions for special and differential treatment remaining integral;

16. *Welcomes* the decision on the TRIPS Agreement 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

⁴ Resolution 70/1.

⁵ Resolution 69/313, annex.

COVID-19 pandemic,⁶ and calls upon the members of the World Trade Organization to expeditiously decide on its extension to cover the production and supply of COVID-19 diagnostics and therapeutics;

17. *Also welcomes* 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,⁷ and calls for 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, including in partnership with relevant international organizations;⁸

18. *Further welcomes* the adoption of the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies⁹ at the twelfth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization to meet Sustainable Development Goal target 14.6, and urges the members of the World Trade Organization to promptly ratify this agreement according to their domestic procedures, aiming for an expedited entry into force, and exhorts members to work towards establishing comprehensive disciplines addressing subsidies contributing to overfishing for the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources;

19. *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;

20. *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;

21. *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;

22. *Reaffirms* the commitments made through the adoption of the Bridgetown Covenant at the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in Bridgetown from 3 to 7 October 2021,¹⁰ and commits to work through the three pillars – research and analysis, consensus-building and technical cooperation – to contribute to the implementation, monitoring and review of the 2030 Agenda and the relevant Sustainable Development Goals;

⁶ See World Trade Organization, ministerial decision on the TRIPS Agreement (WT/MIN(22)/30), adopted on 17 June 2022.

⁷ 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.

⁸ See World Trade Organization, ministerial declaration on the emergency response to food insecurity (WT/MIN(22)/28), adopted on 17 June 2022.

⁹ See World Trade Organization, ministerial decision on the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies (WT/MIN(22)/33), adopted on 17 June 2022.

¹⁰ 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.

23. *Takes note* of the *Creative Economy Outlook 2022* of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, which reports on the successful implementation of the International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development, 2021, and how creative economy advances the Sustainable Development Goals;

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, in collaboration with the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth 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-eighth session, under the item entitled “Macroeconomic policy questions”, the sub-item entitled “International trade and development”.
