Development policy and international economic cooperation

In 2011, the recovery of the global economy continued, with strong output growth in developing countries and a weaker economic performance in developed countries. Economic progress, however, failed to translate into employment opportunities, and joblessness and poverty remained key challenges. For the United Nations, sustained and inclusive growth for a fair and more equitable globalization, including job creation, as well as steps for advancing the development agenda beyond 2015, were major focus areas in development policy and international economic cooperation. With regard to other priorities, such as food insecurity and climate change, the United Nations examined policy responses, as well as the potential of science and technology, to address global challenges. New development concepts were also assessed, including happiness and well-being and people's empowerment and development.

Sustainable development remained a priority for the UN system. Preparations were under way for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2012. The Commission on Sustainable Development reviewed progress in the follow-up to the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development and the implementation of Agenda 21—the action plan on sustainable development adopted by the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The Commission's high-level segment in May addressed the thematic cluster for its 2010–2011 implementation cycle: transport, chemicals, waste management, mining and a 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns. There was broad agreement that concrete actionable decisions on the five themes were fundamental to achieving the goals of sustainable development and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The UN system continued to work towards the eradication of poverty and the achievement of the MDGs. The General Assembly reviewed progress made in implementing the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017), and the Economic and Social Council, with the adoption of its multi-year programme of work for the annual ministerial reviews 2012–2014, reaffirmed its commitment to the achievement of the MDGs.

The Council, at its high-level segment in July, discussed the theme "Current global and national trends and challenges and their impact on education" and held a high-level policy dialogue with the international financial and trade institutions on developments in the world economy.

At its session in May, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development considered progress made in implementing and following up on the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society. It also dealt with measuring the impact of information and communications technology for development and technologies to confront challenges in areas such as agriculture and water.

The Committee for Development Policy, at its session in March, addressed three themes: education for all, issues related to the least developed countries (LDCs), and migration and development. The Committee of Experts on Public Administration, at its session in April, considered public governance for results, particularly with regard to post-conflict and post-disaster countries, including social protection for vulnerable populations.

The UN system continued to focus on the development problems of groups of countries in special situations. At the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul in May, participants adopted the Istanbul Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020. The Declaration renewed global partnership and solidarity with LDCs, and the Programme of Action set as its overarching goal to overcome the structural challenges faced by LDCs in order to eradicate poverty, achieve internationally agreed development goals and enable graduation from the LDC category.

The General Assembly reviewed UN system support to small island developing States as well as progress in implementing the 1994 Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the follow-up 2005 Mauritius Strategy and the 2003 Almaty Programme of Action for assisting landlocked developing countries.

International economic relations

The *World Economic and Social Survey 2011: The Great Green Technological Transformation* [Sales No. E.11.II.C.1; overview E/2011/50], published by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), analysed the options and challenges associated with the shift to more efficient and renewable

energy technologies; with transforming agricultural technologies so as to guarantee food security without further degrading land and water resources; and with applying the technology required to adapt to climate change and reduce risks to human populations from natural hazards.

The *Survey* noted that the enormous progress in improving welfare over the previous two centuries had come at the lasting cost of degradation of the environment. It stressed the need for new development pathways that would ensure environmental sustainability and reverse ecological destruction, while providing a decent livelihood for present and future generations. Due to the exponential growth in world population, human activity was threatening to surpass the limits of the Earth's capacity as a source of natural resources and a sink for waste, hence requiring a fundamental technological overhaul.

The main challenges lay in the improvement of techniques needed for a green economy, the accessibility and affordability of those technologies for developing countries, and the limited time period given due to pressures on the ecosystem. Governments had to assume a more central role, and intense international cooperation had to be facilitated. The *Survey* proposed the creation of "green national innovation systems" that would reorient sector-specific innovation systems towards a focus on green technologies, and ensure consistency among green technology, industrial and demand-side policies. Targets aimed at a global energy transformation would have to take into account differences in levels of development of countries, and green energy policies would have to be coherent along production and consumption chains. With regard to food security, the report affirmed that the main policy focus on the supply side should be promotion and development of sustainable agriculture as practiced by small farm holders in developing countries. A comprehensive approach to food security was essential and had to be supported by an enabling institutional environment.

The report found that the frequency of climate-related disasters—from which developing countries tended to suffer more—had increased, and pointed out that disaster risk management should be an integral part of national development strategies. Finally, multilateral trading rules and international finance needed to be "greened"; an effective global technology development and diffusion regime needed to be established; the intellectual property rights regime needed to be changed; multilateral trading rules should grant greater flexibility to developing countries in conducting industrial policy; financing of green technology transfer required financial reforms; and global governance capabilities needed to be strengthened.

The *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2011* [Sales No. E.11.II.C.2; update E/2011/113], jointly produced by desa, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (unctad) and the five United Nations regional commissions, found that the recovery of the global economy continued, with strong output growth in developing countries and a weaker economic performance in developed countries. Higher energy and food prices had created upward pressure on inflation rates, underpinning the tightening of monetary policy, especially in many developing countries. Employment trends had improved, but major challenges such as rising long-term unemployment and high youth unemployment in a number of economies remained. World trade of goods and services had expanded more than expected, marking a strong rebound from the severe contraction in 2009. Developing countries—particularly Asian economies with large shares in trade of manufactured goods—led the recovery.

Net private capital inflows to emerging economies continued to recover from their pronounced decline during the global financial crisis. The outlook pointed to a number of risks, however, including problems regarding the sustainability of public finances in developed economies, the remaining vulnerability of the private financial sector, continued high and volatile commodity prices and the possible collapse of the United States dollar. In the area of policymaking, numerous challenges remained, such as how to time the unwinding of fiscal support, the redesign of fiscal policy to promote employment and sustainable development, greater synergy between monetary and fiscal policy, the provision of sufficient funding to developing countries and more effective international policy coordination.

The unctad *Trade and Development Report 2012* [Sales No. E.12.II.D.6] (see p. 902) focused on policies for inclusive and balanced growth.

The *Human Development Report 2011* [Sales No. 11.III.B.1] (see p. 844), prepared by the United Nations Development Programme (undp), had as its theme sustainability and equity.

Development and international economic cooperation

International economic cooperation issues were considered by various UN bodies, including the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

On 10 and 11 March, the Council held in New York its special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions (the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund), the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, addressing the theme

"Coherence, coordination and cooperation on financing for development" (see p. 921).

On 26 April, the Council adopted the themes for its annual ministerial reviews 2012–2014 (**decision 2011/208**). The themes were "Promoting productive capacity, employment and decent work to eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels for achieving the Millennium Development Goals" (2012); "Science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals" (2013); and "Addressing ongoing and emerging challenges for meeting the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 and for sustaining development gains in the future" (2014).

On 22 December, the Assembly took note of the report of the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee on its discussion of macroeconomic policy questions [A/66/438] (**decision 66/542**).

Parliamentary hearing. In February [A/65/728], the General Assembly President transmitted a summary report of the 2010 parliamentary hearing (New York, 2–3 December 2010), organized by the International Parliamentary Union, which addressed the theme "Towards economic recovery: rethinking development, retooling global governance". The annual event was attended by some 160 parliamentarians from 50 countries and five regional parliamentary organizations.

The Economic and Social Council took note of the report on 22 July (**decision 2011/218**).

High-level segment of Economic and Social Council

In accordance with its decision 2010/262 [YUN 2010, p. 1132], the Economic and Social Council, at the high-level segment of its 2011 substantive session (Geneva, 4–8 July) [A/66/3/Rev.1], discussed the theme of "Current global and national trends and challenges and their impact on education". Following its annual ministerial review on the topic, the Council, on 8 July, adopted the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment, entitled "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education" (see p. 1056). It held a special event to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development [YUN 1986, p. 717] and a special event on the humanitarian situation in the Horn of Africa.

The Council had before it a May report [E/2011/15] of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields, submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 1823(XVII) [YUN 1962, p. 293] and Council resolution 1817(LV)

[YUN 1973, p. 449]. The report examined the progress made by different regions in moving towards a new development paradigm of inclusive and sustainable development, and covered regional contributions to the International Year of Youth, the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and the Rio+20 Conference to be held in 2012. It also covered developments in selected areas of regional and interregional cooperation, including policy matters addressed during the regional commissions' ministerial sessions, and efforts to promote coherence at the regional level, including through the Regional Coordination Mechanisms convened by the regional commissions, as well as interregional cooperation among the commissions. The Council also had before it the 2011 world economic and social survey [E/2011/50] (see p. 789) and a report on the world economic situation and prospects as of mid-2011 [E/2011/113] (see p. 790).

Policy dialogue. On 5 July [A/66/3/Rev.1], the Council held a high-level policy dialogue with the international financial and trade institutions of the UN system on developments in the world economy.

Communications. On 25 January [S/2011/215], the League of Arab States transmitted to the Secretary-General the resolutions adopted by the Arab Economic, Development and Social Summit at its second session (Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, 19 January), including the Sharm el-Sheikh Declaration, which renewed commitments regarding development strategies and focused on the advancement of the human, economic, social and technological development of Arab societies.

On 1 June [A/66/87], Namibia, as President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), transmitted to the Secretary-General the text of a resolution adopted by the 124th Assembly of IPU (Panama City, 15–20 April) on the role of parliaments in ensuring sustainable development through the management of natural resources, agricultural production and demographic change.

On 8 July [A/65/903], Kazakhstan transmitted to the Secretary-General the Astana Declaration on "Peace, Cooperation and Development", adopted at the thirty-eighth session of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Council of Foreign Ministers (Astana, Kazakhstan, 28–30 June).

On 27 September [A/66/388], Argentina transmitted to the Secretary-General the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the thirty-fifth annual meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 and China (New York, 23 September), which reviewed the world economic situation and addressed challenges facing developing countries.

Globalization and interdependence

In response to Assembly resolution 65/168 [YUN 2010, p. 793], the Secretary-General submitted an August report [A/66/223] on sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth for a fair and more equitable globalization for all, including job creation. The report reviewed globalization in the wake of the global financial and economic crisis and addressed economic growth and policies to make growth more sustained, inclusive and equitable. It found that the frequency and severity of financial crises had increased over the previous three decades—usually preceded by large capital movements, rising commodity prices and interest rate hikes—and noted that significant problems, such as macroeconomic instability, financial volatility and boom-bust cycles, associated with financial liberalization and unrestricted private capital flows, which particularly affected developing countries, remained unsolved. It further examined new and emerging developments in globalization with regard to economic growth, income poverty, employment, inequality, international trade, financial flows, debt relief and distress, food security, environment and climate change, as well as information and communications technology. The report emphasized the need for more equitable growth and employment through land reforms, social policies and productive job creation.

The Secretary-General recommended increased policy coherence and coordination at the international level to prevent and mitigate the effects of future financial crises. Developing countries needed enhanced policy space, and the international community should provide further assistance to developing countries in terms of managing development processes, strengthening social protection and building human capital and capacity. As for financial support, the Secretary-General underlined the importance of commitments to official development assistance and suggested that debt relief be provided by extending the heavily indebted poor countries initiative to all low-income countries with debt problems.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 22 December [meeting 91], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/66/442/Add.1], adopted **resolution 66/210** without vote [agenda item 21 (*a*)].

Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 62/199 of 19 December 2007, 63/222 of 19 December 2008, 64/210 of 21 December 2009 and 65/168 of 20 December 2010 on the role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence,

Reaffirming the central role of the United Nations in promoting international cooperation for development and policy coherence on global development issues, including in the context of globalization and interdependence,

Recognizing that globalization and interdependence imply that the economic performance of a country is increasingly affected by factors outside its geographical borders and that maximizing in an equitable manner the benefits of globalization requires responses to globalization to be developed through a strengthened global partnership for development to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Reaffirming its strong support for fair and inclusive globalization and the need to translate growth into poverty reduction and, in this regard, its resolve to make the goals of full and productive employment and decent work for all, including for women and young people, a central objective of relevant national and international policies as well as national development strategies, including poverty reduction strategies, as part of efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals,

Expressing deep concern about the ongoing adverse impacts, particularly on development, of the world financial and economic crisis, cognizant that the global economy is entering a challenging new phase with significant downside risks, including turbulence in global financial and commodity markets and widespread fiscal strains, which threaten the global economic recovery, and stressing the need to continue to address systemic fragilities and imbalances and the need for continuing efforts to reform and strengthen the international financial system,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Globalization and interdependence: sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth for a fair and more equitable globalization for all, including job creation",

1. *Reaffirms* the need for the United Nations to play a fundamental role in the promotion of international cooperation for development and the coherence, coordination and implementation of development goals and actions agreed upon by the international community, and resolves to strengthen coordination within the United Nations system in close cooperation with all other multilateral financial, trade and development institutions in order to support sustained economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development;

2. *Also reaffirms* the need to strengthen the central role of the United Nations in enhancing the global partnership for development, with a view to creating a supportive global environment for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, including accelerating efforts to deliver and fully implement existing global partnership for development commitments;

3. *Recognizes* that the scaling-up of successful policies and approaches in the implementation and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals needs to be complemented by a strengthened global partnership for development;

4. *Also recognizes* that the increasing interdependence of national economies in a globalizing world and the emergence of rules-based regimes for international economic relations have meant that the space for national economic policy, that is, the scope for domestic policies, especially in the areas of trade, investment and international devel-

opment, is now often framed by international disciplines, commitments and global market considerations and that it is for each Government to evaluate the trade-off between the benefits of accepting international rules and commitments and the constraints posed by the loss of policy space;

5. *Further recognizes* that policies which link economic and social development can contribute to reducing inequalities within and among countries with a view to guaranteeing that the poor and those living in the most vulnerable situations maximize their benefits from economic growth and development;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session the item entitled "Globalization and interdependence", and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly a report on the sub-item entitled "Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence".

Development cooperation with middle-income countries

In response to resolution 64/208 [YUN 2009, p. 795], the Secretary-General submitted an August report [A/66/220] on development cooperation with middle-income countries. Representing more than 70 per cent of the world population and almost 43 per cent of world gross product, and with a number of economies sustaining rapid growth over the preceding decade, middle-income countries had been increasingly reshaping patterns of global production, trade, capital flows, technology and labour conditions. The report addressed challenges for the development of middle-income countries, including macroeconomic trends, poverty and inequality and policy challenges. It further examined achievements in development cooperation of the UN system with middle-income countries, along with the engagement of international financial institutions. According to the Secretary-General, the UN system needed to develop a more specific policy framework for middle-income countries, taking into account the diversity among and within those countries. Technical cooperation should enhance the capacities of those countries to promote higher value-added, knowledge-based industrial and modern service economies; diversify exports; increase employment; promote social inclusion and investment in social development; ensure a consistently countercyclical macrofinancial framework and policies; strengthen prudential national financial regulation; and ensure economic, social and environmental policy coherence by means of national development strategies.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 22 December [meeting 91], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/66/442/Add.3], adopted **resolution 66/212** without vote [agenda item 21 (*c*)].

The General Assembly,

Recalling the outcomes of the United Nations major international conferences and summits, including the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome, as well as the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions,

Reaffirming its resolution 62/208 of 19 December 2007, entitled "Triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system", in which it recognized that middle-income developing countries still face significant challenges in the area of poverty eradication and that efforts to address those challenges should be supported in order to ensure that achievements made to date are sustained, including through support to the effective development of comprehensive cooperation policies,

Recalling its resolutions 63/223 of 19 December 2008 and 64/208 of 21 December 2009,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

2. *Stresses* the importance of the continued substantive consideration of the issue of development cooperation with middle-income countries;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a report on development cooperation with middle-income countries, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of the session, under the item entitled "Globalization and interdependence" the sub-item entitled "Development cooperation with middle-income countries".

Development through partnerships

In compliance with resolution 64/223 [YUN 2009, p. 796], the Secretary-General submitted an August report [A/66/320] on the implementation of the proposed modalities for enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, in particular the private sector. The report reviewed the concept of partnerships, the role of Member States, developments at the system level, trends at the level of agencies, funds and programmes and measures to address key operational challenges. The Secretary-General recommended that the UN system strengthen the enabling environment for partnerships with the private sector through more strategic approaches and new partnership models, thus achieving greater impact and scale. Further recommendations included improving capacity-building at all levels, improving partner selection and engagement processes and taking into account the recommendations of the Global Compact LEAD Working Group, launched at the Private Sector Forum in September.

JIU report. In July [A/66/137 & Corr.1], the Secretary-General transmitted a Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) report entitled "United Nations corporate partnerships: the role and functioning of the Global Compact",

which examined the role and degree of success of the Global Compact and the risks associated with the use of the United Nations brand by companies that might benefit from their association with the Organization without having to prove their conformity with UN core values and principles.

Jiu found that, while the Global Compact initiative evolved quickly under the aegis of the Secretary-General, the lack of a clear mandate had resulted in blurred focus and impact, while the absence of adequate entry criteria and an effective monitoring system had drawn some criticism and reputational risk for the Organization. The inspectors further noted the absence of a regulatory and institutional framework, as well as the lack of an effective screening and monitoring system to verify the engagement of the participants and their actual implementation of the Global Compact principles. At times, the flexibility granted to the Global Compact Office (gco) in terms of financing and staffing had led to the bypassing of regulations and to an unbalanced funding structure. The report further identified a costly and ineffective governance structure without central decision-making, and stressed the need for an independent performance evaluation mechanism.

Jiu recommended the preparation of a long-term strategic framework in accordance with a clear mandate for the gco, and the regrouping of the latter with the United Nations Office for Partnerships under one umbrella. In terms of participants, it requested a more equal composition by category and geographic region, and a selection process based on preset criteria. Further recommendations concerned the strengthening of accountability, transparency, funding structure and evaluation mechanisms.

In October [A/66/137/Add.1], the Secretary-General transmitted his comments on the jiu report. He generally agreed on the remarks of the inspectors and stated that many of the recommendations had already been implemented or were being implemented.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 22 December [meeting 91], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/66/447], adopted **resolution 66/223** without vote [agenda item 26].

Towards global partnerships

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/215 of 21 December 2000, 56/76 of 11 December 2001, 58/129 of 19 December 2003, 60/215 of 22 December 2005, 62/211 of 19 December 2007 and 64/223 of 21 December 2009,

Reiterating that sustainable development is a key element of the overarching framework for United Nations activities, in particular for achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and those contained in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),

Recalling the objectives formulated in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, notably the Millennium Development Goals, and the reaffirmation they received in the 2005 World Summit Outcome, and the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals in 2010, particularly in regard to developing partnerships through the provision of greater opportunities to the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society in general so as to enable them to contribute to the realization of the goals and programmes of the Organization, in particular in the pursuit of development and the eradication of poverty,

Underlining the fact that cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, including the private sector, shall serve the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, and shall be undertaken in a manner that maintains and promotes the integrity, impartiality and independence of the Organization,

Taking note of the further increase in the number of public-private partnerships worldwide,

Welcoming the contribution of all relevant partners, including the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society, to the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations conferences and summits and their reviews in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, as well as the realization of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Emphasizing that the United Nations, together with the private sector and all other relevant partners, can contribute in multiple ways to addressing the obstacles confronted by developing countries in mobilizing the resources needed to finance their sustainable development and to the realization of the internationally agreed development goals,

Welcoming the efforts and encouraging further efforts by all relevant partners, including the private sector, to engage as reliable and consistent partners in the development process and to take into account not only the economic and financial but also the developmental, social, human rights, gender and environmental implications of their undertakings and, in general, towards implementing corporate social and environmental responsibility, that is, bringing such values and responsibilities to bear on their conduct and policy premised on profit incentives, in conformity with national laws and regulations,

Recalling that the 2005 World Summit welcomed the positive contributions of the private sector and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, foundations and academia, in the promotion and implementation of development and human rights programmes, and also recalling that the 2005 World Summit resolved to enhance the contribution of non-governmental organizations, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders in national development efforts, as well as in the promotion of the global partnership for development, and encouraged public-private partnerships in a wide range of areas, with the aim of eradicating poverty and promoting full employment and social integration,

Noting that private sector partnerships can play an important role in support of the humanitarian assistance activities of the United Nations system, taking into account the primary role of the affected State in the initiation, organization, coordination and implementation of such assistance within its territory,

Recognizing the contribution of the private sector to the provision of resources and expertise on the policy environment, technical programmes, advocacy and communication, knowledge management and resource mobilization in many areas, in accordance with national legislation and development plans and priorities,

Noting that the financial and economic crisis, inter alia, has demonstrated the need for values and principles in business, including for sustainable business practices, and the promotion of full and productive employment and decent work for all, which in turn has led to broader private sector engagement in support of United Nations goals,

Reaffirming the principles of sustainable development, and underlining the need for a global consensus on the key values and principles that will promote sustainable, fair, equitable and sustained economic development, and that corporate social and environmental responsibility are important elements of such a consensus,

Recognizing the importance of promoting a gender perspective in global partnerships, welcoming in this context the establishment of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), and taking note with appreciation of the joint United Nations Global Compact/UN-Women initiative "Women's Empowerment Principles: Equality Means Business",

Taking note with appreciation of the progress achieved in the work of the United Nations on partnerships, notably in the framework of various United Nations organizations, agencies, funds, programmes, task forces, commissions and initiatives, and taking note of the establishment of partnerships at the field level, entered into by various United Nations agencies, non-public partners and Member States,

Noting with appreciation the advancement of the concept of corporate social responsibility through the United Nations Global Compact,

Recognizing the vital role that the United Nations Global Compact Office continues to play with regard to strengthening the capacity of the United Nations to partner strategically with the private sector in accordance with its General Assembly mandate to advance United Nations values and responsible business practices within the United Nations system and among the global business community,

1.   *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General, the report of the Joint Inspection Unit and the comments of the Secretary-General thereon;

2.   *Stresses* that partnerships are voluntary and collaborative relationships between various parties, both public and non-public, in which all participants agree to work together to achieve a common purpose or undertake a specific task and, as mutually agreed, to share risks and responsibilities, resources and benefits;

3.   *Also stresses* the importance of the contribution of voluntary partnerships to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, while reiterating that they are a complement to, but not intended to substitute for, the commitment made by Governments with a view to achieving those goals;

4.   *Further stresses* that partnerships should be consistent with national laws and national development strategies and plans, as well as the priorities of countries where they are implemented, bearing in mind the relevant guidance provided by Governments;

5.   *Emphasizes* the vital role played by Governments in promoting responsible business practices, including providing the necessary legal and regulatory frameworks, where appropriate, and invites them to continue to provide support to United Nations efforts to engage with the private sector, as appropriate and bearing in mind the activities undertaken by the United Nations Global Compact Local Networks;

6.   *Recognizes* the vital role that the private sector plays in development, including through engaging in various partnership models and by generating decent employment and investment, giving access to and developing new technologies, as well as stimulating sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, while bearing in mind the need to ensure that their activities conform fully with the principle of national ownership of development strategies;

7.   *Also recognizes* the need for effective accountability and transparency in the implementation of such public-private partnerships by the United Nations;

8.   *Calls upon* the international community to continue to promote multi-stakeholder approaches in addressing the challenges of development in the context of globalization;

9.   *Encourages* the United Nations system to continue to develop, for those partnerships in which it participates, a common and systemic approach, which places greater emphasis on impact, transparency, coherence, accountability and sustainability, without imposing undue rigidity in partnership agreements, and with due consideration being given to the following partnership principles: common purpose, transparency, bestowing no unfair advantages upon any partner of the United Nations, mutual benefit and mutual respect, accountability, respect for the modalities of the United Nations, striving for balanced representation of relevant partners from developed and developing countries and countries with economies in transition, sectoral and geographic balance, and not compromising the independence and neutrality of the United Nations;

10.   *Also encourages* the United Nations system to continue to find innovative and additional ways to achieve lasting impact by identifying and replicating successful partnership models and pursuing new forms of collaboration;

11.   *Requests* the United Nations Global Compact Local Networks to promote the Women's Empowerment Principles and to create awareness of the many ways in which business can promote gender equality in the workplace, marketplace and community;

12.   *Underlines*, in this context, the importance of integrity measures as taken and advocated by the United Nations Global Compact;

13.   *Requests* the Secretary-General to promote effective implementation of the revised United Nations guidelines for partnerships between the United Nations and the private sector, including through the effective implementation of the revised Guidelines on Cooperation between the United Nations and the Business Sector, thus promoting a

culture of transparency and performance, and invites the Secretary-General to create an internal advisory group in the Secretariat, which will use innovative and cost-effective working methods to ensure coherent brand management across the United Nations and to make recommendations on partnership best practices and lessons learned;

14. *Invites* the United Nations system, when considering partnerships, to seek to engage in a more coherent manner with private sector entities, including small and medium-sized enterprises, that support the core values of the United Nations as reflected in the Charter and other relevant conventions and treaties and that commit to the principles of the United Nations Global Compact by translating them into operational corporate policies, codes of conduct and management, monitoring and reporting systems;

15. *Encourages* the international community to strengthen global partnerships for the integration and implementation of the International Labour Organization Global Jobs Pact in partnerships, in accordance with national plans and priorities;

16. *Takes note with appreciation* of the convening of an annual United Nations Private Sector Forum since 2008;

17. *Also takes note with appreciation* of the introduction of the private sector track at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011;

18. *Recognizes* the work of the United Nations Global Compact Local Networks, as well as the importance of cooperation between the United Nations system at the local level and the United Nations Global Compact Local Networks, to support, as appropriate and in a manner complementary to existing networks, the coordination and application of global partnerships locally;

19. *Acknowledges* the holding of annual meetings of United Nations system private sector focal points, which bring together United Nations entities to share best practices and lessons learned in order to improve partnerships and create conditions for effective scaling up;

20. *Notes* the progress made in further facilitating the collaboration between the United Nations and the private sector and enhancing transparency by the launching of the United Nations business website, which links private sector resources with the needs of the United Nations system;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a report on specific progress on integrity measures, on the implementation of the revised United Nations guidelines for partnerships between the United Nations and the private sector and on the strengthening of the United Nations Global Compact Local Networks.

Happiness and well-being

Introducing on 19 July [A/65/PV.109] a draft resolution [A/65/L.86] entitled "Happiness: towards a holistic approach to development", Bhutan noted that an increasing number of thinkers, economists and political leaders were searching for ways to make development more sustainable, humane and holistic, and that several Member States had taken initiatives to develop indicators for happiness and well-being.

The draft resolution invited Member States to elaborate additional measures that better reflected happiness and well-being, with a view to guiding their public policies.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 July [meeting 109], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 65/309** [draft: A/65/L.86 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 13].

Happiness: towards a holistic approach to development

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the purposes and principles of the United Nations, as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, which include the promotion of the economic advancement and social progress of all peoples,

Conscious that the pursuit of happiness is a fundamental human goal,

Cognizant that happiness as a universal goal and aspiration embodies the spirit of the Millennium Development Goals,

Recognizing that the gross domestic product indicator by nature was not designed to and does not adequately reflect the happiness and well-being of people in a country,

Conscious that unsustainable patterns of production and consumption can impede sustainable development, and recognizing the need for a more inclusive, equitable and balanced approach to economic growth that promotes sustainable development, poverty eradication, happiness and well-being of all peoples,

Acknowledging the need to promote sustainable development and achieve the Millennium Development Goals,

1. *Invites* Member States to pursue the elaboration of additional measures that better capture the importance of the pursuit of happiness and well-being in development with a view to guiding their public policies;

2. *Invites* those Member States that have taken initiatives to develop new indicators, and other initiatives, to share information thereon with the Secretary-General as a contribution to the United Nations development agenda, including the Millennium Development Goals;

3. *Welcomes* the offer of Bhutan to convene during the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly a panel discussion on the theme of happiness and well-being;

4. *Invites* the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States and relevant regional and international organizations on the pursuit of happiness and well-being and to communicate such views to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session for further consideration.

People's empowerment and development

In a letter of 13 August [A/66/197] to the Secretary-General, Bangladesh requested the inclusion in the agenda of the sixty-sixth (2011) session of the General Assembly of a supplementary item entitled "People's empowerment and a peace-centric development model". According to an attached explanatory

memorandum, interlinked and mutually reinforcing elements of peace and empowerment included eradicating poverty and hunger, reducing inequality, mitigating deprivation, creating jobs for all, including excluded people, accelerating human development and fighting terrorism of all kinds.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 22 December [meeting 91], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/66/448], adopted **resolution 66/224** without vote [agenda item 29].

People's empowerment and development

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Expressing concern about the crippling effects of poverty, inequality and disparity all over the globe, and recognizing that people should be the focus of all plans, programmes and policies, at all levels,

Recognizing that the empowerment of people is essential to achieving development,

Appreciating the efforts of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, in articulating the linkages between people's empowerment and development,

1. *Notes* the proposal of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh on integrating the interlinked and mutually reinforcing elements of people's empowerment and development, expressed as eradicating poverty and hunger, reducing inequality, mitigating deprivation, creating jobs for all, including excluded people, accelerating human development and fighting terrorism in all its forms and manifestations in accordance with international law;

2. *Also notes* the offer of the Government of Bangladesh to convene an international conference on people's empowerment and development during the first half of 2012 to seek the views of Member States on the subject.

Human security

In resolution 64/291 [YUN 2010, p. 806], the General Assembly took note of the ongoing efforts to define the notion of human security and requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States in that regard. In a July note [A/66/160], the Secretariat stated that extensive consultations with all relevant stakeholders were expected to take place throughout 2011 in order to propose a possible definition.

Sustainable development

In 2011, various UN bodies, including the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Sustainable Development, considered the implementation of the outcomes of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development [YUN 2002, p. 821], particularly the Johannesburg Declaration

and Plan of Implementation, which outlined actions and targets for stepping up implementation of Agenda 21—a programme of action for sustainable development worldwide, adopted at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development [YUN 1992, p. 672]—and of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, adopted by the Assembly at its nineteenth special session in 1997 [YUN 1997, p. 792]. Further steps were taken to prepare for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2012.

In presidential statement **S/PRST/2011/4** of 11 February (see p. 41), the Security Council highlighted the interdependence between security and development and underlined the importance of close cooperation with the Economic and Social Council in accordance with Article 65 of the UN Charter.

Commission on Sustainable Development

As the main body responsible for coordinating and monitoring implementation of the Summit outcomes, the Commission on Sustainable Development held its nineteenth session in New York (14 May 2010 and 2–13 May 2011) [E/2011/29], electing members of the Bureau at its first meeting on 14 May 2010.

Intersessional events. An intersessional senior expert group meeting on "Sustainable development of lithium resources in Latin America: emerging issues and opportunities" (Santiago, Chile, 10–11 November 2010) [E/CN.17/2011/16] concluded that greater international cooperation, including scientific, technological and financial cooperation, was needed to enhance national and regional sustainable development.

An intersessional consultative meeting on "Solid waste management in Africa" (Rabat, Morocco, 25–26 November 2010) [E/CN.17/2011/15], organized by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) in partnership with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), sought to identify the special needs of the African continent and to build a coalition for reducing the negative impacts of improper waste management. In the resulting Rabat Declaration, participants stated that enhanced waste management through partnerships would offer multiple benefits for Africa.

DESA and UNEP held a high-level intersessional meeting [E/CN.17/2011/13] on a 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns (Panama City, 13–14 January 2011). The Commission recognized that the framework could provide a platform for the sharing of best practices and thus enable replication and monitoring of goals and objectives.

An intersessional conference on building partnerships for moving towards zero waste (Tokyo, 16–18 February) [E/CN.17/2011/14], organized by DESA, the United Nations Centre for Regional Development and the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, addressed the rising volume and complexity of waste streams and called for an international partnership to respond to that challenge.

Preparatory meeting. The Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting for the Commission's nineteenth session (New York, 28 February–4 March) [E/CN.17/2011/19] had before it the Secretary-General's reports on policy options and actions for expediting progress in implementation on interlinkages and cross-cutting issues [E/CN.17/2011/3], transport [E/CN.17/2011/4], chemicals [E/CN.17/2011/5], waste management [E/CN.17/2011/6], mining [E/CN.17/2011/7] and a 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns [E/CN.17/2011/8]. Also before the Meeting was a Secretariat note [E/CN.17/2011/12] on priorities for actions of major groups concerning transport, chemicals, waste management, mining and a 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns.

Following discussions on those themes, the Chair proposed a draft negotiating document to be transmitted to the Commission. Participants took note of the document on 4 March.

Communication. Thailand submitted to the nineteenth session a summary of the Fifth Regional Environmentally Sustainable Transport Forum in Asia (Bangkok, 23–25 August 2010) [E/CN.17/2011/18], jointly organized by Thailand, Japan, the United Nations Centre for Regional Development and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

Policy session. At its nineteenth session—the policy session of the 2010–2011 implementation cycle—the Commission discussed the thematic cluster for the cycle: transport, chemicals, waste management, mining and a 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns. There was broad agreement among the delegates that concrete decisions on those five themes were of fundamental importance to achieving the goals of sustainable development and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Full agreement on elements of a decision on the transport and mining themes as well as on a 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns was reached; however, consensus was not achieved on the themes related to chemicals and waste management.

The Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council for adoption one draft decision on the provisional agenda for its twentieth session and another on the adoption of the report on the Commission's nineteenth session. It also took note of the draft

programme of work for the biennium 2012–2013 for the DESA Division for Sustainable Development [E/CN.17/2011/11]. The Commission brought to the attention of the Council the Chair's summary, "Proposed outcome document on policy options and practical measures to expedite implementation in transport, chemicals, waste management, mining, and a 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns".

High-level segment. The Commission's high-level segment (11–13 May) addressed the five thematic areas under consideration. Interactive ministerial round tables were held on developing programmes and a framework to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production, enhancing access to sustainable urban and rural transport, moving towards zero waste and sound management of chemicals and creating an enabling environment for sustainable mining. Delegations indicated the need to achieve concrete policy actions and measures that would expedite the implementation of the sustainable development agenda with clear means of implementation and political will. Building partnerships and strengthening cooperation, including South-South and South-North cooperation, were also suggested.

The interactive ministerial dialogue of 13 May was opened by the Secretary-General, who stressed that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) should provide the opportunity to make a fundamental transformation in consumption patterns, lifestyles and values, while addressing the need for equity in institutions and policies.

During the partnerships fair (2–6 May), registered partnerships for sustainable development reported on progress achieved, lessons learned and opportunities explored to network with existing and potential partners and to create synergies among partnerships. The Learning Centre offered 14 courses in which participants had the opportunity to gain knowledge, acquire practical know-how, share national experiences and discuss best practices with regard to the five themes, as well as cross-cutting issues such as monitoring, education and partnerships.

The Economic and Social Council, on 27 July, took note of the Commission's report on its nineteenth session (**decision 2011/244**) and approved the provisional agenda for the Commission's twentieth session (**decision 2011/243**).

Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation

In response to General Assembly resolution 65/152 [YUN 2010, p. 803], the Secretary-General submitted

an August report [A/66/287] 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, reviewing actions taken by Governments, UN system organizations and major groups in implementing sustainable development goals and targets, including through partnerships.

The report elaborated ways to promote closer convergence among the three pillars of sustainable development—economic growth, social improvement and environmental protection—and examined challenges related to poverty eradication, adverse impacts on nature and natural resources, and international commitment. It identified as priorities the sectors of energy, water, food security and sustainable agriculture, urbanization, biodiversity and oceans; stressed the importance of institutions and governance regarding sustainable development; and reviewed preparations for the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

The declared goal of establishing a renewable low-carbon energy system on a global scale remained elusive; the Secretary-General recommended common efforts to expand access to clean energy, enhance industrial energy efficiency and promote green industry. More investment in water infrastructure and better management of water were required to enhance agricultural productivity and meet growing demand. While the proportion of the urban population living in slums had decreased, the absolute numbers had risen from 767 million to some 828 million over the previous decade, pointing to the need for equitable planning and adequate economic policies. The report stressed the fact that nearly 17,000 species of plants and animals were threatened with extinction, and requested strategic planning and greater efficiency in the use of natural resources in order to prevent further human-induced biodiversity loss. Moreover, newly emerging threats such as ocean acidification, ocean noise and plastics, microplastics and marine debris had to be addressed. The Secretary-General stated that the institutional framework needed to support the integration of the three pillars of sustainable development, avoid duplication and strengthen coherence and synergies.

On 24 December, the General Assembly decided that the agenda item on sustainable development would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-sixth (2012) session (**decision 66/557**).

Preparations for UN Conference on Sustainable Development

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 64/236 [YUN 2009, p. 802], the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held its second session (New York, 7–8 March) [A/CONF.216/PC/9]. It considered progress achieved and remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits in the area of sustainable development; analysed the themes of the Conference; and addressed organizational and procedural matters.

The Committee had before it the Secretary-General's report on the objective and themes of the Conference [A/CONF.216/PC/7] and a related note by the Secretariat [A/CONF.216/PC/8].

The Committee held two interactive discussions on the themes of the Conference: "Green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication" and "Institutional framework for sustainable development". On 8 March, the Committee adopted a decision on the process for the preparation of the draft outcome document for the Conference.

Meeting on 12 September, the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee prepared a set of recommendations for the organization of work of the Conference. On 4 October [A/C.2/66/2], the Co-Chairs of the Bureau—Antigua and Barbuda and the Republic of Korea—transmitted those recommendations to the Secretary-General for consideration by the Second Committee and possible inclusion in the final resolution on the modalities of the Conference.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 22 December [meeting 91], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/66/440/Add.1], adopted **resolution 66/197** without vote [agenda item 19 (*a*)].

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

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/199 of 20 December 2000, 56/226 of 24 December 2001, 57/253 and 57/270 A of 20 December 2002 and 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, as well as its resolutions 64/236 of 24 December 2009 and 65/152 of 20 December 2010 and all other 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,

Recalling also the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"), as well as the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, 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 and the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,

Recalling further its decision to hold the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Brazil in 2012,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development on its second session, and endorses its decision 2/1, entitled "Process for the preparation of the draft outcome document for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development", as contained in chapter VI of the report;

3. *Decides* that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development shall be held from 20 to 22 June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and recommends for adoption by the Conference the provisional agenda of the Conference as set forth in annex I to the present resolution;

4. *Encourages* Member States to be represented at the Conference at the highest possible level, including Heads of State or Government;

5. *Decides* that the Conference shall be composed of six plenary meetings, on the basis of two meetings a day, and four high-level round-table sessions, to be held in concurrence with the plenary meetings, except during the opening and closing plenary meetings;

6. *Also decides* that the Conference shall be organized in accordance with the organization of work set forth in annex II to the present resolution;

7. *Notes* the need to expedite the process for conclusion of the draft provisional rules of procedure of the Conference as early as possible in 2012 and, in this regard, notes the decision of the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee to initiate informal consultations on this matter to be concluded in a timely manner;

8. *Calls upon* all Member States to continue to actively engage in the preparatory process, and in the Conference itself, with a view to reaching a successful outcome of the Conference;

9. *Decides* that the third session of the Preparatory Committee shall be held from 13 to 15 June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro;

10. *Strongly encourages* Member States to conclude negotiations on the draft outcome document at the third session of the Preparatory Committee;

11. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to continue 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 objective and the two themes of the Conference can be addressed;

12. *Invites* Member States, observers and all relevant stakeholders, including the regional commissions, United Nations organizations and bodies, other relevant intergovernmental and regional organizations, international financial institutions and major groups involved in sustainable development, to participate fully and effectively in the Conference and to provide ideas and proposals reflecting their experiences and lessons learned as a contribution to the preparatory process of the Conference, as agreed in the preparatory process by Member States;

13. *Encourages* Governments, in their national preparations for the Conference, to continue to actively involve and to coordinate inputs from all national agencies responsible for economic development, social development and environmental protection;

14. *Emphasizes* the importance of the support of the United Nations development system, as appropriate, for national preparations for the Conference, upon the request of national authorities;

15. *Reiterates its deep concern* that the resources available in the voluntary Trust Fund to Support the Work of the Commission on Sustainable Development are insufficient to fund the participation of representatives from developing countries, as well as representatives of major groups, in the meetings of the preparatory process of the Conference and in the Conference itself;

16. *Urges* international and bilateral donors and other countries and entities in a position to do so to provide contributions to the voluntary Trust Fund for the Conference in a timely manner and requests the Secretary-General to make further efforts to use the limited resources in the Trust Fund in an efficient, effective and transparent manner in order to enhance the active participation of representatives from developing countries in the preparatory process of the Conference (comprising the remaining intersessional meetings, informal informal negotiations and the third session of the Preparatory Committee), and in the Conference itself, and in this regard encourages the Secretary-General, when using the resources of the Trust Fund, to prioritize the coverage of economy-class air tickets, daily subsistence and terminal expenses;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the outcome of the Conference to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

18. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development", taking into account the outcome of the Conference.

ANNEX I

Provisional agenda of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 20 to 22 June 2012

1. Opening of the Conference.
2. Election of the President.
3. Adoption of the rules of procedure.
4. Adoption of the agenda of the Conference.
5. Election of officers other than the President.
6. Organization of work, including the establishment of subsidiary bodies, 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. Reports of the round tables.
10. Outcome of the Conference.
11. Adoption of the report of the Conference.
12. Closure of the Conference.

Proposed organization of work of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 20 to 22 June 2012

1. The arrangements set out below have been formulated pursuant to General Assembly resolution 64/236.

2. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012.

I. Organization of work

A
Plenary meetings

3. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development will consist of a total of six high-level plenary meetings to be held, as follows:

Wednesday, 20 June 2012: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

Thursday, 21 June 2012: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

Friday, 22 June 2012: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

Evening sessions may be held, if required. All plenary meetings will be held at the Riocentro Exhibition and Convention Center.

4. The list of speakers for the plenary meetings will be established by the drawing of lots, in accordance with the customary protocol that ensures that Heads of State or Government speak first, followed by other heads of delegation. The Holy See, in its capacity as observer State, Palestine, in its capacity as observer, and the European Union, in its capacity as observer, will be included in the list of speakers. Statements will be limited to five minutes. Detailed arrangements will be communicated in a timely manner through a note by the Secretariat, prepared in close consultations with the host country and the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee.

5. The formal opening plenary meeting, to be held during the morning of Wednesday, 20 June, will consider all procedural and organizational matters, including the adoption of the rules of procedure and of the agenda, the election of the President of the Conference, the election of officers, the establishment of a Main Committee, the appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee and arrangements for the preparation of the report of the Conference, and other matters. The plenary meeting will also hear statements from the President of the Economic and Social Council and the nine major groups.

6. At the ceremonial opening of the Conference, which will be held on Wednesday, 20 June, during the afternoon plenary meeting, statements will be made by the President of the Conference, the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the Conference.

7. The closing plenary meeting, to be held during the afternoon of Friday, 22 June, is expected to conclude with the presentation of the summaries by the Rapporteurs of the high-level round tables and the adoption of the outcome document and the report of the Conference.

B
Main Committee

8. A Main Committee, established in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference, will meet, if necessary, in parallel with plenary meetings except during the opening and closing meetings. The Main Committee would be seized with finalizing any outstanding matters.

C
High-level round tables

9. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development will hold four high-level round-table sessions in parallel with the plenary meetings, as follows:

Wednesday, 20 June 2012: from 4.30 to 7.30 p.m.

Thursday, 21 June 2012: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

Friday, 22 June 2012: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

10. The four high-level round-table sessions will have a common theme: "Looking at the way forward in implementing the expected outcomes of the Conference".

11. Each high-level round table will have two Co-Chairs and a Rapporteur, to be appointed by the President of the Conference from among the Heads of State or Government and ministers attending the Conference, in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical distribution and taking into account invitations for nominations to be extended to the Chairs of regional groups.

12. The outcomes of the round tables should be reflected in the summaries by the Rapporteurs, which should be submitted to the closing plenary meeting of the Conference and included in the final report of the Conference.

13. The four round-table sessions will be interactive and multi-stakeholder in nature, with seventy seats each: up to fifty for Government delegations and at least twenty for other participants, including representatives of observers, entities of the United Nations system and other accredited intergovernmental organizations and major groups. Member States and other participants are encouraged to be represented at the round tables at the highest possible level. Participants will be invited by the Secretariat to sign up for participation in one of the round tables in advance of the Conference, bearing in mind the total number of participants outlined above. The opening of the inscription for participation in the round tables will be announced in the *Journal of the United Nations*.

14. Any given State, observer, entity of the United Nations system or other accredited intergovernmental organization or representative of a major group may participate in only one of the round tables. Each participant may be accompanied by one adviser.

15. The list of participants in each round-table session will be made available prior to the meeting.

16. The proceedings of the round tables will be telecast in an "overflow room" which will be open to the media and all other accredited participants.

II. Credentials of representatives to the Conference: appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee

17. A Credentials Committee will be appointed according to the rules of procedure of the Conference.

III.   Participants

A
Member States and observers

18.   The Conference, including the plenary and informal meetings, will be open to participation by all States Members of the United Nations, the Holy See, in its capacity as observer State, Palestine, in its capacity as observer, and the European Union, in its capacity as observer, as well as intergovernmental organizations and other entities having received a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate as observers in the sessions and the work of all international conferences convened under its auspices, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference.

B
Institutional stakeholders

19.   Other relevant intergovernmental organizations that were accredited to the World Summit on Sustainable Development and to the Commission on Sustainable Development, as well as relevant organizations of the United Nations system, may participate in the deliberations of the Conference, as appropriate, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference.

20.   In addition, interested intergovernmental organizations that were not accredited to the World Summit on Sustainable Development or to the Commission on Sustainable Development may apply to the General Assembly for accreditation following the established accreditation procedure. Online registration and accreditation forms will be available at the Conference website.

C
Major groups

21.   Non-governmental organizations and other major groups that were accredited to the World Summit on Sustainable Development and those that are in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council are invited to participate in the deliberations of the Conference, as appropriate, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference.

22.   In addition, interested non-governmental organizations and other major groups that are not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or were not accredited to the World Summit on Sustainable Development or to the Commission on Sustainable Development may apply to the General Assembly for accreditation following the established accreditation procedure.

IV.   Secretariat

23.   The Secretary-General of the Conference serves as focal point within the Secretariat of the United Nations for providing support to the organization of the Conference, in cooperation with the host country authorities.

V.   Documentation

24.   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.

25.   In accordance with the practice followed at previous United Nations conferences, it is recommended that the report of the Conference consist of the decisions of the Conference, a brief account of the proceedings and a reportorial account of the work of the Conference and the action taken at the plenary meetings.

26.   Summaries of the plenary meetings and high-level round-table discussions should also be included in the report of the Conference.

VI.   Organization of parallel meetings and other events of the Conference

27.   Parallel meetings and other events, including a partnership forum and learning centres, will be held during the same hours as the plenary meetings and the round tables, if they are held in the main building. The partnership forum and learning centres will constitute an official part of the Conference. Interpretation for such meetings will be provided on an as-available basis.

VII.   Side events

28.   Special events, including briefings, seminars, workshops and panel discussions on issues related to sustainable development, will be organized by Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and accredited institutional and non-institutional stakeholders for the benefit of the participants in the Conference. Guidelines for organizing special events and the calendar of those events will be made available at the Conference website.

VIII.   Media coverage

29.   Press materials will be prepared by the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat for journalists covering the Conference. In addition, regular press releases will be issued on the results of plenary meetings, round tables and other events. All relevant documentation will be made available electronically at the Conference website.

30.   The plenary meetings and round tables, as well as press conferences, will be broadcast live to the media area. A programme of special media briefings and press conferences will be announced.

On 22 December, the General Assembly adopted a decision on arrangements for accreditation and participation of non-governmental organizations (ngos) and other major groups in the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and its preparatory process (**decision 66/544A**).

Agricultural technology for development

In response to General Assembly resolution 64/197 [YUN 2009, p. 807], the Secretary-General, in August, submitted a report [A/66/304] on agricultural technology for development.

The report reviewed the progress in making appropriate sustainable agricultural technologies available and affordable, especially to smallholder farmers, and making agriculture more resilient, including to climate change. Boosting agricultural productivity was one of the most effective ways of addressing global poverty and food and nutrition insecurity, which particularly affected smallholder and family farmers. The Secretary-General recommended a holistic approach to raise

productivity and the resilience of agriculture and examined the progress made in terms of national policies and strategies, agricultural research and development, technology transfer and extension services as well as market and financing services. He suggested reforming the agricultural sector to integrate sustainable agriculture and support to smallholders, including women farmers, into national policies and strategies; devoting greater efforts and resources towards agricultural technologies for effective adaptation to climate change and natural resource scarcities; and increasing investment in reducing post-harvest waste. Further recommendations included addressing the deficit of women in key education, research and extension services and acknowledging their role as main food producers.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 22 December [meeting 91], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/66/440], adopted **resolution 66/195** by recorded vote (141-2-33) [agenda item 19].

Agricultural technology for development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 64/197 of 21 December 2009 on agricultural technology for development,

Recalling also the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

Recalling its resolution 65/178 of 20 December 2010 on agriculture development and food security,

Noting the previous work done by the Commission on Sustainable Development, in particular at its sixteenth and seventeenth sessions, highlighting the thematic focus on agriculture,

Acknowledging the work performed by the High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis, established by the Secretary-General in 2008, and specifically its call for increased investment, as appropriate, in the development of agricultural technology as well as for the transfer and use of existing technologies, on mutually agreed terms, especially for smallholder farmers, in particular rural women, and recalling the World Summit on Food Security, convened by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome from 16 to 18 November 2009, and underlining the importance of advancing and implementing agricultural technologies,

Welcoming the commitments set out in the Joint Statement on Global Food Security, adopted in L'Aquila, Italy, on 10 July 2009, which focused on sustainable agriculture development,

Recalling the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, held in New York from 20 to 22 September 2010, and its outcome document, reaffirming its commitment to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and recognizing the beneficial impact that the adoption of agricultural technologies can have for the achievement of many of those goals, including for eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, empowering women and ensuring environmental sustainability, while remaining concerned about the pace of progress to date in achieving those goals, particularly in the least developed countries and in Africa,

Taking note of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 adopted at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011, and recognizing the need to continue to work towards fulfilling the commitments made in the Programme of Action,

Acknowledging the importance of the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,

Stressing the critical 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 development necessitates, inter alia, closing the gender gap and ensuring that women have equal access to agricultural technologies, related services and inputs and all the necessary productive resources, as well as to education and training, social services, health care, health services and financial services and access to and participation in markets,

Acknowledging the role and work of civil society and the private sector in furthering progress in developing countries, in promoting the use of sustainable agricultural technology and the training of smallholder farmers, in particular rural women,

Considering the increasing need to innovate in agri-food chains in order to respond to the challenges posed by, inter alia, climate change, the depletion and scarcity of natural resources, urbanization and globalization, and recognizing that agricultural research and sustainable agricultural technologies can greatly contribute to agricultural, rural and economic development, the adaptation of agriculture and food security and nutrition and help to mitigate the negative impact of climate change, land degradation and desertification,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on agricultural technology for development;

2. *Urges* Member States, relevant United Nations organizations and other stakeholders to strengthen efforts to improve the development of appropriate sustainable agricultural technologies and their transfer and dissemination under fair, transparent and mutually agreed terms to developing countries, especially the least developed countries, in particular at the bilateral and regional levels, and to support national efforts to foster the utilization of local know-how and agricultural technologies, promote agricultural technology research and access to knowledge and information through suitable communication for development strategies and enable rural women, as well as men and youth, to increase sustainable agricultural productivity, reduce post-harvest losses and enhance food and nutritional security;

3. *Encourages* international, regional and national efforts to strengthen the capacity of developing countries, especially their smallholder farmers, in particular rural women, in order to enhance the productivity and nutritional quality of food crops, to promote sustainable practices in pre-harvest and post-harvest agricultural activities and to enhance food security and nutrition-related pro-

grammes and policies that take into consideration the specific needs of women and youth;

4. *Calls upon* Member States and relevant United Nations organizations and other stakeholders to mainstream gender into agricultural policies and projects and to focus on closing the gender gap to achieve equal access for women to labour-saving technologies, 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 youth;

5. *Underlines* the importance of supporting and advancing research in improving and diversifying crop varieties and seed systems as well as supporting the establishment of sustainable agricultural systems and management practices, such as conservation agriculture and integrated pest management, in order to make agriculture more resilient and, in particular, to make crops and farm animals, including livestock, more tolerant to diseases, pests and environmental stresses, including drought and climate change, in a manner consistent with national regulations and relevant international agreements;

6. *Also underlines* the importance of the sustainable use and management of water resources to increase and ensure agricultural productivity, and calls for further efforts to develop and strengthen irrigation facilities and water-saving technology;

7. *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 services, and calls for further efforts by all stakeholders to include smallholder farmers, in particular rural women, in planning and taking decisions about making appropriate sustainable agricultural technologies and practices available and affordable to them;

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

9. *Requests* relevant United Nations organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Fund for Agricultural Development, to promote, support and facilitate the exchange of experience among Member States on ways to augment sustainable agriculture and management practices, such as conservation agriculture, and increase the use of agricultural technologies that have a positive impact on the entire value chain, including technology for post-harvest crop storage and transportation, especially in pressing environmental circumstances;

10. *Underlines* the instrumental role of agricultural technology, agricultural research and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, as well as the sharing of knowledge and practices, in furthering sustainable development and in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, calls, therefore, upon Member States and encourages rel-

evant international bodies to support sustainable agricultural research and development, and in this regard calls for continued support to the international agricultural research system, including the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research and other relevant international organizations and initiatives;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 66/195:

In favour: Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: South Africa, Venezuela.

Abstaining: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brunei Darussalam, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Gabon, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Morocco, Nicaragua, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.

Sustainable tourism

Regional events. The Central American Tourism Council of the Central American Integration System (SICA), in cooperation with the World Tourism Organization, held its first workshop on sustainable tourism (Roatán, Honduras, 24 June). At the meeting, Central American Ministers of Tourism highlighted the importance of the biodiversity of natural resources and the environment as well as their fragility and vulnerability, and urged the international community to support sustainable tourism.

The Heads of State and Government of SICA, at their thirty-seventh meeting (San Salvador, El Salvador, 22 July), declared 2012 as the Year of Sustainable Tourism.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 22 December [meeting 91], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/66/440], adopted **resolution 66/196** without vote [agenda item 19].

Sustainable tourism and sustainable development in Central America

The General Assembly,

Recalling all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on this matter,

Recalling also the Manila Declaration on World Tourism, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda 21, the Amman Declaration on Peace through Tourism, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"), the Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and the Istanbul Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,

Recalling further the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,

Recognizing the important dimension and role of sustainable tourism as a positive instrument towards the eradication of poverty, the protection of the environment and the improvement of quality of life and its contribution to achieving sustainable development, especially in developing countries,

Welcoming the efforts of the Marrakech Process on sustainable consumption and production, the achievements of the International Task Force on Sustainable Tourism Development and the objectives of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Tourism, launched in 2011 as a permanent successor to the International Task Force,

Taking note of the outcome document of the first workshop on sustainable tourism, adopted by the Central American Tourism Council of the Central American Integration System on 24 June 2011, at a meeting organized in cooperation with the World Tourism Organization in Roatan, Honduras, in the framework of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012,

Taking note also of the Joint Declaration, the Plan of Action and the declaration of 2012 as the Year of Sustainable Tourism in Central America, adopted at the thirty-seventh meeting of Heads of State and Government of the Central American Integration System, held in San Salvador on 22 July 2011, and the Declaration of the Central American Tourism Council, adopted at its eighty-second meeting, held in Guanacaste, Costa Rica, on 7 July 2011,

Emphasizing that sustainable tourism in Central America is a fundamental pillar of regional integration and an engine of social and economic development, given its significant contribution in terms of jobs, income, investment and hard currency, and therefore contributes to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,

1. *Invites* States Members of the United Nations and other stakeholders, and the World Tourism Organization, to continue to support the activities undertaken by the Central American countries for the promotion of responsible and sustainable tourism in the region, including in the context of emergency preparedness and response to natural disasters, as well as for capacity-building in order to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, by extending the benefits of tourism to all sectors of society, in particular the most vulnerable and marginalized groups of the population;

2. *Takes note* of the work of the Central American Governments in the implementation of existing programmes designed to launch and promote sustainable tourism throughout the region, in coordination with the Central American Commission for Environment and Development, and welcomes their contribution to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in this regard;

3. *Encourages* the Central American countries, through the Central American Tourism Council and the Central American Tourism Integration Secretariat, to continue to support sustainable tourism with policies that foster responsive and inclusive tourism, strengthen regional identity and protect the natural and cultural heritage, especially their ecosystems and biodiversity and notes that existing initiatives, such as the Global Partnership for Sustainable Tourism, among other international initiatives, can deliver direct and focused support to Governments to this end;

4. *Recognizes* the need to promote the development of sustainable tourism, in particular through the consumption of sustainable tourism products and services, and to strengthen the development of ecotourism, taking into account the declaration of 2012 as the Year of Sustainable Tourism in Central America, while maintaining the culture and environmental integrity of indigenous and local communities and enhancing the protection of ecologically sensitive areas and the natural heritage, and to promote the development of sustainable tourism and capacity-building in order to contribute to the strengthening of rural and local communities and small and medium-sized enterprises, taking into account the need to address, inter alia, the challenges of climate change and the need to halt the loss of biodiversity;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session on developments related to the implementation of the present resolution, taking into account the reports prepared by the World Tourism Organization in this field.

Eradication of poverty

Second UN Decade for the Eradication of Poverty

In response to General Assembly resolution 65/174 [YUN 2010, p. 810], the Secretary-General submitted an August report [A/66/221] on the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017). The report addressed the challenges to poverty eradication and some key policy measures for poverty reduction. It also highlighted the

growing policy coherence within the framework of the Second Decade and described efforts to enhance coordination in support of the Global Jobs Pact [YUN 2009, p. 1062] and the Social Protection Floor Initiative.

Challenges to poverty eradication included the lack of sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth; slow employment creation; increasing global food prices and weak agricultural development; as well as climate change and conflict. While strong growth in China and other countries of East and South-East Asia had helped to reduce poverty significantly, low and volatile growth in the least developed countries had entailed stagnant levels of poverty. The number of jobless persons reached 205 million in 2010, and the World Bank estimated that an additional 44 million people had fallen into poverty due to the rise in food prices that year. Furthermore, people who lived in poverty were often ill-equipped to resist or mitigate the adverse effects of climate change and conflict.

The Secretary-General stressed the need for a coordinated response leading to sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and macroeconomic policies promoting the creation of productive employment and supporting stronger social protection. He further underlined the importance of agricultural investments and rural development for poverty reduction and improved food security. The Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty provided a framework for action to enhance coherence and synergy among UN system-wide activities, but required additional efforts and further collaboration by Member States, civil society and other partners.

Communication. In a 13 June letter [A/65/864], Japan transmitted to the Secretary-General the statement of the Chair of the Millennium Development Goals follow-up meeting (Tokyo, 2–3 June), which discussed ways to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the goals.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 22 December [meeting 91], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/66/444/Add.1], adopted **resolution 66/215** without vote [agenda item 23 (*a*)].

Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/196 of 22 December 1992, 48/183 of 21 December 1993, 50/107 of 20 December 1995, 56/207 of 21 December 2001, 57/266 of 20 December 2002, 58/222 of 23 December 2003, 59/247 of 22 December 2004, 60/209 of 22 December 2005, 61/213 of 20 December 2006, 62/205 of 19 December 2007, 63/230 of 19 December 2008, 64/216 of 21 December 2009 and 65/174 of 20 December 2010,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by Heads of State and Government on the occasion of the Millennium Summit, as well as the international commitment to eradicate extreme poverty and to halve, by 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger,

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

Recalling the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, adopted in May 2011 at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries with a main aim of enabling half the number of the least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020,

Recalling also 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, its resolution 61/16 of 20 November 2006 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council and its resolution 63/303 of 9 July 2009 entitled "Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development",

Welcoming the poverty-related discussions in the annual ministerial reviews held by the Economic and Social Council, which play an important supporting role in the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017),

Noting with appreciation the ministerial declaration adopted at the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2006 of the Economic and Social Council on creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development, and also Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/37 of 28 July 2011 entitled "Recovering from the world financial and economic crisis: a Global Jobs Pact",

Recalling the International Conference on Financing for Development 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,

Recalling also the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,

Recalling further the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document,

Underlining the fact that, in the face of the ongoing adverse impacts of the multiple, interrelated global crises and challenges, such as the financial and economic crisis, the food crisis, volatile energy and commodity prices and climate change, cooperation and increased commitment by all relevant partners, including the public sector, the private sector and civil society, are needed more than ever, and recognizing in this context the urgent need to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Expressing concern that, while there has been progress in reducing poverty, especially in some middle-income countries, this progress has been uneven and the number of people living in poverty in some countries continues to

increase, with women and children constituting the majority of the most affected groups, especially in the least developed countries and particularly in sub-Saharan Africa,

Recognizing that rates of economic growth vary among countries and that these differences must be addressed by, among other actions, promoting pro-poor growth and social protection,

Concerned at the global nature of poverty and inequality, and underlining the fact that the eradication of poverty and hunger is an ethical, social, political and economic imperative of all humankind,

Reaffirming that eradicating poverty is one of the greatest global challenges facing the world today, particularly in Africa and in least developed countries and in some middle-income countries, and underlining the importance of accelerating sustainable, broad-based and inclusive economic growth, including full, productive employment generation and decent work,

Recognizing that mobilizing financial resources for development at the national and international levels and the effective use of those resources are central to a global partnership for development in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Recognizing also the contributions of South-South and triangular cooperation to the efforts of developing countries to eradicate poverty and to pursue sustainable development,

Acknowledging that good governance at the national and international levels and sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, supported by full employment and decent work, rising productivity and a favourable environment, including public and private investment and entrepreneurship, are necessary to eradicate poverty, achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and 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,

Underlining the priority and urgency given by Heads of State and Government to the eradication of poverty, as expressed in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Recalling that the theme of the 2012 annual ministerial review to be held by the Economic and Social Council will be "Promoting productive capacity, employment and decent work to eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels for achieving the Millennium Development Goals",

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017), under the theme "Full employment and decent work for all";

2. *Reaffirms* that the objective of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017) is to support, in an efficient and coordinated manner, the follow-up to the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, relating to the eradication of poverty and to coordinate international support to that end;

3. *Also reaffirms* that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and strategies cannot be overemphasized for the achievement of sustainable development and poverty eradication, 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;

4. *Calls upon* the international community, including Member States, to address the root causes of extreme poverty and hunger;

5. *Emphasizes* the need to accord the highest priority to poverty eradication within the United Nations development agenda, while stressing the importance of addressing the causes and challenges of poverty through integrated, coordinated and coherent strategies at the national, inter-governmental and inter-agency levels;

6. *Reiterates* the need to strengthen the leadership role of the United Nations in promoting international cooperation for development and its role at the regional level, which is critical for the eradication of poverty;

7. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to give priority to the eradication of poverty, and calls upon donor countries in a position to do so to support the effective national efforts of developing countries in this regard, through adequate, predictable financial resources on bilateral and multilateral bases;

8. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring, at the national, intergovernmental and inter-agency levels, coherent, comprehensive and integrated activities for the eradication of poverty in accordance with the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields;

9. *Reaffirms* the commitment to promote opportunities for full, freely chosen and productive employment, including for the disadvantaged, as well as decent work for all, with full respect for fundamental principles and rights at work under conditions of equity, equality, security and dignity, and also reaffirms that macroeconomic policies should, inter alia, support employment creation, taking fully into account the social and environmental impact and dimensions of globalization, and that these concepts are key elements of sustainable development for all countries and are therefore a priority objective of international cooperation;

10. *Emphasizes* that education and training are among the critical factors in empowering those living in poverty, while recognizing the complexity of the challenge of poverty eradication, and in this regard recognizes the role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in coordinating the Education for All partners and in promoting the development of sector-wide education policies by, inter alia, elaborating pedagogical tools for grass-roots organizations and policymakers;

11. *Recognizes* the role of other specialized agencies and United Nations funds and programmes, including the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Development Programme, in contributing to international advocacy for eradicating poverty, including through education and training;

12. *Encourages* the international community to enhance international cooperation in support of agricultural and rural development and food production in developing countries, particularly in least developed countries;

13. *Reaffirms* the need to fulfil all official development assistance commitments, including the commitments by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries by 2015 and to reach a level of at least 0.5 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance by 2010, as well as a target of 0.15 per cent to 0.20 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to the least developed countries;

14. *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 and notes other initiatives such as the high-level forums on aid effectiveness, which produced the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the 2008 Accra Agenda for Action, that make important contributions to the efforts of those countries which have made commitments to them, including through the adoption of the fundamental principles of national ownership, alignment, harmonization and managing for results, 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;

15. *Resolves* to work to operationalize the World Solidarity Fund established by the General Assembly, and invites Member States, international organizations, the private sector, relevant institutions, foundations and individuals to make voluntary contributions to the Fund;

16. *Recognizes* that sustained, inclusive 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, trade and social policies at all levels;

17. *Calls upon* 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 inequality;

18. *Recognizes* that poverty is multidimensional and invites national Governments, supported by the international community, to consider developing complementary measures which better reflect this multidimensionality;

19. *Invites* all stakeholders, including Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system and civil society organizations, to share good practices of programmes and policies which 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 accelerating progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and informing the discussions on the way forward after 2015, and in this regard takes note of the outcomes of the Millennium Development Goals follow-up meeting, held in Tokyo on 2 and 3 June 2011, and requests the Secretary-General to include in his annual report on progress in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals a compilation of such good practices;

20. *Reiterates its call* to the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to consider activities to implement the Second Decade, in consultation with Member States and other relevant stakeholders;

21. *Recalls* the inter-agency system-wide plan of action for poverty eradication involving more than twenty-one agencies, funds, programmes and regional commissions, and requests the Secretary-General to provide details on the implementation of the plan of action to Member States;

22. *Reaffirms* the need to give the highest priority to its consideration of the question of poverty eradication, and in that regard reiterates its decision, in resolution 63/230, as a contribution to the Second Decade, to convene, at its sixty-eighth session, a meeting of the General Assembly at the highest appropriate political level centred on the review process devoted to the theme relating to the issue of poverty eradication, and stresses that the meeting and the preparatory activities should be carried out within the budget level proposed by the Secretary-General for the biennium 2012–2013 and should be organized in the most effective and efficient manner;

23. *Notes with concern* the continuing high levels of unemployment and underemployment, particularly among young people, as a consequence of the global financial and economic crisis, recognizes that decent work 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, as a general framework within which each country can formulate policy packages specific to its situation and national priorities in order to promote a job-intensive recovery and sustainable development;

24. *Urges* Member States to address the global challenge of youth unemployment by developing and implementing strategies that give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work, and, in this context, stresses the need for the development of a global strategy on youth employment with a focus on youth unemployment;

25. *Urges* the international community, including the United Nations system, to implement the outcome documents relating to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

26. *Also urges* the international community, including the United Nations system, to implement the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development in support of the objectives of the Second Decade;

27. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to support Member States, at their request, in strengthening their macroeconomic policy capacity and national development strategies so as to contribute to achieving the objectives of the Second Decade;

28. *Encourages* greater inter-agency convergence and collaboration within the United Nations system in sharing

knowledge, promoting policy dialogue, facilitating synergies, mobilizing funds, providing technical assistance in the key policy areas underlying the decent work agenda and strengthening system-wide policy coherence on employment issues, including by avoiding duplication of effort;

29. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session, under the item entitled "Eradication of poverty and other development issues", the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017)", and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

Also on 22 December, the Assembly took note of report of the Second Committee [A/66/444] on eradication of poverty and other development issues (**decision 66/547**).

Legal empowerment of the poor and eradication of poverty

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 64/215 [YUN 2009, p. 811] on the legal empowerment of the poor and eradication of poverty, the Secretary-General in September submitted a report [A/66/341] on the resolution's implementation that underlined the importance of expanding access to justice and the rule of law in order to reduce poverty and achieve the internationally agreed development goals. According to the Secretary-General, legal empowerment of the poor required improvements in the administration of justice and expansion of identity and birth registration, as well as the repeal of laws that impeded the poor from exercising their rights. Further recommendations related to pro-poor property rights; access to land and assets; employment policy and regulatory frameworks that protected labour and increased employment; a fair, inclusive and socially responsible private sector; and quality education and training that targeted vulnerable populations. International cooperation should be conducive to the legal empowerment of the poor. National and local contexts, including traditional or informal dispute resolution mechanisms, had to be considered in any reforms aimed at empowering people living in poverty.

Millennium Development Goals

The *Millennium Development Goals Report 2011*, published by desa [Sales No. E.11.I.10], evaluated the progress made on mdg indicators. Despite setbacks after the 2008–2009 economic downturn, exacerbated by the food and energy crisis, the world was still on track to reach the poverty-reduction target, mainly due to rapid economic growth in Eastern Asia, especially China. Economic recovery after the crisis, however, had failed to translate into employment op-

portunities and a slowdown in progress against poverty was reflected in the number of working poor. There was a disconnect between poverty reduction and the persistence of hunger and, based on current trends, sub-Saharan Africa would be unable to meet the hunger-reduction target by 2015. Nevertheless, the sub-Saharan region showed the best record for improvement in primary school enrolment.

The report further portrayed gaps in the achievement of main targets related to nutrition, gender equality, maternal health and sanitation, and found worrisome regional trends regarding hiv/aids, despite the decline in new infections. While forests were disappearing rapidly in Africa and South America, Asia was able to register net gains of forests, and the world was likely to surpass the drinking water target of 89 per cent coverage. Although official development assistance (oda) to developing countries was at a record high, it fell short of promises made in 2005.

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 65/10 [YUN 2010, p. 829], the Secretary-General submitted a July report [A/66/126] on accelerating progress towards the mdgs: options for sustained and inclusive growth and issues for advancing the UN development agenda beyond 2015. The report discussed progress made towards achieving the mdgs and outstanding challenges en route to the 2015 targets. It found that the global economic crisis had a far-reaching impact on all mdgs, with the cost of their achievement potentially rising by up to 1.5 per cent of gross domestic product annually. The report further stated that progress had been uneven, often with modest impact on the poorest and most vulnerable, and stressed the need for sustained, equitable, inclusive and job-intensive growth that provided opportunities to everyone—including women, young people and disadvantaged groups. That could be accomplished through a development-oriented macroeconomic framework; the adoption of green technologies and sustainable resource management strategies; coherent and inclusive social policies; and human rights protection and good governance.

The Secretary-General stressed the need for a stronger global partnership for development—goal 8 of the mdgs—and pointed out that oda had continued to fall short of commitments in 2010. He recommended the advancement of the Doha Round of trade negotiations, enhanced debt restructuring and relief modalities, and increased access to medicine at low cost for the poor, facilitated through global mechanisms. Issues that should be central to the United Nations development agenda post-2015 included sustainable development, equality, respect for nature, solidarity, freedom and tolerance, and sharing responsibilities.

Science and technology for development

Commission on Science and Technology for Development

At its fourteenth session (Geneva, 23–27 May) [E/2011/31], the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) considered progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) [YUN 2003, p. 857 & YUN 2005, p. 933] at the regional and international levels. It also addressed its two priority themes: measuring the impact of information and communications technology for development, and technologies to address challenges in areas such as agriculture and water. The session included two ministerial round tables on: the review of progress made in the implementation of WSIS outcomes and harnessing science and technology for development.

The Commission had before it reports of the Secretary-General on the priority themes [E/CN.16/2011/2 & 3] and on progress made in implementing and following up on WSIS outcomes at the regional and international levels [A/66/64]; a report of the Chair of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum [A/66/67]; a note by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on methods of work of the Commission [E/CN.16/2011/4]; and a summary report by UNCTAD on the Commission's intersessional panel meeting (Geneva, 15–17 December 2010) [E/CN.16/2011/CRP.1].

The Secretary-General underscored the need to review agricultural science, technology and innovation systems with a view to strengthening the support to smallholder farmers through sustainable agriculture, and integrating a gender perspective in the design of those policies [E/CN.16/2011/2]. He also called for enhanced international efforts on measuring the impact of information and communication technologies (ICTs) under the aegis of CSTD and the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development [E/CN.16/2011/3].

The Commission recommended two draft resolutions and six draft decisions for adoption by the Economic and Social Council (see below).

On 26 July (**decision 2011/240**), the Council took note of the Commission's report on its fourteenth session and approved the provisional agenda and documentation for its fifteenth (2012) session.

Also on 26 July, the Economic and Social Council extended the mandate of the Commission's Gender Advisory Board for a further three years, beginning on 1 January 2012, to allow it to complete its programme of work within the extrabudgetary resources allocated for that purpose (**decision 2011/235**).

Participation in Commission work

On 26 July, the Economic and Social Council invited NGOs and civil society entities that were not in consultative status with the Council but that had received accreditation to WSIS to participate in the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development until 2015 (**decision 2011/236**). It extended the arrangements for the participation of academic and technical entities (**decision 2011/237**) and business sector entities, including the private sector (**decision 2011/238**), in the work of the Commission until 2015. It also requested the secretariat of the Commission to propose to the Council, for approval, lists of NGOs and civil society entities not accredited to WSIS that had expressed the wish to participate in the work of the Commission, to enable them to participate in that work until 2015, on an exceptional basis (**decision 2011/239**).

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 26 July [meeting 44], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development [E/2011/31], adopted **resolution 2011/17** without vote [agenda item 13 (*b*)].

Science and technology for development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development as the United Nations torchbearer for science, technology and innovation for development,

Recognizing also the critical role of innovation in maintaining national competitiveness in the global economy and in realizing sustainable development,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome, which recognizes that the role of science and technology, including information and communications technologies, are vital for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, and reaffirming the commitments contained therein, especially the commitment to support the efforts of developing countries, individually and collectively, to harness new agricultural technologies in order to increase agricultural productivity through environmentally sustainable means,

Recalling also that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is the secretariat of the Commission,

Recalling further the work of the Commission on science, technology and engineering for innovation and capacity-building in education and research and on development-oriented policies for a socio-economically inclusive information society, including policies relating to access, infrastructure, and an enabling environment,

Welcoming the work of the Commission on its two current priority themes, "Technologies to address challenges in areas such as agriculture and water" and "Measuring the impact of information and communications technology for development",

Recognizing the important role that information and communications technologies play in promoting innovation in science and technology for development,

Recognizing also the importance of science, technology and innovation policy reviews in assisting developing countries to strengthen their national development plans and improve their innovation systems,

Recalling the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on access and participation of women and girls in education, training and science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work, adopted at its fifty-fifth session, in which it, inter alia, highlighted the need for the sharing of good practice examples in mainstreaming a gender perspective into science, technology and innovation policies and programmes, with a view to replicating and scaling up successes, and recalling further the call of the Commission on the Status of Women upon the Commission on Science and Technology for Development for concrete steps in this respect,

Taking note of the report of the intersessional panel meeting of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, held in Geneva in December 2010, and of the summary report prepared by the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,

Taking note also of the reports of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development,

Extending its appreciation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development for his role in helping to complete the aforementioned reports in a timely manner,

Noting that science, technology and innovation, and information and communications technologies are essential to raising agricultural productivity and to soil, water and watershed management, particularly to support smallholder farmers,

Noting with concern that there has been a decline of investment in publicly funded agricultural research and development in many countries, as well as a decrease in donor support for agricultural research,

Noting that agricultural research, education and extension services in many countries do not adequately address local, social needs, especially those related to the poor, including smallholder farmers,

Recognizing the key role played by women in agriculture and water management at the domestic and farm levels, while noting their lack of access to credit, land, knowledge and skills that are essential to raising productivity and reducing poverty,

Recognizing also that increased investments in watershed management, agricultural knowledge, water and soil management, and science and technology, particularly when complemented by investments in rural development in such areas as infrastructure, telecommunications and processing facilities, can increase productivity and yield high economic rates of return, reduce poverty and have positive environmental, social, health and cultural benefits,

Taking note of the outcome documents adopted at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011, namely, the Istanbul Declaration and the Programme of Action,

Extending its appreciation to the Government of Turkey for its initiative to set up an International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre with a view to helping to build the technological capabilities of the least developed countries,

Decides to make the following recommendations for consideration by national Governments, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development:

(*a*)   Governments are encouraged to take into account the findings of the Commission and take the following actions:

   (i)   Review their agricultural science, technology and innovation systems with a view to strengthening policies for more sustainable agricultural practices, particularly for smallholder farmers, while integrating a gender perspective in the design of these policies;

   (ii)   Consider increasing the share and improving the effectiveness of public expenditure for agricultural research and development;

   (iii)   Target public investment towards improving physical and research and development infrastructures (including rural road networks, power and Internet connections, education, training and health), linkages among farmers, agricultural research, agricultural product processing and marketing, and extension services, supporting sustainable, regenerative production methods;

   (iv)   Review research and education systems to ensure that they adequately address the challenges faced by smallholder farmers to achieve more sustainable agricultural practices;

   (v)   Encourage participatory research which engages farmers, agricultural workers, especially women, and other stakeholders;

   (vi)   Support sustainable agriculture by introducing mechanisms and policies that prevent land degradation and the overuse of pesticides, fertilizers, water and energy, especially fossil fuels, as well as consider the health, environmental and social costs of agricultural production processes;

   (vii)   Support research on irrigation and soil improvement technologies, as well as the application of affordable information and communication technologies and other technologies, to lower costs and make agriculture more profitable for smallholder farmers;

   (viii)   Consider improving market access for developing country producers;

(*b*)   The Commission on Science and Technology for Development is encouraged to:

   (i)   Provide technical and policy support and advice, upon request, on how to strengthen and stimulate innovation in sustainable agricultural and water management systems, including extension services, in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other relevant international and regional organizations;

(ii) Promote an integrated, international and collaborative approach in these areas, particularly to meet the needs of smallholder farmers;

(iii) Promote the exchange, dissemination and diffusion of best practice examples in the area of agricultural science, technology and innovation and promote cooperation between countries in order to face common challenges in matters of science and technology;

(iv) Facilitate new science, technology and innovation policy reviews, as requested by member countries, to emphasize science and technology and information and communications technologies in building human capacity and infrastructure to foster innovation in national development plans and programmes, in close collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Bank and other relevant international development banks and institutions, and consider new modalities to monitor progress for their implementation;

(v) In particular, the Commission should identify opportunities and best practices and synergies in and between e-science, e-engineering and e-education programmes worldwide in the course of performing science, technology and innovation policy reviews;

(vi) Complete and disseminate the new science, technology and innovation policy methodology guidelines and share outcomes and best practices resulting from their implementation;

(vii) Examine new metrics to assess and document outcomes of investments in science and technology and engineering research and development, education and infrastructure, in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Bank and member countries that have established programmes in this field of research;

(viii) Continue to provide a forum, in collaboration with its Gender Advisory Board, to share good practice examples and lessons learned in integrating a gender perspective in science, technology and innovation policymaking and implementation;

(ix) Consider, on an annual basis, an award, in collaboration with the World Summit on the Information Society World Summit Awards and the International Center for New Media, in Salzburg, Austria, for the innovative application of information and communications technologies in the fields of science, technology and engineering that support development.

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 64/212 [YUN 2009, p. 816], the Secretary-General submitted a July report [A/66/208] on science and technology for development that reviewed the work carried out by CSTD in areas such as agriculture, rural development, ICT and environmental management. It also provided information on activities carried out by UNCTAD and other organi-

zations to assist developing countries in integrating science, technology and innovation policies in their national development plans and strategies.

The CSTD report Implementing WSIS Outcomes: Experience to Date and Prospects for the Future [UNCTAD/DTL/STICT/2011/3] summarized progress at the midpoint between the second phase of WSIS and the comprehensive review of implementation scheduled for 2015. It observed that, while substantial progress had been made towards achieving the universal availability and use of basic telecommunications, there was an increasing concern about the divergence in the quality of access to communications, including the Internet, and the value derived from it.

UNCTAD had launched a new series of studies entitled The Technology and Innovation Report, which sought to address issues in science, technology and innovation that were both topical and important for developing countries, with an emphasis on policy-relevant analysis and conclusions.

UNCTAD convened the third expert meeting on enterprise development policies and capacity-building in science, technology and innovation (Geneva, 19–21 January 2011). It also convened an expert meeting on green and renewable technologies as energy solutions for rural development (Geneva, 9–11 February 2010).

Intersessional panel meeting. The CSTD intersessional panel meeting (Manila, Philippines, 13–15 December 2011) [E/CN.16/2012/CRP.1] addressed innovation, research, technology transfer for mutual advantage, entrepreneurship and collaborative development in the information society; open access, virtual science libraries, geospatial analysis and other complementary ICT and science, technology, engineering and mathematics assets to address development issues; and follow-up to WSIS.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 22 December [meeting 91], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/66/442/Add.2], adopted **resolution 66/211** without vote [agenda item 21 (*b*)].

Science and technology for development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/200 of 23 December 2003, 59/220 of 22 December 2004, 60/205 of 22 December 2005, 61/207 of 20 December 2006, 62/201 of 19 December 2007 and 64/212 of 21 December 2009,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolutions 2006/46 of 28 July 2006 and 2009/8 of 24 July 2009,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

Recalling also the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society,

Taking note of the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its fourteenth session,

Recalling its resolutions 64/208 of 21 December 2009 and 65/280 of 17 June 2011,

Recalling also the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on access and participation of women and girls in education, training and science and technology, adopted at its fifty-fifth session,

Recognizing the vital role that science and technology, including environmentally sound technologies, can play in development and in facilitating efforts to eradicate poverty, achieve food security, fight diseases, improve education, protect the environment, accelerate the pace of economic diversification and transformation, and improve productivity and competitiveness,

Concerned that many developing countries lack affordable access to information and communications technologies and that for the majority of the poor the promise of science and technology remains unfulfilled, and emphasizing the need to effectively harness technology to bridge the digital divide,

Recognizing that international support can help developing countries to benefit from technological advances and enhance their productive capacity,

Reaffirming the need to enhance the science and technology programmes of the relevant entities of the United Nations system,

Noting with appreciation the collaboration between the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in establishing the Network of Centres of Excellence in science and technology for developing countries and in designing and carrying out science, technology and innovation policy reviews,

Taking note with interest of the establishment of the inter-agency cooperation network on biotechnology, UN-Biotech,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,

Encouraging the development of initiatives to promote private sector engagement in technology transfer and technological and scientific cooperation,

1. *Reaffirms its commitment*:

(*a*)   To strengthen and enhance existing mechanisms and to support initiatives for research and development, including through voluntary partnerships between the public and private sectors, to address the special needs of developing countries in the areas of health, agriculture, conservation, sustainable use of natural resources and environmental management, energy, forestry and the impact of climate change;

(*b*)   To promote and facilitate, as appropriate, access to, and development, transfer and diffusion of, technologies, including environmentally sound technologies and the corresponding know-how, to developing countries;

(*c*)   To assist developing countries in their efforts to promote and develop national strategies for human resources and science and technology, which are primary drivers of national capacity-building for development;

(*d*)   To promote and support greater efforts to develop renewable sources of energy, including appropriate technology;

(*e*)   To implement policies at the national and international levels to attract both public and private investment, domestic and foreign, that enhances knowledge, transfers technology on mutually agreed terms and raises productivity;

(*f*)   To support the efforts of developing countries, individually and collectively, to harness new agricultural technologies in order to increase agricultural productivity through environmentally sustainable means;

2. *Recognizes* that science and technology, including information and communications technologies, are vital for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and for the full participation of developing countries in the global economy;

3. *Notes* that full and equal access to and participation in science and technology for women of all ages is imperative for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, and underlines that addressing barriers to equal access for women and girls to science and technology requires a systematic, comprehensive, integrated, sustainable, multidisciplinary and multisectoral approach;

4. *Requests* the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to provide a forum within which 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 address within its mandate, in accordance with Council resolution 2006/46, the special needs of developing countries in areas such as agriculture, rural development, information and communications technologies and environmental management;

5. *Encourages* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in collaboration with relevant partners, to continue to undertake science, technology and innovation policy reviews, with a view to assisting developing countries and countries with economies in transition in identifying the measures that are needed to integrate science, technology and innovation policies into their national development strategies;

6. *Encourages* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other relevant organizations to assist developing countries in their efforts to integrate science, technology and innovation policies into national development strategies;

7. *Encourages* Governments 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;

8. *Encourages* existing arrangements and the further promotion of regional, subregional and interregional joint research and development projects, where feasible, by mobilizing existing scientific and research and development resources and by networking sophisticated scientific facilities and research equipment;

9. *Encourages* the international community to continue to facilitate, in view of the difference in level of development between countries, an adequate diffusion of scientific and technical knowledge and transfer of, access to and acquisition of technology for developing countries, under fair, transparent and mutually agreed terms, in a manner conducive to social and economic welfare for the benefit of society;

10.   *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, with a view to putting the potential of information and communications technologies at the service of development through policy research on the digital divide and on new challenges of the information society, as well as technical assistance activities, involving multistakeholder partnerships;

11.   *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth 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.

Information and communication technologies

During 2011, the United Nations continued to ensure that the benefits of new technologies, especially icts, were available to all, in keeping with recommendations contained in the ministerial declaration adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its 2000 high-level segment [YUN 2000, p. 799]; the Millennium Declaration [ibid., p. 49]; the 2003 Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action adopted at the first phase of wsis [YUN 2003, p. 857]; and the 2005 Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda adopted at its second phase [YUN 2005, p. 933].

Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development

The Secretary-General transmitted the report [A/67/207] of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (unesco) on the implementation of Assembly resolution 50/130 [YUN 1995, p. 1438], including the recommendations of the twelfth United Nations Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development (New Delhi, India, 14–17 November). The Round Table, entitled "The role of communication for development in empowering adolescent girls", focused on the potential of communication for development principles and practices to advance the rights of adolescent girls and communities. Participants recommended strengthening advocacy efforts throughout all available UN agency and inter-agency mechanisms; enhancing capacity development through broad-based partnerships; strengthening research, monitoring and evaluation of communication; and enhancing knowledge management and information-sharing.

Cooperation on public policy issues pertaining to the Internet

In response to Council resolution 2010/2 [YUN 2010, p. 837], the Chair of the Working Group on Improve-

ments to the Internet Governance Forum submitted an April report [A/66/67-E/2011/79] presenting the outcome of the two meetings held by the Working Group (Montreux, Switzerland, 25–26 February and Geneva, 24–25 March). The Working Group was established on 17 December 2010 during the cstd intersessional panel. The Group reviewed inputs from member States and other stakeholders on improvements to the Forum. The wealth of information, the complexity and political sensitivity of the subject and a significant divergence of views among member States on a number of proposals did not allow the Working Group to finalize a set of recommendations on improving the Forum. It was therefore suggested that the Working Group extend its deliberations beyond the fourteenth session of the Commission.

The Council took note of the report on 29 July (**decision 2011/275**).

Also in response to Council resolution 2010/2, the Secretary-General in May submitted a report [A/66/77-E/2011/103] on enhanced cooperation on public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, which summarized the outcome of consultations on the topic organized by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs between September and December 2010. Contributors reflected on the public policy issues of concern, on international cooperation mechanisms to address those issues and on the role of the United Nations and other entities in facilitating enhanced cooperation. Contributors identified a wide range of public policy issues, underscoring the interdisciplinary nature of Internet governance and its relevance to development. Diverging views emerged on procedural aspects of enhanced cooperation. Contributors generally agreed that cooperation was already taking place in many respects; that specific issues of concern could be identified and discussed; that progress had not been the same on all issues since the holding of wsis in 2005; and that cooperation mechanisms should be used to the extent that they were helpful.

The Council took note of the report on 29 July (**decision 2011/275**).

Internet Governance Forum. The sixth meeting of the Internet Governance Forum (Nairobi, 27–30 September) focused on the overall theme of "The Internet as a catalyst for change: access, development, freedoms and innovation". Sessions were held on Internet governance for development; emerging issues; access and diversity; security, openness and privacy; managing critical Internet resources; and taking stock and the way forward.

Economic and Social Council action. On 28 July, by **resolution 2011/33** (see p. 1209), the Council encouraged Member States to address the misuse of new icts to abuse and exploit children.

*Follow-up to World Summit
on the Information Society*

In response to Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/46 [YUN 2006, p. 1001], the Secretary-General in March [A/66/64-E/2011/77] reported on progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the WSIS outcomes at the regional and international levels.

One of the key trends consisted of continued growth and change in mobile connectivity, with mobile telephone networks being available to 90 per cent of the world's population. While broadband access was growing, that process had been faster in developed countries than in developing countries, raising concerns of a new digital divide based on the quality of available access. Much attention was being paid to the spread of new mobile applications, particularly in the sectors of mobile health and mobile transactions, which potentially offered substantial added value to end users, including in developing countries. The report underlined the impact of social networking and the growth of user-generated content, called "Web 2.0", and raised concerns over data privacy and security, risks to national security, commercial confidentiality, industrial espionage, the exploitation of personal data by government agencies and businesses, and the risk of identity theft and other abuse.

The regional commissions continued to support WSIS implementation through regional action plans. Activities included regional conferences and workshops, facilitation of the sharing of best practice experiences, support to Governments in policy development, and capacity-building.

At the international level, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) hosted the 2010 WSIS Forum (Geneva, 10–14 May 2010), featuring high-level sessions on WSIS and the MDGs, broadband implementation and applications, social networking, ICTs for disaster management and cybersecurity. During the event, the United Nations Group on the Information Society [YUN 2006, p. 1000] organized an interactive session entitled "Financing mechanisms for ICT for development".

The Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, a collaborative forum for the United Nations and other agencies to address challenges of data collection and analysis concerning ICT for development and WSIS outcomes, had published 50 core indicators for ICT infrastructure and access, the use of ICTs by households and enterprises, the ICT sector and trade in ICT goods, and ICTs in education. Formed in 2004, the partnership comprised 11 member organizations.

The Secretary-General concluded that the digital divide raised new challenges, and underlined the need for investment in infrastructure and innovative

services that made use of broadband. UN agencies further emphasized the importance of e-government in realizing a global information society, the challenge of capacity-building and the importance of engaging the private sector.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 26 July [meeting 44], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development [E/2011/31], adopted **resolution 2011/16** without vote [agenda item 13 (*b*)].

Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society,

Recalling also its resolution 2006/46 of 28 July 2006 on the follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society and review of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, and the mandate that it gave to the Commission,

Recalling further its resolution 2010/2 of 19 July 2010 on the assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 65/141 of 20 December 2010 on information and communications technologies for development,

Taking note with satisfaction 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 at the regional and international levels,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Improvements and innovations in existing financing mechanisms: information and communication technology for development",

Noting the submission of the report entitled *Implementing WSIS Outcomes: Experience to Date and Prospects for the Future,* by the Commission as an information document,

Expressing its appreciation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development for his role in helping to ensure completion of the aforementioned reports in a timely manner,

Taking stock: reviewing the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

1. *Notes* the ongoing implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, emphasizing in particular its multi-stakeholder nature, the roles played in this regard by leading agencies as action line facilitators and the roles of the regional commissions and the United Nations Group on the Information Society, and expresses its appreciation for the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in assisting the Economic and Social Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up to the World Summit;

2.   *Takes note* of the respective reports of many United Nations entities, with their own executive summaries, submitted as inputs for the elaboration of the annual report of the Secretary-General to the Commission, and published on the website of the Commission as mandated in Economic and Social Council resolution 2007/8 of 25 July 2007, and recalls the importance of close coordination among the leading action line facilitators and with the secretariat of the Commission;

3.   *Notes* the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional level facilitated by the regional commissions, as observed in the report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional and international levels, including the steps taken in this respect, and emphasizes the need to continue to address issues of specific interest to each region, focusing on the challenges and obstacles that each may be facing with regard to the implementation of all goals and principles established by the World Summit, with particular attention to information and communications technology for development;

4.   *Reiterates* the importance of maintaining a process of coordinating the multi-stakeholder implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit through effective tools, with the goal of exchanging information among action line facilitators, identifying issues that need improvement and discussing the modalities of reporting the overall implementation process, encourages all stakeholders to continue to contribute information to the stocktaking database on the implementation of the goals established by the World Summit, maintained by the International Telecommunication Union, and invites United Nations entities to update information on their initiatives in the stocktaking database;

5.   *Highlights* the urgent need for the incorporation of the recommendations of the outcome documents of the World Summit in the revised guidelines for United Nations country teams on preparing the common country assessments and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, including the addition of an information and communications technology for development component;

6.   *Notes* the holding in Geneva from 16 to 20 May 2011 of the World Summit on the Information Society Forum 2011, organized by the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Development Programme as a multi-stakeholder platform for the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit and to facilitate the implementation of the World Summit action lines;

7.   *Calls upon* all States, in building the information society, to take steps to avoid and to refrain from taking any unilateral measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impedes the full achievement of economic and social development by the population of the affected countries and that hinders their well-being;

8.   *Welcomes* the progress highlighted in the report of the Secretary-General regarding the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit, in particular the fact that the rapid growth in mobile telephony since 2005 has meant that more than half of the world's inhabitants will have access to information and communications technologies within their reach, in line with one of the World Summit targets; the value of this progress is enhanced by the advent of new services and applications, including m-health, m-transactions, e-government, e-business and developmental services, which offer great potential to the development of the information society;

9.   *Notes with great concern* that many developing countries lack 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 emphasizes the need to effectively harness technology, including information and communications technologies, to bridge the digital divide;

10.   *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 accessing the new technologies, such as lack of resources, infrastructure, education, capacity, investment and connectivity and issues related to technology ownership, standards and flows, and in this regard calls upon all stakeholders to provide adequate resources, enhanced capacity-building and transfer of technology to developing countries, particularly the least developed countries;

11.   *Also recognizes* the rapid growth in broadband access networks, especially in developed countries, and notes with concern that there is a growing digital divide in the availability, affordability, quality of access and use of broadband networks between high-income countries and other regions, with least developed countries and Africa as a continent lagging behind the rest of the world;

12.   *Further recognizes* that the transition to a mobile-led communications environment is leading to significant changes in operators' business models and that it requires significant rethinking of the ways in which individuals and communities make use of networks and devices, of Government strategies and of ways in which communications networks can be used to achieve development objectives;

13.   *Recognizes* that, even with all the developments and the improvement observed in some respects, in numerous developing countries information and communications technologies and their applications are still not affordable for the majority of people, particularly those living in rural areas;

14.   *Also recognizes* that the number of Internet users is growing and that in some instances the digital divide is also changing in character from one based on whether access is available to one based on the quality of access, information and skills that users can obtain, and the value they can derive from it, and recognizes in this regard that there is a need to prioritize the use of information and communications technologies through innovative approaches, including multi-stakeholder approaches, within national and regional development strategies;

15.   *Welcomes* the report of the Broadband Commission for Digital Development, submitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in New York on 19 September 2010, and notes that the report includes the Declaration of Broadband Inclusion for All of the Commission;

16. *Notes* that, while a solid foundation for capacity-building in information and communications technology 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 those faced by 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;

17. *Recognizes* 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 a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society;

18. *Notes* that topics that were not central at the first and second phases of the World Summit continue to emerge, such as the potential of information and communications technologies to combat climate change, social networking, virtualization and cloud computing, the protection of online privacy and the empowerment and protection, especially against cyberexploitation and abuse, of vulnerable groups of society, in particular children and young people;

19. *Reiterates* the importance of information and communications technology indicators as a monitoring and evaluation tool for measuring the digital divide between countries and within societies and in informing decision makers when formulating policies and strategies for social, cultural and economic development, and emphasizes that the standardization and harmonization of reliable and regularly updated information and communications technology indicators that capture the performance, efficiency, affordability and quality of goods and services is essential for implementing information and communications technology policies;

Internet governance

20. *Reaffirms* paragraph 21 of its resolution 2010/2 of 19 July 2010 and paragraph 16 of General Assembly resolution 65/141 of 20 December 2010;

21. *Reaffirms also* paragraphs 35 to 37 and paragraphs 67 to 72 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society;

Enhanced cooperation

22. *Recalls* its resolution 2010/2, in which it invited the Secretary-General of the United Nations to convene open and inclusive consultations involving all Member States and all other stakeholders with a view to assisting the process towards enhanced cooperation, in order to enable Governments on an equal footing to carry out their roles and responsibilities in respect of international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet but not in respect of the day-to-day technical and operational matters that do not impact upon those issues, through a balanced participation of all stakeholders in their respective roles and responsibilities, as stated in paragraph 35 of the Tunis Agenda;

23. *Notes with appreciation* the open and inclusive consultations convened by the Secretary-General, through the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, from September to December 2010, including the meeting held in New York on 14 December 2010;

24. *Decides* to forward the report of the Secretary-General on enhanced cooperation on public policy issues pertaining to the Internet regarding the outcome of those consultations to the General Assembly for consideration at its sixty-sixth session in order to enable Governments on an equal footing to carry out their roles and responsibilities in respect of international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet but not in respect of the day-to-day technical and operational matters that do not impact upon those issues;

Internet Governance Forum

25. *Recalls* General Assembly resolution 65/141 on information and communications technologies for development, in which it extended the mandate of the Internet Governance Forum for a further five years, while recognizing the need for improvements;

26. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report on the outcomes of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum, and expresses its gratitude to all the members of the Working Group for their time and valuable efforts in this endeavour, as well as to all Member States and other relevant stakeholders that have submitted inputs to the Working Group consultation process;

27. *Notes* that the wealth of information and the complexity and political sensitivity of the subject as well as a divergence of views among members of the Working Group on a number of concrete proposals did not, within the short time frame that it had, allow the Working Group to finalize a set of recommendations, as appropriate, on improving the Forum;

28. *Agrees* to extend the mandate of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum until the fifteenth session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, and invites it to complete its task on the basis of the work already accomplished;

29. *Urges* that the Working Group be reconvened at the earliest possible time to enable timely submission of its recommendations to the Commission at its fifteenth session, which shall constitute an input from the Commission to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council;

The road ahead

30. *Urges* the United Nations entities still not actively cooperating in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit through the United Nations system to take the necessary steps and commit to a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society and to catalyse the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;

31. *Calls upon* all stakeholders to keep the goal of bridging the digital divide, in its different forms, an area of priority concern, put into effect sound strategies that contribute to the development of e-government and continue to focus on pro-poor information and communications technology policies and applications, including with regard to broadband access at the grass-roots level, with a view to narrowing the digital divide between and within countries;

32. *Urges* all stakeholders to prioritize the development of innovative approaches that will stimulate the provision

of universal access to affordable broadband infrastructure for developing countries and the use of relevant broadband services in order to ensure the development of a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented and information society, and to minimize the digital divide;

33. *Calls upon* international and regional organizations to continue to assess and report on a regular basis on the universal accessibility of nations to information and communications technologies, with the aim of creating equitable opportunities for the growth of the information and communications technology sectors of developing countries;

34. *Urges* all countries to make concrete efforts to fulfil their commitments under the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development;

35. *Calls upon* United Nations organizations and other relevant organizations and forums, in accordance with the outcomes of the World Summit, to periodically review and modify the methodologies for information and communications technology indicators, taking into account different levels of development and national circumstances, and therefore:

(*a*) Endorses the work of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technologies for Development;

(*b*) Calls upon United Nations organizations and other relevant organizations and forums to study the implications of the current world economic situation on information and communications technology deployment, particularly information and communications technology connectivity through broadband, and its economic sustainability;

(*c*) Calls upon the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technologies for Development to further its work on measuring the impact of information and communications technologies, particularly in developing countries, by creating practical guidelines, methodologies and indicators;

(*d*) Encourages Governments to collect relevant data at the national level on information and communications technologies, to share information about country case studies and to collaborate with other countries in capacity-building exchange programmes;

(*e*) Encourages United Nations organizations and other relevant organizations and forums to promote impact assessment of information and communications technologies on poverty and in key sectors to identify the knowledge and skills needed to boost impacts;

(*f*) Calls upon international development partners to provide financial support to further facilitate capacity-building and technical assistance in developing countries;

36. *Invites* the international community to make voluntary contributions to the special trust fund established by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to support the review and assessment work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development regarding follow-up to the World Summit, while acknowledging with appreciation the financial support provided by the Governments of Finland and Switzerland to this fund;

37. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission, on a yearly basis, a report on the implementation of the recommendations contained in Economic and Social Council resolutions on the assessment of the quanti-

tative and qualitative progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit;

38. *Urges* the Secretary-General to ensure the continued functioning of the Internet Governance Forum and its structures in preparation for the fifth meeting of the Forum, to be held in Nairobi from 27 to 30 September 2011, and future meetings of the Forum, without prejudice to the improvements that may be proposed by the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum;

39. *Invites* all stakeholders to contribute to the open consultation of the United Nations Group on the Information Society on the overall review of the implementation of the World Summit outcomes, in order to ensure that their views and needs are reflected in the outcomes of that consultation, that is, the Action Plan, which shall be presented to the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination at its meeting in April 2012, and requests the Group to provide a report on the open consultation for consideration by the Commission at its fifteenth session in May 2012.

Other events. The World Summit on the Information Society Forum 2011 (Geneva, 16–20 May), organized by ITU, UNESCO, UNCTAD and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), was attended by more than 1,150 WSIS stakeholders and included several high-level dialogues, meetings, interactive sessions and thematic workshops on topics such as social media, digital inclusion and cyberspace.

The Broadband Commission for Digital Development, established in 2010 by ITU and UNESCO, held a Broadband Leadership Summit (Geneva, 24–25 October), during which it set targets for making broadband policy universal and for boosting broadband affordability and uptake.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 22 December [meeting 91], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/66/437], adopted **resolution 66/184** without vote [agenda item 16].

Information and communications technologies for development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 56/183 of 21 December 2001, 57/238 of 20 December 2002, 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 59/220 of 22 December 2004, 60/252 of 27 March 2006, 62/182 of 19 December 2007, 63/202 of 19 December 2008, 64/187 of 21 December 2009, 65/141 of 20 December 2010 and other relevant resolutions,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolutions 2006/46 of 28 July 2006, 2008/3 of 18 July 2008, 2009/7 of 24 July 2009 and 2010/2 of 19 July 2010, and taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/16 of 26 July 2011 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,

Recalling further 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, and endorsed by the General Assembly, 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, and endorsed by the General Assembly,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

Recalling also the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on 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,

Noting the organization of the World Summit on the Information Society Forum 2011 in Geneva from 16 to 20 May 2011,

Noting also the establishment of the Broadband Commission for Digital Development at the invitation of the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union and the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and taking note of the "Broadband targets for 2015", established by the Commission at its Broadband Leadership Summit, held in Geneva on 24 and 25 October 2011, which set targets for making broadband policy universal and for increasing affordability and broadband uptake towards the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, to ensure that the potential of broadband connectivity and content are at the service of development,

Recognizing the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in assisting the Economic and Social Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up, in particular the review and assessment of the progress made in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, while at the same time maintaining its original mandate on science and technology for development,

Noting the holding of the fourteenth session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in Geneva from 23 to 27 May 2011,

Noting also that cultural diversity is the common heritage of humankind and that the information society should be founded on and stimulate respect for cultural identity, cultural and linguistic diversity, traditions and religions and foster dialogue among cultures and civilizations, and noting also that the promotion, affirmation and preservation of diverse cultural identities and languages, as reflected in relevant agreed United Nations documents, including the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, will further enrich the information society,

Acknowledging the positive trends in global connectivity and affordability in the field of information and communications technologies, in particular the steady increase in Internet access to one third of the world's population, the rapid diffusion of mobile telephony, the increased availability of multilingual content and Internet addresses and the advent of new services and applications, including m-health, mobile transactions, e-government, e-education, e-business and developmental services, which offer great potential for the development of the information society,

Emphasizing, however, that in spite of recent progress, there remains an important digital divide, recognizing in this regard that currently only 26 per cent of the population in developing countries uses the Internet, compared with 74 per cent in developed countries, and stressing the need to reduce the digital divide, including with regard to such issues as international interconnection charges for Internet use, and to ensure that the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications technologies, are available to all,

Reaffirming the need to harness the potential of information and communications technologies to promote the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, through sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development,

Expressing concern about the ongoing adverse impacts of the world financial and economic crisis on the positive trends in the diffusion of information and communications technologies and the investment needed to ensure universal access to such technologies,

Expressing concern also about the growing gap in broadband provision between developed and developing countries, as well as about the new dimensions that the digital divide has taken on,

Recognizing that the lack of capacity-building for the productive use of information and communications technologies needs to be addressed in order to overcome the digital divide,

Recognizing also that the number of Internet users is growing and that the digital divide is also changing in character from one based on whether access is available to one based on the quality of access, the information and skills that users can obtain and the value they can derive from it, and recognizing in this regard that there is a need to prioritize the use of information and communications technologies through innovative approaches, including multi-stakeholder approaches, within national and regional development strategies,

Reaffirming paragraphs 4, 5 and 55 of the Declaration of Principles adopted in Geneva in 2003, and recognizing that freedom of expression and the free flow of information, ideas and knowledge are essential for the information society and are beneficial to development,

Conscious of the challenges faced by States, in particular developing countries, in combating cybercrime, and emphasizing the need to reinforce technical assistance and capacity-building activities for the prevention, prosecution and punishment of the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes,

Acknowledging that the Internet is a central element of the infrastructure of the information society and is a global facility available to the public,

Recognizing that the international management of the Internet should be multilateral, transparent and democratic, with the full involvement of Governments, the private sector, civil society and international organizations, as stated in the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society,

Recognizing also the importance of the Internet Governance Forum and its mandate as a forum for multi-stakeholder dialogue on various matters, including public policy issues related to key elements of Internet governance, in order to foster the sustainability, robustness, security, stability and development of the Internet, as well as its role in building partnerships among different stakeholders so as to help in addressing the various issues of Internet governance, while acknowledging the calls for improvements in its working methods,

Recalling its decision that the desirability of the continuation of the Internet Governance Forum will be considered again by Member States in the General Assembly in the context of a ten-year review of the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit on the Information Society in 2015,

Reiterating the significance and urgency of the process towards enhanced cooperation in full consistency with the mandate provided in the Tunis Agenda and the need for enhanced cooperation to enable Governments, on an equal footing, to carry out their roles and responsibilities in respect of international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet but not in respect of the day-to-day technical and operational matters that have no impact on those issues,

Reaffirming that the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society relating to Internet governance, namely, the process towards enhanced cooperation and the convening of the Internet Governance Forum, are to be pursued by the Secretary-General through two distinct processes, and recognizing that the two processes may be complementary,

Reaffirming also paragraphs 35 to 37 and 67 to 72 of the Tunis Agenda,

Welcoming the efforts undertaken by the host countries in organizing the meetings of the Internet Governance Forum, held in Athens in 2006, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2007, in Hyderabad, India, in 2008, in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, in 2009, in Vilnius in 2010 and in Nairobi in 2011,

Recognizing the pivotal role of the United Nations system in promoting development, including with respect to enhancing access to information and communications technologies, inter alia, through partnerships with all relevant stakeholders,

Welcoming, in view of the existing gaps in information and communications technologies infrastructure, the Connect Africa summits held in Kigali in 2007 and in Cairo in 2008, the Connect the Commonwealth of Independent States summit held in Minsk in 2009, the meeting of Commonwealth countries held in Colombo in 2010, the First Digital Agenda Assembly of the European Union held in Brussels on 16 and 17 June 2011 and the annual European Dialogue on Internet Governance, which are regional initiatives aimed at mobilizing human, financial and technical resources to accelerate the implementation of the connectivity goals of the World Summit on the Information Society,

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, poverty

eradication 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.   *Expresses concern* regarding the digital divide in access to information and communications technologies and broadband connectivity between countries at different levels of development, which affects many economically and socially relevant applications in such areas as government, business, health and education, and further expresses concern with regard to the special challenges faced in the area of broadband connectivity by developing countries, including the least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries;

3.   *Acknowledges* that a gender divide exists as part of the digital divide, and encourages all stakeholders to ensure the full participation of women in the information society and women's access to and use of information and communications technologies for their overall empowerment and benefit;

4.   *Stresses* that, for the majority of the poor, the development promise of science and technology, including information and communications technologies, remains unfulfilled, and emphasizes the need to effectively harness technology, including information and communications technologies, to bridge the digital divide;

5.   *Also stresses* the important role of Governments in the design of their national public policies and in the provision of public services responsive to national needs and priorities through, inter alia, the effective use of information and communications technologies, including on the basis of a multi-stakeholder approach, to support national development efforts;

6.   *Recognizes* that, in addition to financing by the public sector, financing of information and communications technologies infrastructure by the private sector has come to play an important role in many countries and that domestic financing is being augmented by North-South flows and complemented by South-South cooperation, and also recognizes that South-South and triangular cooperation can be useful tools for promoting the development of information and communications technologies;

7.   *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 accessing the new technologies, such as insufficient resources, infrastructure, education, capacity, investment, connectivity and issues related to technology ownership, standards and flows, and in this regard calls upon all stakeholders to provide adequate resources, enhanced capacity-building and technology transfer, on mutually agreed terms, to developing countries, particularly the least developed countries;

8.   *Further recognizes* the immense potential that information and communications technologies have in promoting the transfer of technologies in a wide spectrum of socioeconomic activity;

9.   *Encourages* strengthened and continuing cooperation between and among stakeholders 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, re-

gional and international multi-stakeholder partnerships, including public-private partnerships, and the promotion of national and regional multi-stakeholder thematic platforms in a joint effort and dialogue with developing countries, including the least developed countries, development partners and actors in the information and communications technologies sector;

10.	*Reaffirms* the role of the General Assembly in the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, to be held by the end of 2015, as recognized in paragraph 111 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, and further decides to consider the modalities for this review process at its sixty-seventh session;

11.	*Welcomes* the efforts undertaken by Tunisia, host of the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the International Telecommunication Union and other relevant international and regional organizations, for organizing annually the ict 4 All Forum and technological exhibition as a platform within the framework of the follow-up to the Summit to promote a dynamic business environment for the information and communications technologies sector worldwide;

12.	*Notes* the progress that has been made by United Nations 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 achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

13.	*Also 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 progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional and international levels;

14.	*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 need for resources in this regard;

15.	*Recognizes* the urgent need to harness the potential of knowledge and technology, and in this regard encourages the United Nations development system to continue its effort to promote the use of information and communications technologies as a critical enabler of development and a catalyst for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

16.	*Also recognizes* the role of the United Nations Group on the Information Society as an inter-agency mechanism of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination designed to coordinate United Nations implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society;

17.	*Notes* the report of the Chair of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum, and takes note of the decision of the Economic and Social Council, in paragraphs 27 to 29 of its resolution 2011/16, to extend the mandate of the Working Group until the fifteenth session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in order for it to complete its task in accordance with its mandate, and urges the Working Group to submit its recommendations to the Commission at its fifteenth session, which shall constitute an input from the Commission to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council;

18.	*Stresses* the need for the enhanced participation of all developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, in all Internet Governance Forum meetings, and in this regard invites Member States, as well as other 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;

19.	*Recalls* paragraph 22 of its resolution 65/141, takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on enhanced cooperation on public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, in particular of the consultations convened by the Secretary-General through the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, including the meeting held in New York on 14 December 2010, invites the Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to convene, in conjunction with the fifteenth session of the Commission, a one-day open, inclusive and interactive meeting involving all Member States and other stakeholders, particularly those from developing countries, including the private sector, civil society and international organizations, with a view to identifying a shared understanding of enhanced cooperation on public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, in accordance with paragraphs 34 and 35 of the Tunis Agenda, and requests the Secretary-General to include information on the outcome of the meeting when preparing his report on the status of the implementation of and follow-up to the present resolution;

20.	*Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session, through the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the Economic and Social Council, a report on the status of the implementation of and follow-up to the present resolution, 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;

21.	*Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Information and communications technologies for development".

Development policy and public administration

Committee for Development Policy

The Committee for Development Policy, at its thirteenth session (New York, 21–25 March) [E/2011/33

& Corr.1], addressed three themes: education for all, issues related to the least developed countries (including monitoring of the development progress of Equatorial Guinea and Samoa), and migration and development.

Regarding the theme of the 2011 annual ministerial review, entitled "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education", the Committee noted that many developing countries had achieved significant progress towards meeting the internationally agreed targets on education, including the provision of universal primary education. Urgent improvements, however, were needed in terms of quality of education, including the enhancement of cognitive skills.

In preparation for the triennial review of the list of least developed countries to be undertaken in 2012, the Committee reviewed the criteria and indicators used to identify such countries, and proposed further refinements. Samoa, scheduled for graduation in 2014, was recovering from the economic and financial crisis as well as the tsunami disaster of 2009 and was expected to return to its sustainable development path. The economic prospects of Equatorial Guinea, whose graduation was endorsed by the Council in 2009, continued to be favourable.

During its evaluation of the interaction between development and migration, the Committee found that international migration had a significant impact on the development and functioning of modern economies. It called for increased international cooperation and clearer progress towards creating an international framework for the regulation of migration flows, and for the promotion of measures to enhance the positive developmental impacts of migration and minimize its negative effects.

For its forthcoming fourteenth (2012) session, the Committee would undertake work on the theme of the 2012 annual ministerial review of the Economic and Social Council, entitled "Promoting productive capacity, employment and decent work to eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels for achieving the Millennium Development Goals".

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 27 July [meeting 47], the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 2011/20** [draft: E/2011/L.34] without vote [agenda item 13 (*a*)].

Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its thirteenth session

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 59/209 of 20 December 2004 on a smooth transition strategy for coun-

tries graduating from the list of least developed countries, resolution 65/286 of 29 June 2011 on implementing the smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries and resolution 61/16 of 20 November 2006 on strengthening of the Economic and Social Council,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011 on the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,

Recalling further its resolutions 1998/46 of 31 July 1998, 2007/34 of 27 July 2007, 2009/35 of 31 July 2009 and 2010/9 of 22 July 2010,

Expressing its conviction that no country graduating from the least developed countries category should have its positive development disrupted or reversed, but that it should be able to continue and sustain its progress and development,

Acknowledging the contribution that the Committee for Development Policy can make to further strengthen the work of the Economic and Social Council by broadening and deepening the use of the expertise available in the Committee,

1.　*Takes note* of the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its thirteenth session;

2.　*Requests* the Committee, at its fourteenth session, to examine and make recommendations on the themes chosen by the Economic and Social Council for the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2012;

3.　*Takes note* of the proposals made by the Committee regarding its future programme of work, in particular to monitor the development progress of Cape Verde and Maldives and review the existing smooth transition mechanisms to identify how they can be further strengthened or improved and better monitored;

4.　*Recalls* its endorsement of the recommendation of the Committee that Equatorial Guinea be graduated from the list of least developed countries;

5.　*Reiterates* its recommendation that the General Assembly take note of the recommendation of the Committee that Equatorial Guinea be graduated from the list of least developed countries;

6.　*Welcomes* the outcome of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, and notes the contributions of the Committee to the Conference;

7.　*Requests* the Committee to monitor the development progress of countries graduating from the list of least developed countries and to include its findings in its annual report to the Council;

8.　*Reiterates* the importance for development and trading partners to implement concrete measures in support of the transition strategy for ensuring durable graduation;

9.　*Decides* to engage in, within existing resources, more frequent interactions with the Committee, and invites the Chair and, as necessary, other members of the Committee to meet with the Council, including, as appropriate:

(*a*)　To discuss, prior to the annual substantive session of the Council, the views and recommendations on the themes of the high-level segment and other relevant issues contained in the annual report of the Committee to the Council;

(*b*) To exchange views, during the general segment, on the programme of work of the Committee on the themes to be addressed by the Council at the high-level segment of its following substantive session and on other pertinent issues that the Committee wishes to bring to the attention of the Council.

Public administration

The Committee of Experts on Public Administration, at its tenth session (New York, 4–8 April) [E/2011/44], considered the component on post-conflict and post-disaster countries, including social protection for vulnerable populations, of the current year's theme—public governance for results. The Committee had before it Secretariat notes on public governance for results: a conceptual and operational framework [E/C.16/2011/2]; State capacity for post-conflict and post-disaster reconstruction and social protection policies [E/C.16/2011/3]; and a review of the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance [E/C.16/2011/4]. The Committee submitted a draft resolution to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see p. 824).

The Committee recommended to the Secretariat and the Council that they assist Governments, including through better practice guides, mechanisms for constant monitoring and review, and building organizations with a learning culture. They should ensure that the United Nations had the capacity to provide independent information, such as on the MDGs, in order to facilitate independent performance evaluation.

With regard to post-conflict and post-disaster countries, the Committee noted a lack of assistance on governance capacities for development and recommended that those be developed to complement ongoing assistance in peace and security carried out by UNDP and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. Programmes of public sector development should move from technical assistance provided by expatriate advisers to the creation of a locally rooted public administration.

The Committee urged DESA to contribute to an international mechanism for financing adjustments to the environmental crisis, and to provide technical support to address agricultural losses and food insecurity. It further recommended assisting countries in the radical restructuring of public administration and development management to meet the challenges of the cumulative impact of successive disasters.

As to social protection, the safeguard of vulnerable groups should be a priority for any Government, with strategies including criteria such as affordability; national values on an ethic of social solidarity; vertical and horizontal equity; support from non-State actors; gender; sustainability over time; the possibility of phasing out when appropriate so as to avoid individual dependency as well as fiscal traps; and administrative efficiency. Special attention should be paid to vulnerable groups excluded from mainstream social protection programmes. The Committee called on the United Nations to work with Member States to forge a global agenda for social protection, linked more closely with national development agendas beyond the targeted year of 2015.

Regarding performance management in governance, the Committee recommended that Member States place priority on training senior managers and civil servants; improve the compensation system for government employees; establish an effective performance appraisal system; and recognize the importance of education on citizenship and a culture of responsibility.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 26 April [meeting 9], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration [E/2010/44], adopted **resolution 2011/2** [draft: E/2011/L.5] without vote [agenda item 2].

Report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its ninth session

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2002/40 of 19 December 2002, 2003/60 of 25 July 2003, 2005/3 of 31 March 2005, 2005/55 of 21 October 2005, 2006/47 of 28 July 2006, 2007/38 of 4 October 2007, 2008/32 of 25 July 2008 and 2009/18 of 29 July 2009, all on public administration and development,

Referring to General Assembly resolutions 50/225 of 19 April 1996, 56/213 of 21 December 2001, 57/277 of 20 December 2002, 58/231 of 23 December 2003, 59/55 of 2 December 2004 and 60/34 of 30 November 2005 on public administration and development, and resolutions 63/202 of 19 December 2008 and 64/187 of 21 December 2009 on information and communication technologies for development,

Taking note of the support being provided by the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance to Member States for institutional and human resource capacity development in the public sector, electronic and mobile government development, development management and citizen engagement,

Taking note also of the work of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration in providing advice to the Economic and Social Council aimed at the advancement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, within the context of its mandate,

Underscoring the importance of strengthening effective public administration institutions, human resources, management processes and tools and citizen involvement in policymaking with a view to addressing the challenges posed by global crises,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its ninth session, which dealt with the challenges to and opportunities for public administration in the context of the financial and economic crisis, a review of the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance and the public administration perspective on implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and empowerment of women;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions in promoting greater transparency, accountability and efficient and effective receipt and use of public resources for the benefit of citizens and of the 1977 Lima Declaration of Guidelines on Auditing Precepts and the 2007 Mexico Declaration on Supreme Audit Institutions Independence, which set out the principles of independence in government auditing, and encourages the wide dissemination of these principles;

3. *Recognizes* the key role of public administration and public governance in implementing the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and in addressing the challenges posed by global crises;

4. *Also recognizes* that information and communications technology provides a potent tool for advancing gender equality and women's empowerment, as well as the importance of e-government for development;

5. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(*a*) To give due recognition to innovative public sector initiatives by Member States through the promotion and strengthening of the United Nations Public Service Day and the Public Service Awards;

(*b*) To support further development of the United Nations Public Administration Network for partnership-building, knowledge-sharing and the exchange of best practices in the area of public administration;

(*c*) To assist in the implementation of the Plan of Action on e-government-related issues adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society at its first phase, held in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003;

(*d*) To assist countries in public institutional and human resources development and development management in order to strengthen national ownership and capacity for the articulation of national development strategies, their effective implementation and full citizen engagement, with a special focus on developing countries, Africa, countries in transition and the least developed countries;

(*e*) To collect data on gender equality in public administration and high-level civil service positions, within its existing mandate;

(*f*) To continue to develop its online and offline training tools for capacity development and consolidate the products and services of its online information resources on public administration country studies.

On 27 July [meeting 47], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration [E/2011/44], adopted **resolution 2011/22** [draft: E/2011/L.23] without vote [agenda item 13 (*g*)].

Report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its tenth session

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2002/40 of 19 December 2002, 2003/60 of 25 July 2003, 2005/3 of 31 March 2005, 2005/55 of 21 October 2005, 2006/47 of 28 July 2006, 2007/38 of 4 October 2007, 2008/32 of 25 July 2008, 2009/18 of 29 July 2009 and 2011/2 of 26 April 2011, all on public administration and development,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 50/225 of 19 April 1996, 56/213 of 21 December 2001, 57/277 of 20 December 2002, 58/231 of 23 December 2003, 59/55 of 2 December 2004 and 60/34 of 30 November 2005, all on public administration and development,

Recognizing the work of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration in providing policy advice and programmatic guidance to the Economic and Social Council on issues related to governance and public administration in development,

Taking note of the support being provided by the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance to Member States for institutional and human resource capacity-building, development management, electronic and mobile government development, and citizen engagement in the public sector,

Taking note also of the discussions held during the tenth session of the Committee on post-conflict and post-disaster countries as well as on social protection for vulnerable populations, and having considered the recommendations made therein,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its tenth session and of the focus of the Committee on "Local public governance and administration for results: how local public administration should be improved to support the implementation of the internationally agreed development agenda, including the Millennium Development Goals" as the theme of its eleventh session, in 2012;

2. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(*a*) To continue to support the development of the United Nations Public Administration Network for partnership-building, knowledge dissemination and the exchange of knowledge, best practices and lessons learned in the area of public administration;

(*b*) To continue to develop and promote the United Nations Public Administration Country Studies, which contains analytical and case studies, guidelines and other knowledge-sharing outputs on best practices and lessons learned in governance for development, including for post-conflict countries and countries facing the cumulative effects of successive disasters;

(*c*) To better publicize the opportunity represented by the United Nations Public Service Awards, to disseminate information on good practices and innovation from the awards and to strive to better promote and utilize innovative public administration initiatives, including those identified within the context of the awards;

(*d*) To continue to enhance, within existing resources, its support for capacity-building in the public sector, including in human resource development, promoting participatory governance institutions with a view to making

public administration more open, transparent, accountable and responsive to citizens in all countries, and use case studies, as appropriate, in capacity-building and training activities, and assess the impact of those case studies;

(*e*) To continue to assist in analysis, policy options and capacity-building, including for post-conflict countries, particularly on their governance capacities for development;

(*f*) To continue to provide countries in post-disaster situations with policy advice, capacity-building actions and tools for engaging citizens, civil society organizations and the private sector in recovery and reconstruction efforts, deepening public accountability and preventing corruption;

(*g*) To continue activities around the themes of public service delivery and the engagement of citizens in accountability and preventing corruption;

(*h*) To continue to assist in capacity-building and technical cooperation for e-government, including through the further development of the Measurement and Evaluation Tool for E-Government Readiness;

3. *Encourages* the Committee to focus its efforts to achieve fully developed, consensus-based views and recommendations on issues related to public administration.

On 27 July, the Council decided that the eleventh session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration would be held at UN Headquarters from 16 to 20 April 2012 and approved the provisional agenda for the session (**decision 2011/252**).

Improving public administration

On 10 November [A/C.2/66/SR.34], Austria, on behalf of 30 countries, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Promoting the efficiency, transparency and accountability of public administration by strengthening supreme audit institutions" [A/C.2/66/L.16]. The sponsors believed that building strong institutions was a central development challenge and that supreme audit institutions played a critical role, as they helped promote sound financial management and thus accountable and transparent government.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 22 December [meeting 91], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/66/442], adopted **resolution 66/209** without vote [agenda item 21].

Promoting the efficiency, accountability, effectiveness and transparency of public administration by strengthening supreme audit institutions

The General Assembly,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/2 of 26 April 2011,

Recalling also its resolutions 59/55 of 2 December 2004 and 60/34 of 30 November 2005 and its previous resolutions on public administration and development,

Recalling further the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

Emphasizing the need to improve the efficiency, accountability, effectiveness and transparency of public administration,

Emphasizing also that efficient, accountable, effective and transparent public administration has a key role to play in the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Stressing the need for capacity-building as a tool to promote development, and welcoming the cooperation of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions with the United Nations in this regard,

1. *Recognizes* that supreme audit institutions can accomplish their tasks objectively and effectively only if they are independent of the audited entity and are protected against outside influence;

2. *Also recognizes* the important role of supreme audit institutions in promoting the efficiency, accountability, effectiveness and transparency of public administration, which is conducive to the achievement of national development objectives and priorities as well as the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

3. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions in promoting greater efficiency, accountability, effectiveness, transparency and efficient and effective receipt and use of public resources for the benefit of citizens;

4. *Also takes note with appreciation* of the Lima Declaration of Guidelines on Auditing Precepts of 1977 and the Mexico Declaration on Supreme Audit Institutions Independence of 2007, and encourages Member States to apply, in a manner consistent with their national institutional structures, the principles set out in those Declarations;

5. *Encourages* Member States and relevant United Nations institutions to continue and to intensify their cooperation, including in capacity-building, with the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions in order to promote good governance by ensuring efficiency, accountability, effectiveness and transparency through strengthened supreme audit institutions.

Groups of countries in special situations

On 16 September [A/66/443], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, included in the agenda of its sixty-sixth session the item entitled "Groups of countries in special situations", covering least developed, landlocked and transit developing countries, and allocated it to the Second Committee.

On 22 December, the Assembly took note of the report of the Second Committee (**decision 66/545**).

Least developed countries

The special problems of the officially designated least developed countries (LDCs) were considered in several UN forums in 2011, particularly at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC-IV) (Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May). The Conference adopted the Istanbul Declaration and the Programme of Action for LDCs for the Decade 2011–2020. The Committee for Development Policy (CDP), UNCTAD and the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS) also considered LDC-related issues.

The *Least Developed Countries Report 2011* [Sales No. E.11.II.D.5], published by UNCTAD, examined the potential role of South-South cooperation for inclusive and sustainable development. It stated that LDCs needed to go beyond business as usual in order to promote development and suggested how South-South cooperation supported such a transformational agenda. The report showed that despite strong gross domestic product growth during the previous decade, the benefits of growth were neither inclusive nor sustainable, mainly because growth was not complemented by structural transformation and employment creation. Most LDCs continued to deepen their specialization in exports of primary commodities and low-value, labour-intensive manufacturing, rather than diversifying into more sophisticated products. The benefits of South-South cooperation would be greatest when the policies of catalytic developmental States in LDCs and South-South cooperation reinforced each other in a continual process of change and development.

LDC list

In preparation for the triennial review of the list of LDCs to be undertaken in 2012 [E/2011/33], CDP re-examined the criteria and indicators used to identify such countries. CDP defined LDCs as low-income countries suffering from the most severe structural impediments to sustainable development. While confirming the reliability of the criteria used for identification, it proposed further refinements to the indicators, in particular to better reflect the structural vulnerability of countries to climate change.

Maldives graduated from the LDC category on 1 January, after a long transition period. Graduation was endorsed in 2004 by the Economic and Social Council [YUN 2004, p. 855] and noted by the General Assembly [ibid.], and was scheduled to take place in 2007. Due to the devastation caused by the Indian Ocean tsunami of 26 December 2004 [ibid., p. 952],

the Assembly, by resolution 60/33 [YUN 2005, p. 942], deferred graduation to 1 January 2011.

CDP recommended the graduation of Equatorial Guinea in March 2009 [YUN 2009, p. 829]. That recommendation was endorsed by the Council [ibid., p. 829] but had not been confirmed by the General Assembly.

The list of LDCs comprised the following 48 countries: Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Comoros, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Kiribati, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, the Niger, Rwanda, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, the Sudan, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tuvalu, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu, Yemen and Zambia.

Smooth transition strategy

According to the Istanbul Programme of Action (see p. 828), a smooth transition of countries graduating from LDC status was vital to ensure that those countries were eased onto a sustainable development path without any disruption to their development plans, programmes and projects. The Programme invited the Assembly to establish an ad hoc working group to further study and strengthen the smooth transition process. The Assembly, in resolution 66/213 (see p. 830), requested its President to establish the working group.

The President of the Assembly, on 23 December [A/66/PV.91], said that support for the working group would be provided by UN-OHRLLS as the secretariat of the group, as well as by DESA, CDP and its secretariat.

On 22 December, the Assembly adopted the terms of reference of the Ad Hoc Working Group to further study and strengthen the smooth transition process for countries graduating from the LDC category (**decision 66/553**).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 29 June [meeting 105], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 65/286** [draft: A/65/L.66/Rev.1 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 23].

Implementing the smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 46/206 of 20 December 1991 and 59/209 of 20 December 2004,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolutions 2006/1 of 7 February 2006, 2007/34 of 27 July 2007 and 2009/35 of 31 July 2009 as they relate to the need for monitoring the progress of countries graduating from least developed country status, and to the importance of taking into consideration the nature and extent of this progress in determining a smooth transition strategy for these countries,

Recalling further Economic and Social Council decision 2004/299 of 23 July 2004, which highlighted the proposals of the Secretary-General for concrete mechanisms to implement a smooth transition strategy for graduating countries, as well as the recommendations on possible features of a smooth transition strategy contained in the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its tenth session,

Recalling the Istanbul Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, adopted at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011, in which Member States committed to assisting the least developed countries with an overarching goal of enabling half of them to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020,

1. *Reiterates* the importance of ensuring that the graduation of a country from least developed country status does not cause disruption in the development progress that country has achieved;

2. *Urges* graduating countries and all bilateral and multilateral development and trading partners to pursue or intensify their efforts, consistent with World Trade Organization rules, to contribute to the full implementation of resolution 59/209, with a view to ensuring the smooth transition of graduating least developed countries;

3. *Looks forward*, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 65/171 of 20 December 2010, to the report of the Secretary-General to the Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the support measures effectively provided by development and trading partners for the countries that have graduated or will be graduating from least developed country status and on possible ways to better ensure their smooth transition;

4. *Decides* that the long-standing benefit of travel-related support that has been made available by the United Nations to the least developed countries will be extended, if requested, within existing resources, to Cape Verde and Maldives for a period appropriate to the development situation of the country and for a maximum of three years, beginning immediately after the adoption of the present resolution, and that the same benefit will be granted, also if requested, within existing resources, and for a period appropriate to the development situation of the country and for a maximum of three years, to any other country that graduates from least developed country status;

5. *Urges* the Committee for Development Policy, with assistance and support from other relevant entities, to continue its monitoring of the development progress of graduated countries as a complement to its triennial review of the list of least developed countries, to pay particular attention to the effectiveness of smooth transition for graduated countries, and to report thereon to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session.

Review of the Programme of Action (2001–2010)

In response to General Assembly resolution 65/171 [YUN 2010, p. 846] and Economic and Social Council resolution 2010/27 [ibid., p. 844], the Secretary-General in February submitted a report [A/66/66-E/2011/78] on the ten-year appraisal and review of the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for LDCs for the Decade 2001–2010 [YUN 2001, p. 770]. The report, to be submitted to LDC-IV, identified lessons learned and best practices, as well as structural constraints and handicaps encountered, resource requirements and resource gaps in achieving the objectives of the Programme of Action. In accordance with Assembly resolution 63/227 [YUN 2008, p. 944], the report also evaluated actions and initiatives needed to overcome obstacles and identified effective international and domestic policies in the light of the outcome of the appraisal.

The report outlined progress achieved with respect to the Programme's main objectives, including economic development; poverty, hunger and other targets related to the MDGs; good governance; mobilization of financial resources; and progress towards graduation. The report concluded that economic and social development in LDCs had been better during the implementation period of the Programme of Action than in the previous decade—albeit with significant differences among individual LDCs—but that the specific goals and objectives had not been fully attained. The structural transformation that would put LDCs on a path of sustainable growth had not occurred. The Secretary-General called for greater ownership and leadership in the implementation of a programme of action, and advised LDCs to identify authorities to oversee the execution of development strategies. Recommendations for a new programme of action included considering new players, including large and influential developing countries; focusing on structural transformation through increasing productive capacity and diversification; tapping the enormous human resources potential of LDCs, especially the large youth population; increasing financial resources; and ensuring mutual accountability between LDCs and their national, regional and global partners.

The Assembly took note of the report on 22 December (**decision 66/546**).

Fourth UN Conference on Least Developed Countries

Preparatory process

In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 64/213 [YUN 2009, p. 835] and 65/171 [YUN 2010, p. 846], the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee

for LDC-IV held its first (10–14 January) [A/CONF.219/IPC/6] and second substantive sessions (4–8 April) [A/CONF.219/4] in New York. On 8 April, the Preparatory Committee adopted four decisions, including on the draft provisional agenda [A/CONF.219/IPC/8] and the draft rules of procedure [A/CONF.219/IPC/L.2].

Pre-conference events were held [A/CONF.219. IPC/10] on science, technology and innovation: setting priorities, shaping and implementing policies for LDCs (Istanbul, 7–8 February); building a knowledge base for innovation and creativity to promote development (Geneva, 14–15 February); harnessing the positive contribution of South-South cooperation for LDC development (New Delhi, 18–19 February); reducing vulnerability due to climate change, climate variability and extremes, land degradation and biodiversity loss: challenges and opportunities (New York, 28 February); digital inclusion for LDCs: innovation, growth and sustainability (Geneva, 8–9 March); promoting universal access to essential services (New York, 10 March); and growth, employment and decent work in LDCs (New York, 29 March) [A/CONF.219/7].

A summit-level meeting of LDCs was held in Istanbul on 8 May on the eve of the Conference.

Conference

In accordance with Assembly resolutions 64/213 and 65/171, LDC-IV (Istanbul, 9–13 May) [A/CONF.219/7] sought to comprehensively appraise the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action; identify effective international and domestic policies; reaffirm the global commitment to addressing the special needs of LDCs; and mobilize additional international support measures and action in favour of LDCs.

In the course of the general debate, statements were made by 121 Member States, 13 UN bodies and eight intergovernmental organizations. The Conference featured six high-level interactive thematic debates and 45 special events organized by Member States, UN bodies and other organizations. The Conference also featured a Parliamentary Forum (8 May), a Civil Society Forum (7–13 May) and a private sector track. On 13 May, the Conference adopted the Istanbul Declaration and the Programme of Action for LDCs for the Decade 2011–2020.

Istanbul Declaration. In the Istanbul Declaration, Governments committed to the overarching goal of enabling half of LDCs to meet the criteria for graduation through the eradication of poverty and the achievement of accelerated, sustained, inclusive and equitable growth and sustainable development. The Declaration renewed global partnership and solidarity with LDCs and affirmed the importance of the fulfilment of ODA commitments by donor countries. At the same time, Governments underscored that ownership,

leadership and primary responsibility for development rested with LDCs themselves. In order to facilitate productive capacity-building as a development multiplier, priority should be given to infrastructure services; the private sector, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises; mobilization of domestic and external financial resources; science and technology transfer; agriculture and rural development policies; and regional economic integration. The Declaration further recognized the potential of international trade, new innovative finance mechanisms and South-South cooperation; addressed challenges such as climate change and the high debt burden of many LDCs; and underlined the importance of effective and efficient monitoring of the Istanbul Programme of Action.

Programme of Action (2011–2020). In accordance with the Istanbul Declaration, the Programme of Action for LDCs for the Decade 2011–2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action) [A/CONF.219/3/Rev.1] set as its overarching goal to overcome the structural challenges faced by LDCs in order to eradicate poverty, achieve internationally agreed development goals and enable graduation from the LDC category.

The following objectives were to be pursued by international support measures and LDC national policies: achieve sustained, equitable and inclusive economic growth by strengthening LDC productive capacity; build human capacities by fostering sustained, equitable and inclusive human and social development, gender equality and the empowerment of women; reduce the vulnerability of LDCs to economic, natural and environmental shocks and disasters through strengthening their resilience; ensure enhanced financial resources for the development of LDCs; and enhance good governance by strengthening democratic processes, institutions and the rule of law.

The Programme of Action was based on principles such as country ownership and leadership; an integrated approach to development; genuine partnership and solidarity; peace and security, development and human rights; equity at all levels; voice and representation; and a balanced role of the State and market considerations, taking into account the significant role of the Government in achieving economic growth. The actions taken by LDCs and their development partners were to be focused on eight interlinked priority areas, namely productive capacity; agriculture, food security and rural development; trade; commodities; human and social development; multiple crises and other emerging challenges; mobilization of financial resources for development and capacity-building; and good governance at all levels.

The Programme of Action further stressed the importance of South-South cooperation as a complement to North-South cooperation and of a smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from LDC

status. Efficient follow-up and monitoring mechanisms were considered as crucial for such implementation, with particular emphasis on national-level arrangements.

Trade and Development Board action. At its forty-eighth annual session [TD/B/58/9], the Trade and Development Board took action on the report of the UNCTAD secretariat on the implementation of the outcome of LDC-IV [TD/B/58/7] (see p. 906).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 17 June [meeting 100], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 65/280** [draft: A/65/L.75] without vote [agenda item 23 (*a*)].

Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 63/227 of 19 December 2008, in which it decided to convene the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries at a high level in 2011, as well as its resolutions 64/213 of 21 December 2009 and 65/171 of 20 December 2010,

1. *Expresses its profound gratitude* to the Government and the people of the Republic of Turkey for hosting the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in Istanbul from 9 to 13 May 2011, and for providing all the necessary support;

2. *Endorses* the Istanbul Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, adopted by the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, and calls upon all the relevant stakeholders to commit to implementing the Programme of Action.

Briefing by High Representative. On 22 July [E/2011/SR.40], the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States briefed the Economic and Social Council on the outcome of LDC-IV.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 22 July [meeting 40], the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 2011/9** [draft: E/2011/L.31] without vote [agenda item 6 (*b*)].

Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Istanbul Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, adopted by the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011, and endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011, in which the Assembly called upon all the relevant stakeholders to commit to implementing the Programme of Action,

Reaffirming the overarching goal of the Programme of Action of overcoming the structural challenges faced by the least developed countries in order to eradicate poverty, achieve the internationally agreed development goals and enable graduation from the least developed country category,

Recalling its resolution 2010/27 of 23 July 2010 on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010,

1. *Takes note* of the oral report of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020;

2. *Expresses its profound gratitude* to the Government and the people of the Republic of Turkey for hosting the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and for providing all the necessary support, and expresses its gratitude to other donors and contributors for their generous contributions to the Conference and its preparatory process;

3. *Welcomes with appreciation* the decisions taken by the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund/United Nations Office for Project Services, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) at their 2011 annual sessions to integrate the Programme of Action within their respective programmes of work;

4. *Invites* all other organizations of the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations, including the Bretton Woods institutions and international and regional financial institutions, to contribute to the implementation of the Programme of Action and to integrate it into their programmes of work, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates, and to participate fully in its review at the national, subregional, regional and global levels;

5. *Invites* its subsidiary bodies, including the functional commissions and regional commissions, to make effective contributions to the implementation and review of the Programme of Action, in accordance with their respective mandates;

6. *Decides* to include the Programme of Action as part of its review of the implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits;

7. *Calls upon* the least developed countries, with the support of their development partners, to promote implementation of the Programme of Action, including by integrating its provisions into their national policies and development framework and conducting regular reviews with the full involvement of all key stakeholders;

8. *Also calls upon* the least developed countries, in cooperation with their development partners, to broaden their existing country review mechanisms, including those for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and the implementation of poverty reduction strategy papers, common country assessments and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, and the existing consultative mechanisms to cover the review of the Programme of Action;

9. *Calls upon* the development partners and all other relevant actors to implement the Programme of Action by integrating it into their respective national cooperation pol-

icy 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;

10. *Underlines* the need to take the steps necessary to ensure mutual accountability of least developed countries and their development partners for delivering their commitments undertaken under the Programme of Action;

11. *Decides* to include in its annual ministerial review, in 2015, the review of the implementation of the Programme of Action;

12. *Also decides* that the Development Cooperation Forum should take into consideration the Programme of Action when it reviews the trends in international development cooperation, as well as policy coherence for development;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2012, under the sub-item entitled "Review and coordination of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020", a progress report on the implementation of the Programme of Action.

Report of Secretary-General. In accordance with Assembly resolution 65/171 [YUN 2010, p. 846], the Secretary-General submitted a July report [A/66/134] on the outcome of ldc-iv. The report provided an overview of the Istanbul Programme of Action (see p. 828) and endorsed the active role ascribed to the UN system, particularly un-ohrlls, in the implementation process as well as the follow-up and monitoring of the implementation of the Programme of Action.

Ministerial meeting. The Annual Ministerial Meeting of ldcs (New York, 26 September) focused on global development challenges, including the famine in the Horn of Africa, and their links to sustainable development. Addressing the meeting, the Secretary-General underlined the role of the Istanbul Programme of Action as a development compact and said that the next generation of development targets beyond 2015 should reflect the sustainability dimension more prominently.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 22 December [meeting 91], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/66/443/Add.1], adopted **resolution 66/213** without vote [agenda item 22 (*a*)].

Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Istanbul Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, adopted at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and endorsed by the General Assembly through its resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011, in which the Assembly called upon all the relevant stakeholders to commit to implementing the Programme of Action,

Reaffirming the overarching goal of the Istanbul Programme of Action of overcoming the structural challenges faced by the least developed countries in order to eradicate poverty, achieve internationally agreed development goals and enable graduation from the least developed country category,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/9 of 22 July 2011 on the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 59/209 of 20 December 2004 and 65/286 of 29 June 2011 on the importance of a smooth transition for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries, and reaffirming the aim of enabling half the least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020,

Taking note of the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the Ministerial Meeting of the Least Developed Countries, held in New York on 26 September 2011,

Taking note also of the report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011,

Recognizing the important contribution of civil society, the private sector and parliamentarians to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and the preparatory process for the Conference,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the outcome of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

2. *Calls upon* the least developed countries, with the support of their development partners, to fulfil their commitments and to promote implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, including by integrating its provisions into their national policies and development framework and conducting regular reviews with the full involvement of all key stakeholders, and in this regard, invites the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council, including United Nations regional and functional commissions, the United Nations resident coordinator system and the United Nations country teams to actively support the integration and the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action;

3. *Also calls upon* the least developed countries, in cooperation with their development partners, to broaden their existing country review mechanisms, including those for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, the implementation of poverty reduction strategy papers, common country assessments and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, and the existing consultative mechanisms to cover the review of the Istanbul Programme of Action;

4. *Calls upon* the development partners to integrate the Istanbul Programme of Action 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 Istanbul Programme of Action, and the delivery of

their commitments, and to consider appropriate measures to overcome shortfalls or shortcomings, if any;

5. *Invites* all organizations of the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations, including the Bretton Woods institutions and international and regional financial institutions, to contribute to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action and to integrate it into their programmes of work, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates, and to participate fully in its review at the national, subregional, regional and global levels;

6. *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 Istanbul Programme of Action in mutually agreed areas of cooperation within the framework of South-South cooperation, which is a complement to, but not a substitute for, North-South cooperation;

7. *Invites* the private sector, civil society and foundations to contribute to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in their respective areas of competence in line with the national priorities of the least developed countries;

8. *Welcomes with appreciation* the decisions taken by the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Office for Project Services, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the World Food Programme at their 2011 annual sessions to integrate the Istanbul Programme of Action within their respective programmes of work, welcomes with appreciation the adoption of a resolution by the Assemblies of States members of the World Intellectual Property Organization to mainstream the relevant parts of the Istanbul Programme of Action into various programmes of the organization, also welcomes the decision of the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to mainstream the relevant provisions of the Istanbul Programme of Action into the work of the secretariat and its intergovernmental machinery, and in this regard invites the governing bodies of all other United Nations funds and programmes and multilateral organizations to do the same in an expeditious manner, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates;

9. *Calls upon* the least developed countries, their development partners, the United Nations system and all other actors to fully and effectively implement the commitments that have been made in the Istanbul Programme of Action in its eight priority areas, namely, productive capacity, agriculture, food security and rural development, trade, commodities, human and social development, multiple crises and other emerging challenges, mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity-building, and good governance at all levels, in a coordinated, coherent and expeditious manner;

10. *Expresses concern* that the ongoing impact of the economic and financial crisis demonstrates the need for appropriate regional and international support to be deployed in a timely and targeted manner to complement the efforts of the least developed countries aimed at building resilience in the face of economic shocks and mitigating their effects;

11. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts made by the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, including the work of the Inter-Agency Consultative Group and the development of a road map to coordinate the activities of the relevant organizations of the United Nations system for the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action;

12. *Underlines* the need for giving particular attention to the issues and concerns of the least developed countries in all major United Nations conferences and processes;

13. *Notes* the ongoing preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the steps necessary to undertake a joint gap and capacity analysis on a priority basis by 2013 with the aim of establishing a technology bank and science, technology and innovation supporting mechanism dedicated to least developed countries, building on the existing international initiatives;

15. *Recalls* that a smooth transition of countries graduating from least developed country status is vital to ensure that those countries are eased onto a path towards sustainable development without any abrupt disruption to their development plans, programmes and projects;

16. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to establish, in consultation with Member States and the Secretary-General, an ad hoc working group to further study and strengthen the smooth transition process for the countries graduating from the least developed country category and to submit a report to the Assembly at its sixty-seventh session with specific recommendations, consistent with the Istanbul Programme of Action;

17. *Encourages* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and other donors to contribute to the Trust Fund in a timely manner to support the implementation, follow-up and monitoring of the Istanbul Programme of Action as well as the participation of the representatives from the least developed countries in the annual review meeting on the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action by 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;

18. *Stresses* that the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States should continue to fulfil its functions to assist the Secretary-General for the effective follow-up and monitoring of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action and the full mobilization and coordination of all parts of the United Nations system, with a view to facilitating the coordinated implementation of and coherence in the follow-up and monitoring of the Istanbul Programme of Action at the country, regional and global levels, and to assist in mobilizing international support and resources for the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, and to this end, it should continue its awareness-raising and advocacy work in favour of least developed countries in partnership with the relevant part of the United Nations, as well as with parliaments, civil society, the media, academia and foundations, and provide appropriate support to group consultations of least developed countries;

19. *Underlines* that the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States should be provided with the necessary support to fulfil its mandate for the timely and effective implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, and recognizes that the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session, as requested in paragraph 155 of the Istanbul Programme of Action, will facilitate, inter alia, consideration by the Assembly of the ongoing resource requirements of the Office of the High Representative;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a progress report on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020.

On 24 December (**decision 66/557**), the General Assembly decided that the agenda item on groups of countries in special situations: follow-up to ldc-iv would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-sixth (2012) session.

Small island developing States

During 2011, UN bodies continued to review progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Barbados Programme of Action), adopted in 1994 [YUN 1994, p. 783]. Member States also reviewed the Mauritius Strategy for Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, adopted by the 2005 International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the 1994 Programme of Action [YUN 2005, p. 946].

Commission on Sustainable Development consideration. At the nineteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development [E/2011/29], many delegates indicated that, according to the High-level Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States [YUN 2010, p. 850], the progress of those States towards sustainable development was inadequate and there were shortcomings in the institutional support for those States. A group of countries argued that a more formal, holistic coordination mechanism was essential for delivering UN and non-UN support to those States and that there was a need for more technical data and analysis to address their unique vulnerabilities. It was also proposed that regional mechanisms be developed to protect the ocean and coastal zones of small island developing States (sids) from ship-generated waste and to address the challenges posed by transboundary movement of hazardous material.

UN support for SIDS

In response to Economic and Social Council resolution 2010/34 [YUN 2010, p. 849] and General Assembly resolution 65/2 [ibid., p. 850], the Secretary-General, in May [E/2011/110] and August [A/66/218], respectively, submitted reports to the Council and the Assembly that provided an integrated analysis of UN system support to sids and reviewed UN system support to those States.

The reports reviewed the progress made by the UN system in integrating the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy into its mandates, programmes and processes, with a view to promoting the coherence and coordination of UN support to sids. The reports formulated recommendations on how such support could be more targeted, efficient and effective. The analysis of the support provided by the UN system focused on the mandates of relevant UN entities, with reference to institutional issues, financial contributions, and four particular domains of support—normative support, technical cooperation and support for capacity-building, analytical support and coordination mechanisms. The reports concluded that the UN system had provided sids with a wide range of targeted support in the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy. There was, however, room for improvement and enhancement in the delivery of coordinated and coherent programmes. The Secretary-General recommended the integration of issues of concern to sids into the work of the UN system; the strengthening of coordination and coherence of support; and the identification of focal points within every UN entity to ensure such support. He further underlined the need for effective knowledge management, a strong voice for sids at the global level, and enhanced collaboration within the UN system. Analytical work to address the special vulnerabilities of those States and to explore ways in which to help build their resilience should be continued.

On 29 July, the Council deferred action on the draft resolution entitled "Review of United Nations support for small island developing States" until its resumed substantive session (**decision 2011/274**).

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 5 December [meeting 54], the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 2011/44** [draft: E/2011/L.52 & E/2011/SR.54] without vote [agenda item 13 (*a*)].

Review of United Nations support
for small island developing States

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Declaration of Barbados, the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Mauritius Strategy for

the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

Recalling also its resolutions 2009/17 of 29 July 2009 and 2010/34 of 23 July 2010 on the review of United Nations support for small island developing States,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 65/2 of 25 September 2010 on the outcome document of the High-level Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

Recalling the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its twelfth session containing the Committee's independent views and perspectives on United Nations support for small island developing States,

Recalling also that the unique and particular vulnerabilities and development needs of small island developing States have been acknowledged by the international community,

Acknowledging that small island developing States have demonstrated their commitment to promoting sustainable development and will continue to do so, as well as the long-standing support provided by the international community,

Noting that the High-level Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy highlighted some shortcomings in the institutional support for small island developing States, as well as other constraints on the full and effective implementation of the Mauritius Strategy and the Barbados Programme of Action,

1.   *Requests* the Committee for Development Policy, within existing resources, to submit to the Economic and Social Council, prior to its substantive session of 2013, a report providing the independent views and perspectives of the Committee on how to further the full and effective implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy, including by refocusing efforts towards a results-oriented approach and considering what improved and additional measures might be needed to more effectively address the unique and particular vulnerabilities and development needs of small island developing States;

2.   *Recommends* that the report requested in paragraph 1 above be considered a contribution to the ongoing review process initiated under paragraph 33 of General Assembly resolution 65/2;

3.   *Invites* the Secretary-General to facilitate the work of the Committee for Development Policy as requested in paragraph 1 above, upon the request of the Committee;

4.   *Notes* the recommendations to the Economic and Social Council contained in the related report of the Secretary-General.

Mauritius Strategy

In a report [A/66/278] submitted in August in accordance with General Assembly resolution 65/2 [YUN 2010, p. 850], the Secretary-General provided concrete recommendations to enhance the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy. The report summarized the views and recommendations received from Member States, ex-

perts and UN entities on how to address some of the key vulnerabilities faced by sɪᴅs. Suggested measures to address the vulnerability and development needs of those States covered climate change adaptation, disaster risk management, preservation of biodiversity, energy challenges, economic structural disadvantages, food security, sustainable tourism and debt sustainability. Responses from Member States recommended greater communication between the UN system and sɪᴅs; a comprehensive review of financial support mechanisms; improvement in the collection and analysis of data; the development of renewable energy resources; and greater political commitment to the education system. Recommendations from UN entities and intergovernmental organizations were complementary and included debt relief, resource mobilization and the strengthening of self-reliance.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 22 December [meeting 91], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/66/440/Add.2], adopted **resolution 66/198** without vote [agenda item 19 (*b*)].

Follow-up to and implementation of 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 the Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"), including chapter VII on the sustainable development of small island developing States,

Recalling the outcome document of the High-level Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in New York on 24 and 25 September 2010, General Assembly resolution 65/156 of 20 December 2010 and all its other previous resolutions on the subject, as well as the report of the Secretary-General on the five-year review of the Mauritius Strategy,

Acknowledging the importance of the upcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,

1.   *Notes* the report of the Secretary-General on concrete recommendations to enhance the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, prepared in response to the request contained in the outcome document of the High-level Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy;

2. *Also notes* the report of the Secretary-General on the review of United Nations system support to small island developing States;

3. *Further notes* the ongoing preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012;

4. *Stresses* the importance of the continued substantive consideration of the follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States";

6. *Also decides* to consider, at its sixty-seventh session, the reports of the Secretary-General on concrete recommendations to enhance the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and on the review of United Nations system support to small island developing States, issued for the sixty-sixth session.

Landlocked developing countries

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 65/172 [YUN 2010, p. 856], the Secretary-General in July submitted a report [A/66/205] on 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 [YUN 2003, p. 875]. The report provided an update on progress made in the implementation and the efforts undertaken by the UN system and other international organizations. It also identified the major challenges encountered and made recommendations to accelerate implementation of the Programme.

While the landlocked developing countries (LLDCS) as a group were on their way to economic recovery after suffering from setbacks caused by the global financial and economic crisis, they were facing challenges related to international trade, poverty, unemployment, food insecurity and deforestation. Despite considerable progress achieved in several priority areas, the report identified several gaps: ratification of conventions to facilitate international trade by LLDCS had been slow; the percentage of paved roads remained low; railways remained an underutilized form of transport; energy infrastructure was insufficient and unreliable; nine LLDCS were not members of the World Trade Organization; and the geographic distribution of foreign direct investment remained uneven.

The report concluded that being landlocked imposed a major constraint to economic growth and the attainment of development objectives. The economies of LLDCS remained fragile because of their vulnerability to external shocks, owing to limited export diversification, limited productive capacities, lack of export competitiveness and high transport and transit costs.

The Secretary-General recommended increased financial support by the international community; prioritization of resource allocation for the maintenance and rehabilitation of transit transport infrastructure; and ratification and implementation of international agreements on transport and trade facilitation. He further suggested LLDCS that be supported in strengthening their analytical capacities to develop and implement coherent and comprehensive transport policies and in sharpening their negotiation skills for effective participation in international trade.

Communications. On 25 April [E/ESCAP/67/22], Mongolia transmitted to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific the Ulaanbaatar Declaration, adopted by the High-level Asia-Pacific Policy Dialogue on the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and other Development Gaps Faced by the Landlocked Developing Countries (Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 12–14 April).

On 27 September [A/66/392], Paraguay, as Chair of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries, transmitted to the Secretary-General the communiqué adopted at the Tenth Annual Ministerial Meeting of Landlocked Developing Countries (New York, 23 September).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 22 December [meeting 91], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/66/443/Add.2], adopted **resolution 66/214** without vote [agenda item 22 (*b*)].

Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/201 of 23 December 2003, 60/208 of 22 December 2005, 61/212 of 20 December 2006, 62/204 of 19 December 2007, 63/228 of 19 December 2008, 64/214 of 21 December 2009 and 65/172 of 20 December 2010,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

Recalling further the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document,

Recalling the Almaty Declaration and 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,

Recalling also its resolution 63/2 of 3 October 2008, by which it adopted the Declaration of the high-level meeting of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action,

Taking note of the Ezulwini Declaration adopted at the Third Meeting of Trade Ministers of Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Ezulwini, Swaziland, on 21 and 22 October 2009,

Taking note also of the Ulaanbaatar Declaration as an outcome of the High-level Asia-Pacific Policy Dialogue on the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and Other Development Gaps Faced by the Landlocked Developing Countries, organized jointly by the Government of Mongolia and the Secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and held in Ulaanbaatar from 12 to 14 April 2011,

Taking note further of the communiqué of the Tenth Annual Ministerial Meeting of Landlocked Developing Countries, held at United Nations Headquarters on 23 September 2011,

Recognizing that the lack of territorial access to the sea, aggravated by remoteness from world markets, and prohibitive transit costs and risks continue to impose serious constraints on export earnings, private capital inflow and domestic resource mobilization of landlocked developing countries and therefore adversely affect their overall growth and socioeconomic development,

Expressing concern that inadequate transport, telecommunications and energy infrastructure remains a major obstacle to trade and inhibits growth in landlocked developing countries,

Expressing support to those landlocked developing countries that are emerging from conflict, with a view to enabling them to rehabilitate and reconstruct, as appropriate, political, social and economic infrastructure and to assisting them in achieving their development priorities in accordance with the goals and targets of the Almaty Programme of Action,

Recognizing that the primary responsibility for establishing effective transit systems rests with landlocked and transit developing countries,

Reaffirming that the Almaty Programme of Action constitutes 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,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "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";

2. *Reaffirms* the right of access of landlocked countries to and from the sea and freedom of transit through the territory of transit countries by all means of transport, in accordance with the applicable rules of international law;

3. *Also reaffirms* that transit countries, in the exercise of their full sovereignty over their territory, have the right to take all measures necessary to ensure that the rights and facilities provided for landlocked countries in no way infringe upon their legitimate interests;

4. *Calls upon* landlocked and transit developing countries to take all appropriate measures, as set out in the Declaration of the high-level meeting of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action, to speed up the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, and calls upon landlocked developing countries to take greater ownership of the Almaty Programme of Action by further mainstreaming it into their national development strategies;

5. *Calls upon* development partners and multilateral and regional financial and development institutions to provide landlocked and transit developing countries with appropriate, substantial and better-coordinated technical and financial assistance, particularly in the form of grants or concessional loans, for the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action;

6. *Reaffirms its full commitment* to urgently address the special development needs of and the challenges faced by landlocked developing countries through the full, timely and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, as contained in the Declaration on the midterm review;

7. *Acknowledges* that landlocked and transit developing countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America have strengthened their policy and governance reform efforts and that development partners, including international financial and development institutions, have paid greater attention to the establishment of efficient transit systems;

8. *Notes with concern* that, despite the progress made in implementing the priorities of the Almaty Programme of Action, landlocked developing countries continue to be marginalized in international trade, have serious capacity-building needs in the area of trade and transport facilitation, and face challenges in their efforts to establish efficient transit transport systems which prevent them from fully harnessing the potential of trade as an engine of sustained economic growth and development to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

9. *Invites* Member States, including development partners, organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, to speed up further the implementation of the specific actions in the five priorities agreed upon in the Almaty Programme of Action and those contained in the Declaration on the midterm review, in a better-coordinated manner, in particular for the construction, maintenance and improvement of their transport, storage and other transit-related facilities, including alternative routes, completion of missing links and improved communications and energy infrastructure, so as to enhance intraregional connectivity, and strengthen analytical capacities to assist in the development and implementation of coherent and comprehensive transport policies to support the transit corridors needed to facilitate trade, and, in this regard, encourages enhanced regional, subregional and bilateral cooperation which offers more appropriate, direct and effective solutions in addressing landlocked and transit country issues;

10. *Expresses concern* that the economic growth and social well-being of landlocked developing countries remain highly vulnerable to external shocks and to the multiple challenges faced by the international community, and

invites the international community to assist landlocked developing countries in strengthening their resilience and in protecting the advances made towards the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and the priorities of the Almaty Programme of Action;

11. *Encourages* the relevant international organizations, including the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, and the United Nations regional commissions, as well as relevant research institutions, to assist the landlocked developing countries, as appropriate, in undertaking research on the vulnerability of landlocked developing countries to external shocks, through the development of a set of vulnerability indicators that can be used by the landlocked developing countries for early warning purposes;

12. *Underlines* the importance of international trade and trade facilitation as one of the priorities of the Almaty Programme of Action, notes that the ongoing negotiations of the World Trade Organization on trade facilitation are particularly important for landlocked developing countries to gain a more efficient flow of goods and services as well as improved international competitiveness resulting from lower transaction costs, and calls upon the international community to ensure that the agreement on trade facilitation in the final outcome of the Doha Round fulfils the objective of lowering transaction costs by, inter alia, reducing transport time and enhancing certainty in transborder trade;

13. *Calls upon* development partners to implement effectively the Aid for Trade initiative, giving adequate consideration to the special needs and requirements of landlocked developing countries, including capacity-building for the formulation of trade policies, participation in trade negotiations and implementation of trade facilitation measures, as well as the diversification of export products through private-sector involvement, including the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, with a view to increasing the competitiveness of the products of landlocked developing countries in export markets;

14. *Recognizes* that the economies of many landlocked developing countries are still reliant on a few export commodities, which often have low value addition, and encourages the international community to enhance efforts to support landlocked developing countries in diversifying their economic base, to encourage, on mutually agreed terms, the transfer of technologies related to transit transport systems, including information and communications technology, and to enhance value addition to their exports through the development of their productive capacities;

15. *Encourages* the further strengthening of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, as well as cooperation among subregional and regional organizations, in support of the efforts of landlocked and transit developing countries towards achieving the full and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action;

16. *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 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, and in this regard encourages Member States to facilitate foreign direct investment flows to landlocked developing countries and calls upon landlocked and transit developing countries to promote an enabling environment so as to attract foreign direct investment and private sector involvement;

17. *Recognizes* that broader and more effective cooperation among landlocked developing countries and between landlocked and transit developing countries is necessary to ensure a harmonized approach to the design, implementation and monitoring of trade and transport facilitation policy reforms across borders, and in this regard encourages landlocked and transit developing countries to ratify and to implement effectively, as appropriate, international conventions and agreements and regional and subregional agreements on transport and trade facilitation;

18. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, and invites other international organizations, including the World Bank, the regional development banks, the World Customs Organization, the World Trade Organization, regional economic integration organizations and other relevant regional and subregional organizations, to further integrate the Almaty Programme of Action into their relevant programmes of work, taking full account of the Declaration on the midterm review, and encourages them to continue, as appropriate, within their respective mandates, their support to landlocked and transit developing countries, through, inter alia, well-coordinated and coherent technical assistance programmes in transit transport and trade facilitation;

19. *Welcomes* the efforts made by Member States, including development partners, and the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, in providing infrastructure development and connectivity and the integration of regional rail and road networks and in strengthening the legal frameworks of landlocked and transit developing countries, encourages them to continue providing their support, and in this regard welcomes the ongoing efforts made by the Office of the High Representative and the Economic Commission for Africa, in cooperation with the African Union Commission and other relevant international and regional organizations, towards assisting in the elaboration of the intergovernmental agreement on the Trans-African Highway;

20. *Urges* landlocked developing countries to sign and ratify, at their earliest convenience, the Multilateral Agreement for the Establishment of an International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries in order to bring the think tank to full operation, and invites the Office of the High Representative and relevant organizations of the United Nations system, Member States, including development partners, and relevant international and regional organizations to support the think tank so that it can undertake its role;

21. *Decides* to hold a comprehensive ten-year review conference on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action in 2014, in accordance with paragraph 49 of the Almaty Programme of Action and paragraph 32 of the Declaration on the midterm review, preceded, where necessary, by regional and global as well as thematic preparations in a most effective, well-structured and broad participatory manner; 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; recalls that, also in accordance with the aforesaid paragraph 49, the Office of the High Representative is designated as the United Nations system-wide focal point for the preparatory review process; and notes that United Nations system organizations, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the regional commissions and relevant international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, should provide necessary support and actively contribute to the preparatory review process and the comprehensive ten-year review conference itself;

22. *Also decides* to take a decision, at its sixty-seventh session, on the organizational aspects, venue, duration and dates of the comprehensive ten-year review conference on the Almaty Programme of Action and of possible intergovernmental preparatory committee meetings, to be held in 2014 in a most effective manner;

23. *Encourages* Member States, including development partners, as well as private entities, to make voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund established by the Secretary-General to support the activities related to the follow-up to the implementation of the outcome of the Almaty International Ministerial Conference, as well as the participation of landlocked developing countries in the preparatory process and in the comprehensive ten-year review conference itself;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and on the progress made in the preparatory process for the comprehensive ten-year review conference;

25. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session, under the item entitled "Groups of countries in special situations", the sub-item entitled "Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation".