

Social policy, cultural development and human resources development

In 2012, the United Nations continued to promote social, cultural and human resources development, and to implement its programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups including persons with disabilities, youth, ageing persons, and the family.

The Commission for Social Development in February considered poverty eradication as its priority theme. In September, the Economic and Social Council called upon Member States to design and implement policies and strategies for full employment and decent work for all as a means of global poverty eradication. The General Assembly reviewed the implementation of the outcome of the 1995 World Summit for Social Development and the further initiatives adopted by the Assembly's twenty-fourth (2000) special session. The International Year of Cooperatives provided an opportunity to bring to the attention of Governments, the business community and the general public the advantages of the cooperative model in both developed and developing countries.

The Assembly continued to monitor progress made in the implementation and follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing. It also adopted a resolution that called for a comprehensive and integral international legal instrument to promote and protect the rights and dignity of older persons.

United Nations bodies continued to monitor the implementation of the 1982 World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, the 1993 Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, and the 2006 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Throughout the year, coordinated efforts were made by United Nations agencies and programmes to mainstream disability in the development agenda towards 2015 and beyond. The Economic and Social Council established the Multi-Donor Trust Fund for the United Nations Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The General Assembly encouraged Member States to develop a coordinated, multi-pronged global response to autism and other developmental disorders, in order to advance the interests and well-being of millions of individuals and families living with autism.

United Nations entities supported preparations for the observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014. The General Assembly proclaimed 1 June the Global Day of Parents.

In the area of cultural development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), as the lead agency for the 2005–2014 United Nations Decade of Education and Sustainable Development, supported Member States in integrating the principles of sustainable development into inclusive education policies and plans. The United Nations Alliance of Civilizations promoted intercultural and interreligious dialogue, and increased recognition of indigenous cultures. The General Assembly convened a High-level Forum on the culture of peace, emphasizing education, youth outreach and women's empowerment as keys to a more peaceful world, and adopted a resolution on follow-up to the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace. The Assembly also adopted resolutions on the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace; sport as a means to promote education, health, development and peace; and the return or restitution of cultural property to the countries of origin. The Assembly designated 5 September as the International Day of Charity. The President of the General Assembly, in June, issued a solemn appeal in connection with the observance of the Olympic Truce, calling on all Member States to demonstrate their commitment to the Truce during the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games.

In December, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to consider ways to further strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and the University for Peace. It also proclaimed 2014 the International Year of Crystallography. The Economic and Social Council called upon programmes and agencies of the UN system to address factors of marginalization in education for all, particularly with regard to rural and indigenous women and girls.

Social policy

Social development

Follow-up to the 1995 World Summit and General Assembly special session

In response to General Assembly resolution 66/125 [YUN 2011, p. 1014], the Secretary-General submitted a July report [A/67/179] on the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development

and the Programme of Action, adopted at the 1995 World Summit for Social Development [YUN 1995, p. 1113], and the further initiatives for social development adopted by the Assembly's twenty-fourth (2000) special session [YUN 2000, p. 1012]. The report provided an overview of the discussion held by the Commission for Social Development during its fiftieth session on the priority theme of poverty eradication, taking into account its relationship with social integration, full employment and decent work for all. The Secretary-General made several recommendations in order to accelerate progress towards the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and other social development goals, and to ensure a sustainable recovery from the global economic crisis. He advised that the creation of productive employment and decent work should remain the central objective of macroeconomic policies of Member States, as employment opportunities were the main way out of poverty and the key means towards establishing inclusive, equitable and sustained economic growth. The Secretary-General encouraged countries to devote additional resources to creating employment opportunities for groups that suffered disproportionately from the lack of productive employment. He urged Governments to consider implementing a social protection floor, given the importance of universal access to social protection to break the cycle of poverty and reduce inequality. Additionally, to enable Africa and the least developed countries to sustain positive growth trends, as well as further consolidate gains already made, Member States had to scale up investments in education, health, agriculture and infrastructure, and address the domestic financing gaps faced by many developing countries. Furthermore, the international community should pay special attention to promoting the participation and empowerment of all members of society in sustainable poverty-reduction efforts and address society-wide patterns of inequality, discrimination and exclusion of disadvantaged groups, including women, youth, older persons, indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 20 December [meeting 60], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee [A/67/449 & Corr.1], adopted **resolution 67/141** without vote [agenda item 27 (a)].

Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Recalling the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,

entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,

Reaffirming that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development and the further initiatives for social development adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session, as well as a continued global dialogue on social development issues, constitute the basic framework for the promotion of social development for all at the national and international levels,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the development goals contained therein, as well as the commitments made at major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions, including the commitments made at the 2005 World Summit and at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,

Recalling also its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Recalling further its resolution 63/303 of 9 July 2009 on the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development,

Welcoming the decision that the Commission for Social Development should consider "Promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all" as the priority theme for the 2013–2014 review and policy cycle,

Recalling the ministerial declaration of the substantive session of 2012 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",

Noting that the decent work agenda of the International Labour Organization, with its four strategic objectives, has an important role to play in achieving the objective of full and productive employment and decent work for all, including its objective of social protection, as reaffirmed in the International Labour Organization Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, in which the particular role of the Organization in promoting fair globalization and its responsibility to assist its members in their efforts were acknowledged, as well as in the Global Jobs Pact,

Emphasizing the need to enhance the role of the Commission for Social Development in the follow-up to and review of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,

Recognizing that the three core themes of social development, namely, poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work for all and social integration, are interrelated and mutually reinforcing, and that an enabling environment therefore needs to be created so that all three objectives can be pursued simultaneously,

Recognizing also that a people-centred approach must be at the centre of economic and social development,

Expressing deep concern that attainment of the social development objectives is being hindered by the ongoing adverse impact of the world financial and economic crisis,

volatile energy and food prices and the challenges posed by climate change,

Recognizing the complex character of the ongoing food insecurity situation, including food price volatility, as a combination of several major factors, both structural and conjunctural, which is also negatively affected by, inter alia, environmental degradation, drought and desertification, global climate change, natural disasters and the lack of the necessary technology, and recognizing also that a strong commitment from national Governments and the international community as a whole is required to confront the major threats to food security and to ensure that policies in the area of agriculture do not distort trade and worsen food insecurity,

Acknowledging the need to further mainstream sustainable development at all levels, integrating economic, social and environmental aspects and recognizing their interlinkages, so as to achieve sustainable development in all its dimensions,

Reaffirming the need to achieve sustainable development by promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable social development and inclusion and promoting the integrated and sustainable management of natural resources,

Deeply concerned that extreme poverty persists in all countries of the world, regardless of their economic, social and cultural situation, and that its extent and its manifestations, such as hunger, trafficking in human beings, disease, lack of adequate shelter and illiteracy, are particularly severe in developing countries, while acknowledging the significant progress made in several parts of the world in combating extreme poverty,

Recognizing the importance of the international community in supporting national capacity-building efforts in the area of social development, while recognizing the primary responsibility of national Governments in this regard,

Affirming its strong support for fair globalization and the need to translate growth into eradication of poverty and commitment to strategies and policies that aim to promote full, freely chosen and productive employment and decent work for all and that these should constitute a fundamental component of relevant national and international policies as well as national development strategies, including poverty reduction strategies, and reaffirming that employment creation and decent work for all should be incorporated into macroeconomic policies, taking fully into account the impact and social dimension of globalization, the benefits and costs of which are often unevenly shared and distributed,

Recognizing the need to enhance access to the benefits of trade, including agricultural trade, for developing countries in order to foster social development,

Recognizing also that social inclusion is a means for achieving social integration and is crucial for fostering stable, safe, harmonious, peaceful and just societies and for improving social cohesion so as to create an environment for development and progress,

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

2. *Welcomes* the reaffirmation by Governments of their will and commitment to continue implementing the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social

Development, in particular to eradicate poverty, promote full and productive employment and decent work for all and to foster social integration to achieve stable, safe and just societies for all;

3. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the Copenhagen commitments and the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, are mutually reinforcing and that the Copenhagen commitments are crucial to a coherent people-centred approach to development;

4. *Reaffirms* that the Commission for Social Development continues to have the primary responsibility for the follow-up to and review of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly and that it serves as the main United Nations forum for an intensified global dialogue on social development issues, and calls upon Member States, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and civil society to enhance their support for its work;

5. *Expresses deep concern* that the ongoing adverse impact of the world financial and economic crisis, volatile energy and food prices and food insecurity and the challenges posed by climate change, as well as the lack of results so far in the multilateral trade negotiations, have negative implications for social development;

6. *Stresses* the importance of the policy space of national Governments, in particular in the areas of social expenditure and social protection programmes, and calls upon international financial institutions and donors to support developing countries in achieving their social development, in line with their national priorities and strategies by, among other things, providing debt relief;

7. *Recognizes* that the broad concept of social development affirmed by the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly has not been fully implemented in national and international policymaking and that, although poverty eradication is a central part of development policy and discourse, further attention should be given to the other commitments agreed to at the Summit, in particular those concerning employment and decent work for all and social integration, which have also suffered from a general disconnect between economic and social policymaking;

8. *Acknowledges* that the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997–2006), launched after the World Summit for Social Development, has provided the long-term vision for sustained and concerted efforts at the national and international levels to eradicate poverty;

9. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the commitments made by Governments during the first Decade has fallen short of expectations, and welcomes the proclamation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017) by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/205 of 19 December 2007 in order to support, in an efficient and coordinated manner, the internationally agreed development goals related to poverty eradication, including the Millennium Development Goals;

10. *Emphasizes* that the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Summit, the 2005 World Summit, the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, the International Conference on Financing for

Development, in its Monterrey Consensus, and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, have reinforced the priority and urgency of poverty eradication within the United Nations development agenda;

11. *Also emphasizes* that poverty eradication policies should tackle poverty by addressing its root and structural causes and manifestations, and that equity, the reduction of inequalities and the empowerment of the poor need to be incorporated into those policies;

12. *Reaffirms* that each country has the primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, and underlines the importance of adopting effective measures, including new financial mechanisms, as appropriate, to support the efforts of developing countries to achieve sustained economic growth, sustainable development, poverty eradication and the strengthening of their democratic systems;

13. *Stresses* that an enabling environment is a critical precondition for achieving equity and social development and that, while economic growth is essential, entrenched inequality and marginalization are an obstacle to the broad-based and sustained growth required for sustainable, inclusive and people-centred development, and recognizes the need to balance and ensure complementarity between measures to achieve growth and measures to achieve economic and social equity in order for there to be an impact on overall poverty levels;

14. *Also stresses* that stability in global financial systems and corporate social responsibility and accountability, as well as national economic policies that have an impact on other stakeholders, are essential in creating an enabling international environment to promote economic growth and social development;

15. *Recognizes* the need to promote respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms in order to address the most pressing social needs of people living in poverty, including through the design and development of appropriate mechanisms to strengthen and consolidate democratic institutions and governance;

16. *Reaffirms* the commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women, as well as to the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into all development efforts, recognizing that they are critical for achieving sustainable development and for efforts to combat hunger, poverty and disease and to strengthen policies and programmes that improve, ensure and broaden the full participation of women in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life, as equal partners, and to improve their access to all resources needed for the full exercise of all their human rights and fundamental freedoms by removing persistent barriers, including ensuring equal access to full and productive employment and decent work for all, as well as strengthening their economic independence;

17. *Encourages* Governments to promote effective participation of people in civic, social, economic and political activities, as well as in the planning and implementation of social integration policies and strategies, in order to better achieve the goals of poverty eradication, full employment and decent work for all and social integration;

18. *Reaffirms* the commitment to promote opportunities for full, freely chosen and productive employment,

including for the most disadvantaged, as well as decent work for all, including respect for fundamental principles and rights at work, also reaffirms that there is an urgent need to create an environment at the national and international levels that is conducive to the attainment of full and productive employment and decent work for all as a foundation for sustainable development, that an environment that supports investment, growth and entrepreneurship is essential to the creation of new job opportunities, and that human resources development strategies should be premised on national development objectives that ensure a strong link between education, health, training and employment, help to maintain a productive and competitive workforce and are responsive to the needs of the economy, and further reaffirms that opportunities for men and women to obtain productive work in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity are essential to ensuring the eradication of hunger and poverty, the improvement of economic and social well-being for all, the achievement of sustained economic growth and sustainable development of all nations and a fully inclusive and equitable globalization;

19. *Stresses* the importance of removing obstacles to the realization of the right of peoples to self-determination, in particular of peoples living under colonial or other forms of alien domination or foreign occupation, which adversely affect their social and economic development, including their exclusion from labour markets;

20. *Reaffirms* the need to address all forms of violence in its many manifestations, including domestic violence, particularly against women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities, and discrimination, including xenophobia, recognizes that violence increases challenges to States and societies in the achievement of poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work for all and social integration, and also recognizes that terrorism, trafficking in arms, organized crime, trafficking in persons, money-laundering, ethnic and religious conflict, civil war, politically motivated killing and genocide present fundamental threats to societies and pose increasing challenges to States and societies in the attainment of conditions conducive to social development, and that they also present urgent and compelling reasons for action by Governments individually and, as appropriate, jointly to foster social cohesion while recognizing, protecting and valuing diversity;

21. *Requests* the United Nations funds, programmes and agencies to mainstream the goal of full and productive employment and decent work for all into their policies, programmes and activities, as well as to support efforts of Member States aimed at achieving this objective, and invites financial institutions to support efforts in this regard;

22. *Recognizes* that promoting full employment and decent work for all also requires investing in education, training and skills development for women and men, and girls and boys, strengthening social protection and health systems and applying international labour standards, and urges States and, as appropriate, the relevant entities of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, as well as civil society, the private sector, employer organizations, trade unions, the media and other relevant actors, to continue to develop and strengthen policies, strategies and programmes to enhance, in particular, the employability of women and youth and to ensure their access to full and

productive employment and decent work for all, including by improving access to formal and non-formal education, skills development and vocational training, lifelong learning and retraining and long-distance education, inter alia, in information and communications technology and entrepreneurial skills, particularly in developing countries, including with a view to supporting the economic empowerment of women in the different stages of their lives;

23. *Also recognizes* that full and productive employment and decent work for all, which encompass social protection, fundamental principles and rights at work, tripartism and social dialogue, are key elements of sustainable development for all countries and are therefore an important objective of international cooperation, and supports the promotion of innovative approaches in the design and implementation of employment policies and programmes for all, including the long-term unemployed;

24. *Encourages* States to design and implement policies and strategies for poverty eradication, full employment and decent work for all, including the creation of full and productive employment that is appropriately and adequately remunerated, as well as policies and strategies for social integration that promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and address the specific needs of social groups such as young people, persons with disabilities, older persons, migrants and indigenous peoples, taking into account the concerns of those groups in the planning, implementation and evaluation of development programmes and policies;

25. *Stresses* the need to allocate adequate resources for the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women in the workplace, including unequal access to labour-market participation and wage inequalities, as well as reconciliation of work and private life for both women and men;

26. *Acknowledges* the important nexus between international migration and social development, and stresses the importance of enforcing labour law effectively with regard to migrant workers' labour relations and working conditions, inter alia, those related to their remuneration and conditions of health, safety at work and the right to freedom of association;

27. *Recognizes* that, since the convening of the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen in 1995, advances have been made in addressing and promoting social integration, including through the adoption of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, the World Programme of Action for Youth, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

28. *Stresses* that the benefits of economic growth should be distributed more equitably and that, in order to close the gap of inequality and avoid any further deepening of inequality, comprehensive social policies and programmes, including appropriate social transfer and job creation programmes and social protection systems, are needed;

29. *Recognizes* the importance of providing social protection schemes for the formal and informal economy as instruments for achieving equity, inclusion and stability and cohesion of societies, and emphasizes the importance of supporting national efforts aimed at bringing informal workers into the formal economy;

30. *Stresses* that poverty eradication policies should, inter alia, ensure that people living in poverty have access to education, health, water and sanitation and other public and social services, as well as access to productive resources, including credit, land, training, technology, knowledge and information, and ensure that citizens and local communities participate in decision-making on social development policies and programmes in this regard;

31. *Recognizes* that the social integration of people living in poverty should encompass addressing and meeting their basic human needs, including nutrition, health, water, sanitation, housing and access to education and employment, through integrated development strategies;

32. *Reaffirms* that social integration policies should seek to reduce inequalities, promote access to basic social services, education for all and health care, eliminate discrimination, increase the participation and integration of social groups, particularly young people, older persons and persons with disabilities, and address the challenges posed to social development by globalization and market-driven reforms in order for all people in all countries to benefit from globalization;

33. *Urges* Governments, with the cooperation of relevant entities, to develop systems of social protection that support labour-market participation and address and reduce inequality and social exclusion and to extend or broaden, as appropriate, their effectiveness and coverage, including for workers in the informal economy, invites the International Labour Organization to strengthen its social protection strategies and policies on extending social security coverage, urges Governments, while taking account of national circumstances, to focus on the needs of those living in or vulnerable to poverty and to give particular consideration to universal access to basic social security systems, including the implementation of social protection floors, which can provide a systemic base upon which to address poverty and vulnerability, and in this regard takes note of Recommendation No. 202 concerning national floors of social protection, adopted by the General Conference of the International Labour Organization on 14 June 2012;

34. *Requests* the United Nations system to continue to support national efforts of Member States to achieve inclusive social development in a coherent and coordinated manner;

35. *Reaffirms* the commitment to promote the rights of indigenous peoples in the areas of education, employment, housing, sanitation, health and social security, and notes the attention paid to those areas in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

36. *Recognizes* the need to formulate social development policies in an integral, articulated and participative manner, recognizing poverty as a multidimensional phenomenon, calls for interlinked public policies on this matter, and underlines the need for public policies to be included in a comprehensive development and well-being strategy;

37. *Acknowledges* the role that the public sector can play as an employer and its importance in developing an environment that enables the effective generation of full and productive employment and decent work for all;

38. *Also acknowledges* the vital role that the private sector can play in generating new investments, employment and financing for development and in advancing efforts towards full employment and decent work for all, and

encourages the private sector, including small and medium-sized enterprises and cooperatives, to contribute to decent work for all and job creation for both women and men, and particularly for young people, including through partnerships with Governments, the United Nations system, civil society and academia;

39. *Recognizes* that steps should be taken to anticipate and offset the negative social and economic consequences of globalization, giving priority to agricultural and non-farm sectors, and to maximize its benefits for poor people living and working in rural areas, while paying special attention to the development of microenterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises, particularly in rural areas, as well as subsistence economies, to secure their safe interaction with larger economies;

40. *Also recognizes* the need to pay necessary attention to the social development of people in urban areas, especially the urban poor;

41. *Further recognizes* the need to give priority to investing in and further contributing to sustainable development, including sustainable agricultural development, and a financial infrastructure that provides access to a variety of sustainable products and services for microenterprises, small and medium-sized enterprises and entrepreneurship cooperatives and other forms of social enterprises, and the participation and entrepreneurship of women as means to promote full and productive employment and decent work for all;

42. *Reaffirms* the commitments made in respect of meeting the special needs of Africa at the 2005 World Summit, underlines the call of the Economic and Social Council for enhanced coordination within the United Nations system and the ongoing efforts to harmonize the current initiatives on Africa, and requests the Commission for Social Development to continue to give due prominence in its work to the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

43. *Also reaffirms*, in this context, that international co-operation has an essential role in assisting developing countries, including the least developed countries, in strengthening their human, institutional and technological capacity;

44. *Stresses* that the international community shall enhance its efforts to create an enabling environment for social development and poverty eradication through increasing market access for developing countries, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, financial aid and a comprehensive solution to the external debt problem;

45. *Also stresses* that international trade and stable financial systems can be effective tools for creating favourable conditions for the development of all countries and that trade barriers and some trading practices continue to have negative effects on employment growth, particularly in developing countries;

46. *Acknowledges* that good governance and the rule of law at the national and international levels are essential for sustained economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger;

47. *Underlines* the fact that the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments is crucial, 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 the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to the

least developed countries, and urges developed countries that have not yet done so to fulfil their commitments for official development assistance to developing countries;

48. *Stresses* the essential role that official development assistance plays in complementing, leveraging and sustaining financing for development efforts in developing countries and in facilitating the achievement of development objectives, including the internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Millennium Development Goals, and welcomes steps to improve the effectiveness and quality of aid based on the fundamental principles of national ownership, alignment, harmonization, managing for results and mutual accountability;

49. *Urges* Member States and the international community to fulfil all their commitments to meet the demands for social development, including social services and assistance, that have arisen from the global financial and economic crisis, which particularly affects the poorest and most vulnerable;

50. *Welcomes* the contribution to the mobilization of resources for social development by the initiatives taken on a voluntary basis by groups of Member States based on innovative financing mechanisms, including those that aim to provide further drug access at affordable prices to developing countries on a sustainable and predictable basis, such as the International Drug Purchase Facility, UNITAID, as well as other initiatives such as the International Finance Facility for Immunization and the Advance Market Commitments for Vaccines, and notes the New York Declaration of 20 September 2004, which launched the Action against Hunger and Poverty initiative and called for further attention to raising funds urgently needed to help to meet the Millennium Development Goals and to complement and ensure the long-term stability and predictability of foreign aid;

51. *Reaffirms* that social development requires the active involvement of all actors in the development process, including civil society organizations, corporations and small businesses, and that partnerships among all relevant actors are increasingly becoming part of national and international cooperation for social development, also reaffirms that, within countries, partnerships among the Government, civil society and the private sector can contribute effectively to the achievement of social development goals, and acknowledges the importance of efforts to promote the exchange of information and knowledge on decent work for all and job creation, including green jobs initiatives and related skills, and to facilitate the integration of relevant data into national economic and employment policies;

52. *Underlines* the responsibility of the private sector, at both the national and the international levels, including small and large companies and transnational corporations, regarding not only the economic and financial implications but also the development, social, gender and environmental implications of their activities, their obligations towards their workers and their contributions to achieving sustainable development, including social development, and emphasizes the need to take concrete actions on corporate responsibility and accountability, including through the participation of all relevant stakeholders, inter alia, for the prevention or prosecution of corruption;

53. *Stresses* the importance of promoting corporate social responsibility and accountability, encourages responsible business practices, such as those promoted by the Global

Compact and the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework, invites the private sector to take into account not only the economic and financial implications but also the development, social, human rights, gender and environmental implications of its undertakings, and underlines the importance of the International Labour Organization Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy;

54. *Calls upon* Member States to give appropriate consideration to poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all in the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda;

55. *Invites* the Secretary-General, the Economic and Social Council, the regional commissions, the relevant specialized agencies, the funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental forums, within their respective mandates, to continue to integrate into their work programmes and give priority attention to the Copenhagen commitments and the Declaration on the tenth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development, to continue to be actively involved in their follow-up and to monitor the achievement of those commitments and undertakings;

56. *Invites* the Commission for Social Development to emphasize in its review of the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action the increased exchange of national, regional and international experiences, the focused and interactive dialogues among experts and practitioners and the sharing of best practices and lessons learned;

57. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session, under the item entitled “Social development”, the sub-item entitled “Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly”, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the question to the Assembly at that session.

Recovering from the economic and financial crisis: a Global Jobs Pact

In response to Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/37 [YUN 2011, p. 1019], the Secretary-General submitted an April report [E/2012/63] on the implementation of the Global Jobs Pact by the UN system. The report provided the basis for discussion during the Council’s annual ministerial review (2–9 July), which focused on the theme “Promoting productive capacity 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”.

The financial and economic crisis of 2008–2009 had exacerbated the jobs crisis. Global unemployment was estimated to have increased from 170 million in 2007 to an unprecedented high of 197 million in 2011. The quality of jobs was also under threat. Underemployment and informal and casual work had been expanding, thus undermining labour standards and exposing workers to greater insecurity. The

International Labour Organization (ILO) estimated that the overall share of workers in vulnerable employment had reached 1.53 billion, equivalent to more than half (50.1 per cent) of the world’s labour force, owing to increased casualization and outsourcing.

The Secretary-General highlighted measures and institutions that had proved effective in encouraging job and enterprise creation, boosting skills and productive inclusion, supporting successful labour market transitions, and ensuring that workers had adequate social protection and a fair share of earnings. He underlined the interlinkages between those measures and the progress towards poverty eradication and other internationally agreed development goals, in addition to the need for immediate, coherent and globally coordinated macroeconomic policies to increase production, income and the number of high quality jobs, in line with the principles and objectives of the Global Jobs Pact. He also called for initiatives to address the special labour market vulnerabilities of young women and men, to build nationally defined social protection floors for social and economic resilience, and to support a transition to a greener economy. United Nations agencies, international institutions and donors could play an important role in assisting Governments in designing and implementing realistic and cost-effective measures in a coordinated manner, while engaging business, civil society and trade unions. The report should be read in conjunction with the report of the Secretary-General on macroeconomic policies for productive capacity, employment creation, sustainable development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) (see p. 773), in the context of sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth in pursuit of poverty eradication.

Commission for Social Development

The Commission for Social Development, at its fiftieth session (New York, 18 February 2011 and 1–10 February 2012) [E/2012/26-E/CN.5/2012/9 & Corr.1], considered the priority theme of poverty eradication, taking into account its interrelationship with social integration and full employment and decent work for all. The Commission also reviewed relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups, and the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (see p. 922). The Commission recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council five draft resolutions, on poverty eradication (see p. 1046); the future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development (see p. 780); social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development; preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the

Family (see p. 1061); and mainstreaming disability in the development agenda (see p. 1057). It recommended one draft decision for adoption by the Council on the Commission's report on its fiftieth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-first session. The Commission also brought to the Council's attention the report of the Secretary-General on the second review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the note by the Secretariat on the emerging issues of youth, poverty and unemployment [E/2012/26-E/CN.5/2012/9 (dec. 50/101)]. During its two-week session, the Commission convened two high-level panel discussions—one on the priority theme of poverty, and the other on the emerging issue of youth: poverty and unemployment—and a special event on financing of social development.

In connection with its review of United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups with disabilities, the Commission was briefed by the Special Rapporteur on his report (see p. 1057) on disability.

For its consideration of the priority theme, the Commission had before it a report of the Secretary-General on poverty eradication [E/CN.5/2013/3], prepared in response to Council resolution 2012/7 (see below), which explored the linkages between empowerment and poverty eradication, full employment and decent work for all, and the realization of social integration. The report presented a policy framework that promoted empowerment and development, with a particular focus on social protection. In spite of the economic crisis and high food and fuel prices that had slowed the rate of poverty reduction, the global rate of extreme poverty was reduced by half in the 20 years between 1990 and 2010. More than 600 million people had escaped extreme poverty between 1990 and 2008, and estimates indicated that the global rate of extreme poverty would fall to just below 16 per cent by 2015. Although those figures represented considerable progress, by 2015, 1 billion people would still live in extreme poverty, and poverty reduction had been highly uneven across regions—substantially reduced in China, but widespread in sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia. For further progress towards eradicating poverty, countries would need to maintain robust growth rates while ensuring that advancement was both environmentally sustainable and pro-poor. Governments, civil society organizations and other development partners could support the empowerment of people living in poverty by reducing—or removing—the barriers that constrained their social, political and economic opportunities. The Secretary-General recommended, among other things, that Governments consider establishing universal access to basic social protection and social services as an effective safeguard against poverty and

inequality. Educational systems and policies had to provide adequate and practical opportunities to all—in particular young people—for on-the-job training and assistance in finding decent work.

The Commission took note [dec. 50/101] of the documents of the Secretary-General and the Secretariat that were before it at the fiftieth session relating to the report on the second review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002 and the note on emerging issues: youth: poverty and unemployment (see p. 1060).

On 26 July (**decision 2012/236**), the Council took note of the Commission's report on its fiftieth session and approved the provisional agenda and documentation for its fifty-first (2013) session.

Other Commission reports. Other documents issued in 2012 to be considered during the Commission's fifty-first (2013) session included: mainstreaming disability in the development agenda: towards 2015 and beyond [E/CN.5/2013/9]; monitoring of the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities [E/CN.5/2013/10]; review the activities of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) during 2011 and 2012 [E/CN.5/2013/13]; the nomination of members of the Board of UNRISD [E/CN.5/2013/14]; the Implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth [E/CN.5/2013/7]; the proposed set of indicators for the World Programme of Action on Youth [E/CN.5/2013/8]; and emerging issues: the social dimension in the global development agenda beyond 2015 [E/CN.5/2013/11].

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 26 July [meeting 46], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission for Social Development [E/2012/26 & Corr.1], adopted **resolution 2012/7**, without vote [agenda item 14 (b)].

Future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2005/11 of 21 July 2005, 2006/18 of 26 July 2006 and 2008/19 of 24 July 2008 on the future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development,

Recalling also its resolution 2010/10 of 22 July 2010, in which it noted the usefulness of identifying the theme for the 2013–2014 review and policy cycle during the fiftieth session of the Commission,

1. *Reaffirms* that the current practice of discussing one core issue over a two-year period has allowed the Commission for Social Development to go into greater depth by also addressing related cross-cutting issues and emerging issues relevant to the theme under discussion;
2. *Decides* to maintain the two-year review and policy cycle;

3. *Reaffirms* that the officers elected to the Bureau of the Commission should continue to be elected for a term of office of two years, in parallel with the review and policy cycle;

4. *Decides* that the priority theme for the 2013–2014 review and policy cycle shall be “Promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all”;

5. *Stresses* the importance of identifying relevant sub-themes within the priority theme, in order to focus interventions and discussions, and of taking into account cross-cutting issues during subsequent sessions of the Commission;

6. *Decides* that the Commission shall utilize, as appropriate, its agenda item on emerging issues to promote consideration of relevant issues on the agenda of the Economic and Social Council, including the theme of the annual ministerial review;

7. *Invites* all relevant stakeholders to continue to participate in the work of the Commission at an appropriately high level;

8. *Decides* that the Commission shall keep its methods of work under review, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Commission at its fifty-first session on ways and means to strengthen its work, taking into account the views of Member States.

Poverty eradication

In response to Economic and Social Council resolution 2010/10 [YUN 2010, p. 1076], in which the Council decided that the priority theme for the 2011–2012 review and policy cycle should be poverty eradication as it related to social integration, full employment and decent work for all, the Secretary-General submitted a report [E/CN.5/2012/3] on the implementation of that resolution, which examined the challenges to poverty reduction and key policy approaches to poverty eradication. Income inequality had not only increased in the last quarter century, but also posed a serious barrier worldwide to poverty eradication and social integration. Between 1990 and 2005, approximately two thirds of countries with available data experienced an increase in income inequality, with the income gap between the wealthiest and poorest 10 per cent of income earners increasing in 70 per cent of countries. Growing inequality was attributed to several factors, including the reduced power of trade unions, the uneven distribution of the benefits of globalization, the growing disadvantage of marginalized groups and the inadequacies of institutional frameworks and policies. Guaranteeing access to essential social services such as basic health care and education, and clean water and sanitation, were well-established means of creating inclusive societies.

Employment constituted a crucial driver of inclusive and equitable economic growth and an essential means of social integration. In order for employment to effectively contribute to sustainable growth and poverty reduction, however, jobs needed to bring

adequate remuneration and income security. Further, workers had to be protected by international labour standards. Public-private partnerships had also become increasingly important in the formulation and application of development programmes. Besides creating greater buy-in, the involvement of all partners improved the quality of strategies, facilitated faster implementation, and enhanced the financial and technical resources available to Governments.

The Secretary-General recommended that the Commission for Social Development consider encouraging countries to carry out the principles and objectives of the Global Jobs Pact, and reorient macroeconomic policy towards the creation of more and better jobs and poverty eradication, instead of just focusing on inflation or budget deficits. Countries with large agricultural sectors should concentrate on raising smallholder agricultural productivity and output quality in a sustainable manner. Additionally, the promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises, especially in rural areas, could facilitate diversification from agriculture towards other rural activities that contributed to poverty eradication. Ultimately, countries had to address society-wide patterns of social and economic inequality and discrimination by ensuring that poor women and men had access to land, credit and other productive resources—such as housing, fair inheritance rights and justice—and that all segments of society participated in decision-making processes.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 6 September [meeting 46], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission for Social Development [E/2012/26 & Corr.1], adopted **resolution 2012/9** without vote [agenda item 14 (b)].

Poverty eradication

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2010/10 of 22 July 2010, in which the Council decided that the priority theme for the 2011–2012 review and policy cycle of the Commission for Social Development should be poverty eradication, taking into account its relationship with social integration and full employment and decent work for all,

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

Reaffirming that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development and the further initiatives for social development adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session, as well as a continued global dialogue on social development issues, constitute the basic framework for the promotion of social development for all at the national and international levels,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the 2005 World Summit Outcome and the high-level

plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document,

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

Emphasizing the need to enhance the role of the Commission for Social Development in the follow-up to and review of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,

Recognizing that the three core themes of social development, namely, poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work for all, and social integration, are interrelated and mutually reinforcing and that an enabling environment at all levels therefore needs to be created so that all three objectives can be pursued simultaneously,

Recalling that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development places people at the centre of development,

Stressing that respect for all human rights, which are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, is of crucial importance for all policies and programmes to fight extreme poverty,

Recognizing that empowering people to strengthen their own capacities is a main objective of development and its principal resource and that empowerment requires the full participation of people in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of decisions determining the functioning and well-being of society,

Concerned about 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 humankind,

Deeply concerned that extreme poverty persists in all parts of the world, in various economic, social and cultural situations, and that its extent and its manifestations are particularly severe in developing countries, while acknowledging the significant progress made in several parts of the world in combating extreme poverty,

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,

Recalling the commitment to invest in children and the vow to break the cycle of poverty within a single generation, united in the conviction that investments in children and the realization of their rights are among the most effective ways to eradicate poverty,

Expressing concern that unemployment and underemployment levels remain persistently high in many countries, particularly among the younger generations,

Recalling the International Labour Organization Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization and the International Labour Organization Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Follow-up, adopted on 18 June 1998 by the International Labour Conference at its eighty-sixth session,

Affirming its strong support for fair globalization and the need to translate growth into eradication of poverty and commitment to strategies and policies that aim to promote full, freely chosen and productive employment and decent

work for all, and that these should constitute a fundamental component of relevant national and international policies as well as national development strategies, including poverty reduction strategies, and reaffirming that employment creation and decent work should be incorporated into macroeconomic policies, taking fully into account the impact and social dimension of globalization, the benefits and costs of which are often unevenly shared and distributed,

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

Recognizing that the mobilization of domestic and international resources for social development and their effective use are central to a global partnership for development in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Noting the special event on the financing of social development, held on 3 February 2012 and organized by the Secretary-General in cooperation with the Chair of the Commission for Social Development at its fiftieth session,

Recognizing that social inclusion is a means for achieving social integration and is crucial for fostering stable, safe, harmonious, peaceful and just societies and for improving social cohesion so as to create an environment for development and progress,

Recalling that the theme of the 2012 annual ministerial review of the Economic and Social Council is “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”,

Recognizing the importance of agricultural and rural development and food production for the eradication of poverty and for helping developing countries to reach the poverty and hunger targets of the Millennium Development Goals,

Reiterating the need to strengthen the leadership role of the United Nations in promoting international cooperation for development, which is critical for the eradication of poverty,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Welcomes* the reaffirmation by Governments of their will and commitment to continue implementing the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, in particular to eradicate poverty, promote full and productive employment and decent work for all and foster social integration to achieve stable, safe and just societies for all;
3. *Reaffirms* that the Commission for Social Development continues to have the primary responsibility for the follow-up to and review of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly and that it serves as the main United Nations forum for an intensified global dialogue on social development issues, and calls upon Member States, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and

programmes of the United Nations system and civil society to enhance their support for the work of the Commission;

4. *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;

5. *Also emphasizes* that the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Summit, the 2005 World Summit, the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and the International Conference on Financing for Development, in its Monterrey Consensus, have reinforced the priority and urgency of poverty eradication within the United Nations development agenda;

6. *Reaffirms* that each country has the primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, and underlines the importance of adopting effective measures, including new financial mechanisms, as appropriate, to support the efforts of developing countries to achieve sustained economic growth, sustainable development, poverty eradication and the strengthening of their democratic systems;

7. *Expresses deep concern* that the ongoing adverse impact of the world financial and economic crisis, volatile food and energy prices and food insecurity and the challenges posed by climate change, as well as the lack of results so far in the multilateral trade negotiations, have negative implications for social development;

8. *Emphasizes* that poverty eradication policies should tackle poverty by addressing its root and structural causes and manifestations, and that equity and the reduction of inequalities need to be incorporated into those policies;

9. *Stresses* that poverty eradication policies should, inter alia, ensure, for people living in poverty, access to education, health, social protection, water and sanitation and other public and social services, as well as to productive resources, including credit, land, training, technology, knowledge and information, and ensure that citizens and local communities participate in decision-making on social development policies and programmes in this regard;

10. *Recognizes* the need to formulate social development policies in an integral, articulated and participative manner, recognizing poverty as a multidimensional phenomenon, calls for interlinked public policies on this matter, underlines the need for public policies to be included in a comprehensive development and well-being strategy, and invites Governments to consider developing complementary measures that better reflect the multidimensionality of poverty;

11. *Also recognizes* that the social integration of people living in poverty should encompass addressing and meeting their basic human needs, including nutrition, health, water, sanitation, housing and access to education and employment, through integrated development strategies;

12. *Further recognizes* the need to promote respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms in order to address the most pressing social needs of people living in poverty;

13. *Reaffirms* the commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women, as well as to the mainstreaming

of a gender perspective into all development efforts, recognizing that these are critical for achieving sustainable development and for efforts to combat hunger, poverty and disease and to strengthen policies and programmes that improve, ensure and broaden the full participation of women in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life, as equal partners, and to improve their access to all resources needed for the full exercise of all their human rights and fundamental freedoms by removing persistent barriers, including ensuring equal access to full and productive employment and decent work, as well as strengthening their economic independence;

14. *Also 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 further 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;

15. *Further reaffirms* that there is an urgent need to create an environment at the national and international levels that is conducive to the attainment of full and productive employment and decent work for all as a foundation for sustainable development and that an environment that supports investment, growth and entrepreneurship is essential to the creation of new job opportunities, and also reaffirms that opportunities for men and women to obtain productive work in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity are essential to ensuring the eradication of hunger and poverty, the improvement of economic and social well-being for all, the achievement of sustained economic growth and sustainable development of all nations and a fully inclusive and equitable globalization;

16. *Notes with concern* the continuing high levels of unemployment and underemployment, particularly among young people, 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 support Member States, in particular developing countries, in their efforts to promote full and productive employment and decent work for all, taking into account the resolution entitled "Recovering from the crisis: a Global Jobs Pact", adopted on 19 June 2009 by the International Labour Conference at its ninety-eighth session;

17. *Reaffirms* that social integration policies should seek to reduce inequalities, promote access to basic social services, education for all and health care, eliminate discrimination, increase the participation and integration of social groups, particularly young people, older persons and persons with disabilities, and address the challenges to social development posed by globalization and market-driven reforms, in order for all people in all countries to benefit from globalization;

18. *Also reaffirms* the critical role of both formal and non-formal education in the achievement of poverty eradication and other development goals as envisaged in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, and in this context recalls the Dakar Framework for Action, adopted at the World Education Forum in 2000;

19. *Recalls* the commitment, undertaken at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, held in 2010, to redouble efforts to reduce maternal and child mortality and improve the health of women and children, including through strengthened national health systems, efforts to combat HIV/AIDS, improved nutrition and access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation, making use of enhanced global partnerships;

20. *Notes with grave concern* the vicious cycle whereby non-communicable diseases and their risk factors worsen poverty, while poverty contributes to rising rates of non-communicable diseases, posing a threat to public health and economic and social development, and in this regard stresses the importance of the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, including through multisectoral actions, and encourages the continued inclusion of non-communicable diseases in development cooperation agendas and initiatives;

21. *Stresses* that the benefits of economic growth should be distributed more equitably, and in that regard calls upon States to promote more equitable participation in and access to economic growth gains through, inter alia, policies that ensure inclusive labour markets and by implementing socially responsive macroeconomic policies in which employment has a key role and social inclusion strategies that promote social integration, including through social protection floors, including for those who are in vulnerable or marginalized situations;

22. *Underlines* the need for substantial additional investment and better policies and enhanced international cooperation in support of sustainable agricultural development, while paying special attention to the diversification of rural incomes, including by promoting the development of microenterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises among the rural poor;

23. *Urges* developed countries that have not yet done so in accordance with their commitments to make concrete efforts towards meeting the targets of 0.70 per cent of their gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of their gross national product to least developed countries, and encourages developing countries to build on the progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance is used effectively to help to meet development goals and targets;

24. *Urges* Governments, with the cooperation of relevant entities, including social partners, to develop systems of social protection and to extend or broaden, as appropriate, their effectiveness and coverage, including for workers in the informal economy, recognizing the need for social protection systems to provide social security and support labour market participation, and also urges Governments, while taking account of national circumstances, to focus on the needs of those living in or vulnerable to poverty and to give particular consideration to universal access to basic social security systems, recognizing that social protection floors can provide a systemic base to address poverty and vulnerability;

25. *Encourages* Member States to design and implement policies and strategies for poverty eradication, full employment and decent work for all, including the promotion of full and productive employment that is appropriately and adequately remunerated, as well as policies and strategies for social integration that promote gender

equality and the empowerment of women and that address the specific needs of social groups such as young people, persons with disabilities, older persons, migrants and indigenous peoples, taking into account the concerns of these groups in the planning, implementation and evaluation of development programmes and policies;

26. *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;

27. *Stresses* that the international community shall enhance its efforts to create an enabling environment for social development and poverty eradication through increasing market access for developing countries, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, financial aid and a comprehensive solution to the external debt problem;

28. *Acknowledges* that good governance and the rule of law at the national and international levels are essential for sustained economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger;

29. *Invites* all stakeholders, including Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system and regional and civil society organizations, to share the good practices of programmes and policies that address inequalities for the benefit of those living in extreme poverty and promote the active participation of those living in extreme poverty in the design and implementation of such programmes and policies, with the aim of accelerating progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals;

30. *Requests* the United Nations system to continue to support national efforts of Member States to achieve inclusive social development in a coherent and coordinated manner;

31. *Notes* that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012;

32. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his report entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly", to be submitted to the Assembly at its sixty-seventh session, policy recommendations on the issue of poverty eradication, taking into account the discussions held at the fiftieth session of the Commission for Social Development under the priority theme.

Cooperatives in social development

International Year of Cooperatives, 2012

In response to General Assembly resolution 66/123 [YUN 2011, p. 1023], the Secretary-General submitted a later report [A/68/168] on the observance of the International Year of Cooperatives, 2012. The report reviewed the size and scope of cooperatives and discussed their contribution to social and economic development, based on substantive outcomes of international conferences and United Nations meetings. The Year provided an opportunity to bring to the attention of Governments, the business community and the general public the advantages of the cooperative model in both developed and developing

countries. It also reaffirmed that the cooperative movement was a strong partner in development that could work with the United Nations to empower the poor, young people, women, the disabled and other marginalized groups. The Secretary-General called on the General Assembly to consider strengthening the capacity of all forms of cooperatives, especially those run by vulnerable groups, so that they could empower people to build inclusive societies; to identify strategies for improving national legislative frameworks in support of cooperatives' growth; and to raise public awareness of the nature of cooperatives, their strengths, their values and principles, and their contribution to sustainable development.

Ageing persons

Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing (2002)

In response to General Assembly resolution 66/127 [YUN 2011, p. 1025] on follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing [YUN 2002, p. 1193], the Secretary-General submitted a July report [A/67/188] on the implementation of the resolution, in particular of the integration of older persons in social development.

Work and employment were as important for social integration of older persons as they were for that of all other age groups. The relatively high incidence of long-term unemployment among older unemployed persons was a direct consequence of discrimination in hiring, promotion and access to job-related training. In nearly all the Member States studied, most employers held stereotypical views about older workers, including perceived weaknesses and negative perceptions about older workers' abilities and productivity, which affected decisions about hiring and retention. While economic, social and demographic changes had contributed to the increase in civic and political participation among older persons to some extent, they often felt excluded from mainstream politics—representative democracy and existing development frameworks had failed to address their concerns. As chronic health conditions and impairments increased with advancing age, access to health care was critical to the continued integration of older persons in society, yet health-care systems of developing countries were established to focus primarily on combating communicable diseases. They remained poorly adapted to—and had insufficient resources for—the care and prevention of chronic diseases. Access to health care was further constrained by a shortage of qualified medical staff, especially in rural areas where older people with limited mobility were also likely to have difficulty reaching services.

While Member States generally recognized the importance of promoting the participation and health of

older persons, there remained an evident lack of coordinated policy in support of their integration and participation in society. Too often, public and policy concerns on ageing overly focused on the provision of benefits and their economic cost to society, with little or no attention given to how the majority of older persons could and should be enabled to contribute to social and economic development. The Secretary-General recommended that the General Assembly consider promoting initiatives to advance a positive public image of older persons and their multiple contributions to their families, communities and societies; support measures that enhance the participation of older persons in the labour market; introduce legislation that ensured equality and non-discrimination on the basis of age in the provision of insurance and financial services; and involve older persons and their organizations in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of policies and programmes that affected them.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 20 December [meeting 60], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/67/449 & Corr.1], adopted **resolution 67/143** without vote [agenda item 27 (c)].

Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 57/167 of 18 December 2002, in which it endorsed the Political Declaration and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, its resolution 58/134 of 22 December 2003, in which it took note, inter alia, of the road map for the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, and its resolutions 60/135 of 16 December 2005, 61/142 of 19 December 2006, 62/130 of 18 December 2007, 63/151 of 18 December 2008, 64/132 of 18 December 2009, 65/182 of 21 December 2010 and 66/127 of 19 December 2011,

Recognizing that, in many parts of the world, awareness of the Madrid Plan of Action remains limited or non-existent, which limits the scope of implementation efforts,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,

Recognizing that, by 2050, more than 20 per cent of the world's population will be 60 years of age or older, and recognizing also that the increase in the number of older people will be the greatest and the most rapid in the developing world,

Deeply concerned that the situation of older persons in many parts of the world has been negatively affected by the world financial and economic crisis,

Recognizing the essential contribution that the majority of older men and women can continue to make to the functioning of society if adequate guarantees are in place,

Noting that older women outnumber older men, and noting with concern that older women often face multiple forms of discrimination resulting from their gender-based roles in society, compounded by their age or disability or on other grounds, which affect the enjoyment of their human rights,

1. *Reaffirms* the Political Declaration and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002;

2. *Welcomes* the holding of the global segment of the second cycle of review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action during the fifty-first session of the Commission for Social Development, in 2013, and looks forward to the contribution that it could make to the work of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing;

3. *Encourages* Governments to pay greater attention to building capacity to eradicate poverty among older persons, in particular older women, by mainstreaming ageing issues into poverty eradication strategies and national development plans, and to include both ageing-specific policies and ageing-mainstreaming efforts in their national strategies;

4. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen their efforts to develop national capacity to address their national implementation priorities identified during the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action, and invites Member States that have not done so to consider a step-by-step approach to developing capacity that includes the setting of national priorities, the strengthening of institutional mechanisms, research, data collection and analysis and the training of necessary personnel in the field of ageing;

5. *Also encourages* Member States to overcome obstacles to the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action by devising strategies that take into account the entirety of the human life course and foster intergenerational solidarity in order to increase the likelihood of greater success in the years ahead;

6. *Further encourages* Member States to place particular emphasis on choosing national priorities that are realistic, sustainable and feasible and have the greatest likelihood of being achieved in the years ahead and to develop targets and indicators to measure progress in the implementation process;

7. *Invites* Member States to identify key priority areas for implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, including empowering older persons and promoting their rights, raising awareness of ageing issues and building national capacity to address ageing;

8. *Recommends* that Member States increase efforts to raise awareness of the Madrid Plan of Action, including by promoting and supporting initiatives to advance a positive public image of older persons and their multiple contributions to their families, communities and societies, working with the regional commissions and enlisting the help of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat in seeking increased attention for ageing issues;

9. *Encourages* Governments that have not done so to designate focal points for handling follow-up of national plans of action on ageing, and also encourages Governments to strengthen existing networks of national focal points on ageing;

10. *Invites* Governments to conduct their ageing-related policies through inclusive and participatory consultations with relevant stakeholders and social development partners, in the interest of developing effective policies creating national policy ownership and consensus-building;

11. *Recommends* that Member States enhance their capacity to more effectively collect data, statistics and qualitative information, disaggregated when necessary by relevant factors, including sex and disability, in order to better assess

the situation of older persons and to set adequate monitoring mechanisms for programmes and policies geared towards protecting the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by older persons;

12. *Recommends* that States parties to existing international human rights instruments address the situation of older persons, where appropriate, more explicitly in their reports, and encourages treaty body monitoring mechanisms and special procedures mandate holders, in accordance with their mandates, to pay more attention to the situation of older persons in their dialogue with Member States, in their consideration of the reports or in their country missions;

13. *Encourages* Governments to continue their efforts to implement the Madrid Plan of Action and to mainstream the concerns of older persons into their policy agendas, bearing in mind the crucial importance of family intergenerational interdependence, solidarity and reciprocity for social development and the realization of all human rights for older persons, and to prevent age discrimination and provide social integration;

14. *Recognizes* the importance of strengthening intergenerational partnerships and solidarity among generations, and in this regard calls upon Member States to promote opportunities for voluntary, constructive and regular interaction between young people and older generations in the family, the workplace and society at large;

15. *Encourages* Member States to adopt social policies that promote the development of community services for older persons, taking into account the psychological and physical aspects of ageing and the special needs of older women;

16. *Also encourages* Member States to ensure that older persons have access to information about their rights so as to enable them to participate fully and justly in their societies and to claim full enjoyment of all human rights;

17. *Calls upon* Member States to develop their national capacity for monitoring and enforcing the rights of older persons, in consultation with all sectors of society, including organizations of older persons, through, inter alia, national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights where applicable;

18. *Also calls upon* Member States to strengthen and incorporate a gender and disability perspective into all policy actions on ageing, as well as to address and eliminate discrimination on the basis of age, gender or disability, and recommends that Member States engage with all sectors of society, in particular with relevant organizations with an interest in the matter, including organizations of older persons, of women and of persons with disabilities, in changing negative stereotypes about older persons, in particular older women and older persons with disabilities, and promote positive images of older persons;

19. *Further calls upon* Member States to address the well-being and adequate health care of older persons, as well as any cases of neglect, abuse and violence against older persons, by designing and implementing more effective prevention strategies and stronger laws and policies to address these problems and their underlying factors;

20. *Calls upon* Member States to take concrete measures to further protect and assist older persons in emergency situations, in accordance with the Madrid Plan of Action;

21. *Stresses* that, in order to complement national development efforts, enhanced international cooperation is essential to support developing countries in implementing the Madrid Plan of Action, while recognizing the importance of assistance and the provision of financial assistance;

22. *Encourages* Member States to ensure that the principle of non-discrimination on the basis of age is incorporated and upheld in health policies and programmes and that the implementation of such policies and programmes is regularly monitored;

23. *Also encourages* Member States to adopt and enforce guidelines that establish standards for the provision of long-term support and assistance to older persons;

24. *Recommends* that Governments involve older persons and their organizations in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of policies and programmes that affect them;

25. *Encourages* the international community, including international and bilateral donors, to enhance international cooperation to support national efforts to eradicate poverty, in keeping with internationally agreed goals, in order to achieve sustainable and adequate social and economic support for older persons, while bearing in mind that countries have the primary responsibility for their own economic and social development;

26. *Encourages* the international community to support national efforts to forge stronger partnerships with civil society, including organizations of older persons, academia, research foundations, community-based organizations, including caregivers, and the private sector, in an effort to help to build capacity on ageing issues;

27. *Encourages* the international community and the relevant agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to support national efforts to provide funding for research and data-collection initiatives on ageing, as appropriate, in order to better understand the challenges and opportunities presented by population ageing and to provide policymakers with more accurate and more specific information on gender and ageing;

28. *Recognizes* the important role of various international and regional organizations that deal with training, capacity-building, policy design and monitoring at the national and regional levels in promoting and facilitating the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, and acknowledges the work that is undertaken in various parts of the world, as well as regional initiatives, and by institutes such as the International Institute on Ageing in Malta and the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research in Vienna;

29. *Recommends* that Member States reaffirm the role of United Nations focal points on ageing, increase technical cooperation efforts, expand the role of the regional commissions on ageing issues and continue to provide resources for those efforts, facilitate the coordination of national and international non-governmental organizations on ageing and enhance cooperation with academia on a research agenda on ageing;

30. *Reiterates* the need for additional capacity-building at the national level in order to promote and facilitate further implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, as well as the results of its review and appraisal cycle, and in this regard encourages Governments to support the United

Nations Trust Fund for Ageing to enable the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to provide expanded assistance to countries, upon their request;

31. *Requests* the United Nations system to strengthen its capacity to support, in an efficient and coordinated manner, national implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, where appropriate;

32. *Recommends* that the situation of older persons be taken into account in the ongoing efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and considered in the discussions on the development agenda beyond 2015;

33. *Notes* the work of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, established by the General Assembly in paragraph 28 of resolution 65/182, and recognizes the positive contributions of Member States, as well as relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations, intergovernmental and relevant non-governmental organizations, national human rights institutions and invited panellists, during the first three working sessions of the Working Group;

34. *Invites* States and relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, including relevant human rights mandate holders and treaty bodies and the regional commissions, as well as intergovernmental and relevant non-governmental organizations with an interest in the matter, to continue to make contributions to the work entrusted to the Working Group, as appropriate;

35. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide all necessary support to the Working Group, within existing resources, for organizing, in 2013, a fourth working session;

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

Protection regime for older persons

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights submitted to the Economic and Social Council an April report (see p. 726) on the human rights situation of older persons, which included an analysis of existing international instruments and gaps in the protection regime.

Open-ended Working Group on Ageing

The Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, established by General Assembly resolution 65/182 [YUN 2010, p. 1194], held its third working session [A/AC.278/2012/1] (New York, 21–24 August) at which it elected officers, including a Rapporteur, and granted accreditation to non-governmental organizations to participate in its work [A/AC.278/2012/L.1]. The Working Group considered the existing international framework on the human rights of older persons and identification of existing gaps at the international level; age discrimination; autonomy, independent living and health care; life in dignity, social security and access to resources; and abuse and violence. Some diverging opinions emerged during the session's debate. Certain

Member States felt strongly that the human rights of older persons were protected by existing instruments, and the focus should be placed on implementation by improving legal frameworks and building on existing national, regional and international instruments, with the understanding that the Madrid International Plan of Action was sufficient to protect the human rights of older persons. Some Member States focused on the development of law to ensure more comprehensive protection of the human rights of older persons. Others stated that the existing treaty bodies were already constrained by heavy workloads and limited timelines, and therefore could not be further burdened with the responsibility of addressing the human rights of older persons. Some Member States suggested calling upon existing United Nations rapporteurs, while others would prefer that the Human Rights Council adopt new special procedures to develop recommendations on how to better protect and promote the human rights of older persons. Certain Member States and civil society organizations called for the drafting of a new international instrument, a United Nations convention on the rights of older persons, to provide a binding treaty that would identify the rights of older persons and the obligations of State parties.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 20 December [meeting 60], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/67/449 & Corr.1], adopted **resolution 67/139** by recorded vote (54-5-118) [agenda item 27 (b) and (c)].

Towards a comprehensive and integral international legal instrument to promote and protect the rights and dignity of older persons

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the obligations contained in the relevant human rights instruments,

Reaffirming also that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights, and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set out therein, without distinction of any kind, such as age, race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status,

Recalling all General Assembly resolutions on matters relating to older persons, including older women, beginning with resolution 2542(XXIV) of 11 December 1969, and recalling also all relevant resolutions on the promotion and protection of the rights and dignity of older persons of the Economic and Social Council and the Commission for Social Development, as well as of the Commission on the Status of Women, as appropriate,

Reaffirming the outcomes of the World Assembly on Ageing, the United Nations Principles for Older Persons of 1991, the global targets on ageing for the year 2001, as agreed in 1992, and the Proclamation on Ageing of 1992, as well as the outcomes of the Second World Assembly on

Ageing and the respective follow-up reviews, in particular as they pertain to the promotion of the rights and well-being of older persons on an equal and participatory basis,

Recognizing that different efforts made to increase co-operation and integration and increasing awareness of and sensitivity to ageing issues since the adoption of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, by Governments, relevant bodies of the United Nations system and civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, have not been sufficient to promote full and effective participation by and opportunities for older persons in economic, social, cultural and political life,

Recalling its resolution 65/182 of 21 December 2010, in which it decided to establish an open-ended working group, open to all States Members of the United Nations, for the purpose of strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons by considering the existing international framework of the human rights of older persons and identifying possible gaps and how best to address them, including by considering, as appropriate, the feasibility of further instruments and measures,

Recognizing that, by 2050, more than 20 per cent of the world's population will be 60 years of age or older, and recognizing also that the increase in the number of older persons will be greatest and most rapid in the developing world,

Recognizing also the essential contribution that the majority of older men and women can continue to make to the functioning of society if adequate guarantees, means and resources, as well as the highest possible level of health care, are in place, and that older persons must be full participants in the development process and also share its benefits,

Reaffirming the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits and their respective follow-up reviews, in particular as they pertain to the promotion of the human rights and the well-being of older persons on an equal and participatory basis,

Encouraged by the increasing interest of the international community in the promotion and protection of the rights and dignity of older persons in the world under a comprehensive and integral approach,

Acknowledging that there are numerous obligations vis-à-vis older persons implicit in most core human rights treaties but that explicit references to age in core international human rights treaties are scarce, that there is no such instrument for older persons and that only a few instruments contain explicit references to age,

Taking note of the reports of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, and welcoming the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the human rights situation of older persons, in which it is stated that dedicated measures to strengthen the international protection regime for older persons are called for without further delay, including a new dedicated international instrument,

1. *Decides* that the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, which shall be open to all Member States and observers of the United Nations shall, as part of its mandate and starting from its upcoming fourth session, to be held in 2013, consider proposals for an international legal instrument to promote and protect the rights and dignity of older persons, based on the holistic approach in the work carried out in the fields of social development, human rights and

non-discrimination, as well as gender equality and the empowerment of women, and taking into account the inputs of the Human Rights Council, the reports of the Working Group and the recommendations of the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on the Status of Women, as well as the contributions from the second global review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, to be held during the fifty-first session of the Commission for Social Development;

2. *Requests* the Working Group to present to the General Assembly, at the earliest possible date, a proposal containing, inter alia, the main elements that should be included in an international legal instrument to promote and protect the rights and dignity of older persons, which are not currently addressed sufficiently by existing mechanisms and therefore require further international protection;

3. *Invites* States and relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, including relevant human rights mandate holders and treaty bodies and the regional commissions, as well as intergovernmental organizations with an interest in the matter, to make contributions to the work entrusted to the Working Group, as set out in paragraph 1 above, and invites relevant non-governmental organizations to contribute, as appropriate, on the basis of the modalities for participation agreed by the Working Group;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, with the support of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), to submit to the Working Group by its fourth session and from within existing resources a compilation of existing international legal instruments, documents and programmes that directly or indirectly address the situation of older persons, including those of conferences, summits, meetings or international or regional seminars convened by the United Nations and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Working Group with the facilities necessary for the performance of the work entrusted to it in the present resolution;

6. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to include in the report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session under the sub-item entitled "Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing" of the item entitled "Social development" comprehensive information on the implementation of the present resolution.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 67/139:

In favour: Argentina, Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Turkmenistan, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam.

Against: Canada, Israel, Seychelles, South Sudan, United States.

Abstaining: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, China, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, Iceland, India, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malta, Mauritania, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Implementation of Madrid Plan of Action

Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/28 [YUN 2011, p. 1028], the Secretary-General submitted a report [E/CN.5/2012/5] to the fiftieth session of the Commission for Social Development, which provided preliminary findings of the second review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action [YUN 2002, p. 1194].

A major tenet of the Madrid Plan of Action was "a society for all ages", in which a change of attitudes, policies and practices would achieve the goal of providing older persons an opportunity to continue contributing to society. Since 2007, a number of countries had adopted new legislation that addressed age discrimination and the rights of older persons, including the repeal of provisions that led to age discrimination. A second central tenet of the Plan of Action was the participation of older persons in labour markets for as long as they would like, or were able to do so productively. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), some form of legislation against age discrimination in employment existed in approximately 50 countries around the world, although it remained difficult to assess the effectiveness of such legislation in combating age discrimination. Effective means of publicizing relevant legal provisions and of monitoring and enforcing compliance were needed for laws to have an impact. In many developing countries, due to the exodus of young adults, the rural population had markedly aged; few countries had implemented policies, programmes and infrastructure intended to alleviate the marginalization of older persons, as mandated in the Madrid Plan. Similarly, the level of education among persons aged 60 years and above remained much lower than among younger generations. As a result, older persons faced challenges in adjusting to

economic and technological changes. While the struggle against poverty among older persons was at the core of the Madrid Plan of Action, the lack of both social protection and income security remained an overwhelming problem for a large number of older persons. A series of initiatives in several countries in the African and Latin American and Caribbean regions aimed at developing some form of social protection.

Persons with disabilities

World Programme of Action

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 65/186 [YUN 2010, p. 1078], the Secretary-General submitted a July report [A/67/211] on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities. The report provided an overview of progress made since the previous report in 2011 [YUN 2011, p. 1029]. It also included recommendations on priority areas for inclusion in the outcome of the high-level meeting, as well as in the efforts to mainstream disability in the development agenda towards 2015 and beyond.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities [YUN 2006, p. 785], which reinforced the overarching principles and goals promoted in the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons [YUN 1982, p. 981], constituted a commitment of the international community to inclusion of the disability perspective and persons with disabilities in all aspects of society and development. That commitment, however, had yet to be translated into inclusion of disability in internationally agreed development goals. With the 2015 deadline for the achievement of the MDGs drawing near, the international community had begun to address the issue of a future framework. The General Assembly, in 2011, had decided to hold a high-level meeting on disability and development in September 2013, and to take concerted action towards a disability-inclusive post-2015 development framework. The high-level meeting was expected to result in a concise, action-oriented outcome document, which would enable the international community to advance a disability-inclusive development agenda.

Governments, the UN system, organizations of persons with disabilities and other civil society organizations recommended a number of key issues for inclusion in a post-2015 development framework. Accessibility to the physical environment, transportation, information and communications was identified as essential to the achievement of development goals inclusive of persons with disability. Also stressed was the need for persons with disabilities to participate in relevant decision-making processes, as was the need for capacity-building on disability issues at all levels and empowerment of civil society organizations.

Several civil society organizations also highlighted the need for an enhanced human rights-based approach to development that addressed both the causes and effects of poverty and inequality. Other priorities included increased collection of reliable and comparable data on disability; the promotion of early and inclusive education for children with disabilities; inclusion of disability perspectives in disaster preparedness and management; enhanced work and employment prospects, and collaboration with the private sector on matters of employment for persons with disabilities; and greater attention to situations in which persons with disabilities faced multiple and aggravated forms of discrimination.

The Secretary-General advised the General Assembly to consider action in harmonizing national legislative, policy and institutional structures in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; taking specific measures to address the information gap on the situation of persons with disabilities by strengthening the collection, compilation and analysis of national disability data; initiating a periodic United Nations global report for benchmarking progress in the equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities, including in the post-2015 development framework; and advancing accessibility and the progressive removal of barriers to the physical environment, transportation, information and communications as a prerequisite for the equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 20 December [meeting 60], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/67/449 & Corr.1], adopted **resolution 67/140** without vote [agenda item 27 (b)].

Realizing the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities towards 2015 and beyond

The General Assembly,

Recalling earlier operational frameworks, such as the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, which it adopted on 3 December 1982, and the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, which it adopted on 20 December 1993, in which persons with disabilities are recognized as both development agents and beneficiaries in all aspects of development,

Reaffirming the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which it adopted on 13 December 2006, a landmark convention affirming the human rights and fundamental freedoms of persons with disabilities, and recognizing that it is both a human rights treaty and a development tool,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in which it recognized the collective

responsibility of Governments to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity at the global level, and stressing the duty of Member States to achieve greater justice and equality for all, in particular persons with disabilities,

Recalling also all of its previous resolutions on realizing the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities, as well as the relevant resolutions of the Human Rights Council and the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions,

Recalling further the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, and the outcome document of the 2011 high-level plenary meeting of the Assembly on HIV and AIDS, entitled “Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS”, which contain references to the rights, participation, well-being and perspectives of persons with disabilities in development efforts,

Gravely concerned that persons with disabilities continue to be subject to multiple and aggravated forms of discrimination and are still largely invisible in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Millennium Development Goals, and noting that, while progress has already been made by Governments, the international community and the United Nations system in mainstreaming disability as an integral part of the development agenda, major challenges do remain,

Concerned that the continuing lack of reliable data and information on disability and the situation of persons with disabilities at the national, regional and global levels contributes to the invisibility of persons with disabilities in official statistics, presenting an obstacle to achieving disability-inclusive development planning and implementation,

Stressing the importance of collecting and analysing reliable data on persons with disabilities following existing guidelines on disability statistics, encouraging ongoing efforts to improve data collection in order to disaggregate data with regard to persons with disabilities, and underlining the need to have internationally comparable data to assess progress on disability-inclusive development policies,

1. *Welcomes* the holding of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly, at the level of Heads of State and Government, on 23 September 2013, with the overarching theme “The way forward: a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond”, in order to strengthen efforts to ensure accessibility for and inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of development, and looks forward to the contribution its outcome document could make in mainstreaming the rights of persons with disabilities in the development agenda beyond 2015;

2. *Also welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Realization of the Millennium Development Goals and internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities: a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond”, and the recommendations contained therein;

3. *Urges* Member States, international and regional organizations, regional integration organizations and financial institutions to make a concerted effort to include persons with disabilities and integrate the principles of

accessibility and inclusion in the monitoring and evaluation of the development goals;

4. *Encourages* the mobilization of resources on a sustainable basis to mainstream disability in development at all levels, and in this regard underlines the need to promote and strengthen international cooperation, including South-South and triangular cooperation, in support of national efforts, including, as appropriate, through the establishment of national mechanisms, in particular in developing countries;

5. *Welcomes* the establishment of the United Nations Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities trust fund, and encourages Member States and other stakeholders to support its objectives, including by providing voluntary contributions;

6. *Requests* the United Nations system to facilitate technical assistance, within existing resources, including the provision of assistance for capacity-building and for the collection and compilation of national and regional data and statistics on disability, in particular to developing countries, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General, in accordance with existing guidelines on disability statistics, to analyse, publish and disseminate disability data and statistics in future periodic reports, as appropriate, on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities;

7. *Encourages* Member States, United Nations organizations and the regional commissions to make all efforts to engage with and ensure the full and effective participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities and, as appropriate, organizations of persons with disabilities and national human rights institutions, in development processes and decision-making at the local, national, regional and international levels;

8. *Requests* the United Nations system, within existing resources, to update existing methodologies of disability data collection and analysis for persons with disabilities, to obtain internationally comparable data on the situation of persons with disabilities and to regularly include relevant disability data or relevant qualitative facts, as appropriate, in relevant United Nations publications in the field of economic and social development;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To submit information on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session;

(b) To submit the outcome of the sixth review and appraisal of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons to the General Assembly no later than June 2013, in advance of and as a contribution to the high-level meeting of the Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities, and in this regard requests all relevant United Nations organizations, through the Secretary-General, to provide an analysis of the overall situation of persons with disabilities within the context of development and in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, based on available data and in accordance with their individual competencies and informed by regional consultations with persons with disabilities and organizations of persons with disabilities, as appropriate within existing resources.

Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda

Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2010/13 [YUN 2010, p. 1080], the Secretary-General submitted to the Commission for Social Development a report [E/CN.5/2012/6] on mainstreaming disability in the development agenda. As the deadline for the MDGs drew closer, the report identified opportunities to promote the inclusion of disability in the global development framework, and in particular, the role of the United Nations in accelerating efforts to mainstream disability in the development agenda towards 2015 and beyond. The United Nations had promoted a twin-track approach for equalizing opportunities for persons with disabilities, which consisted of integrating disability-sensitive measures into the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all policies and programmes, and providing disability-specific initiatives to support the empowerment of persons with disabilities. This approach captured one of the overarching objectives of the work of the Organization—the equalization of opportunities and the recognition of persons with disabilities as both agents and beneficiaries of development.

Equalization of opportunities

Pursuant to Council resolution 2011/27 [YUN 2011, p. 1031], the Secretary-General submitted to the Commission for Social Development a note transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on Disability of the Commission, Shuaib Chalklen (South Africa), on monitoring implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities [E/CN.5/2012/7]. The report outlined the work and priorities of the Special Rapporteur in the period from November 2010 to October 2011, which were built on relevant human rights and development instruments, including the MDGs; other internationally agreed development goals and international commitments and standards; and the three instruments on disability, namely the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, adapted by resolution 37/52, the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities [YUN 1993, p. 977], and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The activities of the Rapporteur focused on monitoring the implementation of the Standard Rules and synergy between other disability-specific instruments; the mainstreaming of disability in development; fostering international cooperation; promoting the instruments of disability and other international development instruments; and vulnerable groups within the disability community.

The Special Rapporteur stated that a key development had been the release of the *World Report on Disability*, a comprehensive overview undertaken by

the World Health Organization and the World Bank on the state of disability in the world, which highlighted challenges for the future. The Rapporteur recommended that Member States support the proposed high-level meeting of the General Assembly on disability and development during its sixty-seventh session; pay greater attention to disabilities in the post-MDGs development agenda; better coordinate dialogue and awareness between development agencies and organizations of persons with disabilities; and increase support of the United Nations Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Multi-Donor Trust Fund and its objectives.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 26 July [meeting 46], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission for Social Development [E/2012/26 & Corr.1], adopted **resolution 2012/11** without vote [agenda item 14 (b)].

Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled “World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world”, held in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,

Recalling also the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in which persons with disabilities are recognized as both development agents and beneficiaries in all aspects of development,

Recalling further its previous resolutions concerning persons with disabilities and further promotion of equalization of opportunities and mainstreaming of disability in the development agenda and the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly,

Welcoming the fact that, since the opening for signature on 30 March 2007 of the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto, 152 States and 1 regional integration organization have signed and 117 States have ratified or acceded to and 1 regional integration organization has formally confirmed the Convention and 90 States have signed and 71 States have ratified or acceded to the Optional Protocol, and encouraging all States that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying the Convention and the Optional Protocol,

Noting that the Convention provides comprehensive coverage of the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of persons with disabilities,

Noting also that persons with disabilities, who face a greater risk of living in absolute poverty, make up an estimated 15 per cent of the world’s population, of whom 80 per cent live in developing countries, and recognizing the importance of international cooperation in supporting national efforts to mainstream disability in the development agenda, in particular for developing countries,

Convinced that addressing the profound social, cultural and economic disadvantage and exclusion experienced by many persons with disabilities, promoting the use of universal design, as appropriate, as well as the progressive removal of barriers to the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in all aspects of development, and promoting their equal enjoyment of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights will further the equalization of opportunities and contribute to the realization of a “society for all” in the twenty-first century,

Noting that, while progress has already been made by Governments, the international community and the United Nations system in mainstreaming disability as an integral part of the global development agenda, major challenges remain,

Emphasizing the importance of the collection and compilation of national data and information regarding the situation of persons with disabilities, following existing guidelines on disability statistics, that are disaggregated by gender and age, which could be used by Governments to enable their development policy planning, monitoring, evaluation and implementation to be disability-sensitive, in particular in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities, while reiterating the request to the United Nations system to facilitate technical assistance within existing resources, including the provision of assistance, in particular to developing countries, for capacity-building and for the collection and compilation of national and regional data and statistics on disabilities,

Underlining the importance of mobilizing resources at all levels for the successful implementation of the Standard Rules, the World Programme of Action and the Convention, and recognizing the importance of international cooperation and its promotion in support of national efforts, in particular in developing countries,

Stressing the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships and international cooperation in combating discrimination based on disability and in mainstreaming disability in the global development agenda for the promotion of the linkages between disability and global development priorities, including poverty reduction and sustainable development,

1. *Welcomes* the decision of the General Assembly to hold a one-day high-level meeting, at the level of Heads of State and Government, during its sixty-eighth session, with the overarching theme “The way forward: a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond”, in order to strengthen efforts to ensure accessibility for and inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of development efforts;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;

3. *Welcomes* the work of the Special Rapporteur on disability of the Commission for Social Development, and takes note of his report;

4. *Also welcomes* the establishment of the Multi-Donor Trust Fund for the United Nations Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and encourages Member States and other stakeholders to support the objectives of the Trust Fund, including by providing voluntary contributions;

5. *Calls upon* Member States and United Nations bodies and agencies to include disability issues and persons with disabilities in their efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and, in reviewing progress towards the achievement of the Goals, to assess the extent to which persons with disabilities have benefited from those efforts;

6. *Encourages* all Member States, concerned inter-governmental organizations, international and regional organizations, civil society, in particular organizations of persons with disabilities, and the private sector to engage in cooperative arrangements and strategic partnerships to facilitate technical cooperation to advance disability-inclusive development;

7. *Encourages* stakeholders at the regional and sub-regional levels to include the perspectives of persons with disabilities in all forms of development cooperation, including South-South and triangular cooperation, in order to build collaborative frameworks for mainstreaming disability, including the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities, at the national level;

8. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations system, within its existing resources, and other stakeholders to improve data and statistics on disability, taking into account existing guidelines published by the United Nations, as a basis for strengthening evidence-based policymaking and to share good practices and experiences in order to overcome barriers and further advance disability-inclusive development;

9. *Urges* the United Nations to enhance partnerships for international cooperation between the United Nations system and regional and subregional organizations and to enhance its role in forging partnerships with a wide range of stakeholders, in particular with organizations of persons with disabilities and the private sector, to provide opportunities and forums, within existing resources, for promoting linkages between disability and the mainstream development agenda;

10. *Calls upon* the international community to seize every opportunity to include disability as a cross-cutting issue in the global development agenda, including in the setting up of the post-2015 United Nations development framework, in the dialogues and outcomes of relevant United Nations development conferences and in the quadrennial comprehensive policy review process, as appropriate;

11. *Emphasizes* the need for measures to ensure that women and girls with disabilities are not subject to multiple or aggravated forms of discrimination or excluded from participation in the implementation of the international development goals, and the need to eliminate existing inequalities between women and men with disabilities;

12. *Encourages* the Special Rapporteur to collaborate, as appropriate, with all relevant stakeholders, including special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council, in accordance with his or her mandate;

13. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to submit to the Commission at its fifty-first session an annual report on his activities on mainstreaming disability in the development agenda;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the implementation of the present resolution for submission to the Commission at its fifty-first session, as a contribution to the upcoming high-level meeting of the General Assembly.

Autism

On 5 July [A/67/141], in a letter addressed to the Secretary-General, Bangladesh requested the inclusion in the provisional agenda of the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly of an item entitled “Addressing the socioeconomic needs of individuals, families and societies affected by autism spectrum disorders and other developmental disorders”. On 3 April, the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations, the United States Mission to the United Nations and the Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations had co-hosted with Autism Speaks a United Nations panel discussion on the theme “Delivering answers through inclusive international collaboration”. The event served as a platform to bring the international community together in an effort to shed light on autism’s effect on families around the world, and on the measures being taken by leaders to better facilitate the provision of resources and services. A major barrier to improving the health and well-being of children and families touched by autism was the paucity of knowledge and expertise to recognize the symptoms and identify autism spectrum disorders and other developmental disorders. The absence of effective screening, in turn, limited access to care and early interventions. Once populations were screened, there was a similar problem associated with the dearth of trained human resources. Treatment programmes by trained therapists were quite effective, particularly when diagnosis was made early and subsequent interventions were begun. In general, when intervention was timely, up to 10 per cent of children with autism could fully recover and nearly 90 per cent showed sustained post-intervention benefits. Treatment, however, took training and it was often required over a lifetime, as were the accompanying clinical and social services. Meeting the growing needs of individuals with autism spectrum disorders would require a coordinated, multipronged approach at the global level that focused on increasing awareness by building knowledge. A General Assembly resolution in support of such a response to autism and other developmental disorders would greatly advance the interests and well-being of millions of individuals and families living with autism.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 12 December [meeting 53], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 67/82** [draft: A/67/L.33 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 127].

Addressing the socioeconomic needs of individuals, families and societies affected by autism spectrum disorders, developmental disorders and associated disabilities

The General Assembly,

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

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome and the United Nations Millennium Declaration, as well as the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields,

Recalling the Declaration of Alma-Ata, the Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion, 1986, and subsequent relevant resolutions of the World Health Assembly and regional committees,

Recalling also the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, according to which individuals with disabilities should enjoy a full and decent life, in conditions which ensure dignity, promote self-reliance and facilitate the individual’s active participation in the community, as well as the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with other individuals,

Recognizing the need to promote and protect the human rights of all persons with disabilities, including all individuals with autism spectrum disorders, by, inter alia, ensuring equal opportunities to achieve their optimal developmental potential and to participate in society,

Recognizing also the important contribution that non-governmental organizations and other civil society actors can make in promoting human rights for persons with disabilities, including all individuals with autism spectrum disorders, developmental disorders and associated disabilities, and their integration in societies, as well as addressing the socioeconomic needs of their families and communities,

Reaffirming the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and the need for persons with disabilities to be guaranteed their full enjoyment without discrimination,

Affirming that ensuring and promoting the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all persons with disabilities, without distinction, is critical to achieving internationally agreed development goals,

Recalling its resolution 66/124 of 19 December 2011, by which it decided to convene a one-day high-level meeting of the General Assembly, on 23 September 2013, with the overarching theme “The way forward: a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond”, which shall be funded within existing resources, in order to strengthen efforts to ensure accessibility for and the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of development efforts,

Aware that autism is a lifelong developmental disability that affects the functioning of the brain, characterized by impairments in social interaction, problems with verbal and non-verbal communication and restricted, repetitive behaviour, interests and activities,

Aware also that the vast variety of needs of individuals with autism spectrum disorders, developmental disorders and associated disabilities poses a substantial challenge to addressing the disability and providing the appropriate services for treatment and care by government and non-governmental organizations,

Deeply concerned that children with autism spectrum disorders, developmental disorders and associated disabilities in all regions of the world experience challenges in accessing long-term health care, education, training and intervention programmes undertaken by Governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector,

Concerned that persons with autism spectrum disorders, developmental disorders and associated disabilities continue to face barriers in their participation as equal members of society, and reaffirming that discrimination against any person on the basis of disability is a violation of the inherent dignity and worth of the human person,

Recalling that early diagnosis, appropriate research and effective interventions are vital to the growth and development of the individual, and emphasizing that early intervention is crucial for addressing the needs of the individual with autism spectrum disorders, developmental disorders and associated disabilities, thus improving the opportunities to live a quality life with the ability to participate in the greater community and increasing the likelihood that an individual will need lower levels of support later in life,

Recognizing that the full enjoyment by persons with autism spectrum disorders, developmental disorders and associated disabilities of their human rights and their full participation will result in significant advances in the social and economic development of societies and communities,

Realizing that the challenge of meeting the needs of individuals with autism spectrum disorders, developmental disorders and associated disabilities is particularly acute in the developing world, resulting in increased difficulties for individuals and their families, as well as for the health, education and social welfare systems trying to meet their needs,

Recognizing the work of the World Health Organization in addressing autism spectrum disorders, developmental disorders and associated disabilities in its resolutions, notably through resolution 65.4 entitled "The global burden of mental disorders and the need for a comprehensive, coordinated response from health and social sectors at the country level", adopted on 25 May 2012 by the sixty-fifth World Health Assembly, requesting the Director General of the Organization to develop a comprehensive mental health action plan, for consideration by the sixty-sixth World Health Assembly,

Recognizing also that a major barrier to improving the health and well-being of children with autism spectrum disorders, developmental disorders and associated disabilities and their families is the paucity of knowledge and expertise to recognize symptoms and identify autism spectrum disorders, and also recognizing that the absence of effective routine screening that allows for early detection, in turn, limits access to care and early interventions and that, without research to develop and implement effective programmes, the emergence of appropriate solutions that improve the quality of life for individuals with autism spectrum disorders and their families does not occur,

Acknowledging efforts to increase awareness of the rights of those affected by autism spectrum disorders, developmental disorders and associated disabilities, including the commemoration of World Autism Awareness Day, which led to increased international public concern for autism and other developmental disabilities,

Taking note of the Dhaka Declaration on Autism Spectrum Disorders and Developmental Disabilities of 25 July 2011,

1. *Encourages* Member States to enhance access to appropriate support services and equal opportunities for inclusion and participation in society by providing, as appropriate, training to public administrators, service providers, carers, caregivers, families and non-professionals on the

needs and rights of persons with autism spectrum disorders, developmental disorders and associated disabilities;

2. *Recognizes* that, in order to develop and implement feasible, effective and sustainable intervention programmes for addressing autism spectrum disorders, developmental disorders and associated disabilities, an innovative, integrated approach would benefit from a focus, inter alia, on:

(a) Increasing public and professional awareness of autism spectrum disorders, developmental disorders and associated disabilities and reducing stigma associated with these conditions;

(b) Enhancing and increasing research expertise and service delivery, including through international collaboration, by training researchers, service providers, as well as non-professionals, in early diagnosis and interventions within health and other relevant sectors;

(c) Enhancing inclusive educational programmes suited to infants, children and adults with autism;

(d) Emphasizing the unique needs of each person with autism across a spectrum of different characteristics and experiences;

(e) Increasing awareness of the advantages of the inclusion of individuals with autism spectrum disorders, developmental disorders and associated disabilities in society through occupational and leisure activities;

3. *Encourages* Member States to undertake to collect appropriate information, including disaggregated statistical and research data, on autism spectrum disorders, developmental disorders and associated disabilities;

4. *Looks forward* to the development of the World Health Organization comprehensive mental health action plan, as called for in World Health Assembly resolution 65.4, and its consideration of autism spectrum disorders in the context of a broader systems approach;

5. *Calls upon* all States to ensure an inclusive education system at all levels and lifelong learning, as well as to promote vocational training and skills development programmes for persons with autism, in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and other local, national and regional policies;

6. *Also calls upon* all States to enable persons with autism spectrum disorders, developmental disorders and associated disabilities to learn life and social development skills to facilitate their full and equal participation in education and as members of the community;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States and United Nations organizations as a contribution to the preparations for the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities, to be held on 23 September 2013.

Youth

Poverty and unemployment

As a follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, the Secretariat submitted to the Commission for Social Development a note [E/CN.5/2012/8] on the theme of poverty and

unemployment among youth. With almost one in four young workers unemployed in developed countries and the majority of young people working in the informal economy in developing countries—many of them living in poverty—the world had been experiencing a youth unemployment crisis that, if left unaddressed, would jeopardize achievements made in reducing poverty during previous decades. Youth employment strategies had failed to produce the number of jobs needed to improve the quality of work prospects. Policies were also falling short of providing young workers with the protection and support that would enable them to fulfil their potential, overcome poverty and actively contribute to economic and social development. The move by a growing number of countries towards fiscal austerity and the ensuing reduction in social spending, job cuts and calls for greater labour market flexibility, at a time when youth and other vulnerable groups of workers had the greatest need for support and security, would contribute to greater labour market volatility, joblessness and working poverty. In order to address the youth unemployment crisis, Governments should lower structural barriers to the proper insertion of youth into the labour market and encourage the maintenance of proper labour standards and wages. Governments should also find and motivate those young people who had given up hope of a productive future, for the social, economic and political costs of a prolonged youth unemployment crisis were high.

Family

Twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family, 2014

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 64/133 [YUN 2009, p. 1066] the Secretary-General reported [YUN 2011, p. 1040] on the follow-up to the tenth anniversary in 2004 of the International Year of the Family [YUN 1994, p. 1144], and preparations for the twentieth anniversary of the Year, to be held in 2014.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 26 July [meeting 46], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission for Social Development [E/2012/26 & Corr.1], adopted **resolution 2012/10** without vote [agenda item 14 (b)].

Preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 44/82 of 8 December 1989, 47/237 of 20 September 1993, 50/142 of 21 December 1995, 52/81 of 12 December 1997, 54/124 of 17 December 1999, 56/113 of 19 December 2001, 57/164 of 18 December 2002, 58/15 of 3 December 2003, 59/111 of 6 December 2004, 59/147 of 20 December 2004, 60/133

of 16 December 2005, 62/129 of 18 December 2007, 64/133 of 18 December 2009 and 66/126 of 19 December 2011 concerning the proclamation of, preparations for and observance of the International Year of the Family and its tenth and twentieth anniversaries,

Recognizing that the preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year provide a useful opportunity for drawing further attention to the objectives of the International Year for increasing cooperation at all levels on family issues and for undertaking concerted actions to strengthen family-centred policies and programmes as part of an integrated, comprehensive approach to development,

Recognizing also that the follow-up to the International Year is an integral part of the agenda and of the multi-year programme of work of the Commission for Social Development until 2014,

Noting the active role of the United Nations in enhancing international cooperation in family-related issues, particularly in the areas of research and information, including the compilation, analysis and dissemination of data,

Noting also the importance of designing, implementing and monitoring family-oriented policies, especially in the areas of poverty eradication, full employment and decent work, work-family balance, social integration and intergenerational solidarity,

Stressing the importance of creating a conducive environment to strengthen and support all families, recognizing that equality between women and men and respect for all the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all family members are essential to family well-being and to society at large,

Recognizing that the overall objectives of the International Year and its follow-up processes continue to guide national and international efforts to improve family well-being worldwide,

Emphasizing that it is necessary to increase coordination of the activities of the United Nations system on family-related issues in order to contribute fully to the effective implementation of the objectives of the International Year and its follow-up processes,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014 and the recommendations contained therein;

2. *Urges* Member States to view 2014 as a target year by which concrete efforts will be made to improve family well-being through the implementation of effective national policies, strategies and programmes;

3. *Requests* the Commission for Social Development to review annually the preparations for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year as part of its agenda and of its multi-year programme of work until 2014;

4. *Also requests* the Commission to adopt the following themes to guide the preparations for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year: (a) poverty eradication: confronting family poverty and social exclusion; (b) full employment and decent work: ensuring work-family balance; and (c) social integration: advancing social integration and intergenerational solidarity;

5. *Invites* Member States to consider undertaking activities in preparation for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year at the national level;

6. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen or, if necessary, establish relevant national agencies or governmental bodies responsible for the implementation and monitoring of family policies and to research the impact of social policies on families;

7. *Also encourages* Member States to continue their efforts to develop appropriate policies to address family poverty, social exclusion, work-family balance and intergenerational solidarity and to share good practices in those areas;

8. *Further encourages* Member States to adopt effective means of delivering family-centred benefits, such as social protection and social transfer programmes, including cash transfer programmes, to reduce family poverty and prevent the intergenerational transfer of poverty;

9. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen provisions for parental leave, extend flexible working arrangements for employees with family responsibilities, including flexible part-time employment opportunities and arrangements, promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, enhance paternal involvement and support a wide range of quality childcare arrangements, noting the importance of reconciliation of work and family life and recognizing the principle that both parents have common responsibilities for the upbringing and development of the child;

10. *Also encourages* Member States to support intergenerational solidarity through the provision of social protection schemes, including pensions, and investment in cross-generational facilities, volunteering programmes aimed at youth and older persons, and mentoring and job-sharing programmes;

11. *Recommends* United Nations agencies and bodies, including the regional commissions, and invites relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and research and academic institutions, to work closely with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat in a coordinated manner on family-related issues, including the preparations for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year;

12. *Encourages* the regional commissions, within their respective mandates and resources, to participate in the preparatory process for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year and to play an active role in facilitating regional cooperation in this regard;

13. *Invites* Member States, non-governmental organizations and academic institutions to support, as appropriate, the preparations for regional meetings in observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year;

14. *Invites* Member States, United Nations agencies and bodies, civil society organizations and academic institutions to continue providing information on their activities in support of the objectives of and preparations for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year and to share good practices and data on family policy development for inclusion in the relevant reports of the Secretary-General.

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 66/126 [YUN 2011, p. 1041] and Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/10 (see above), the Secretary-General submitted a November report [A/68/61-E/2013/3] on preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014. The report

focused on good practices in family policymaking by confronting family poverty and social exclusion, ensuring work-family balance and advancing social integration and intergenerational solidarity. Anti-poverty efforts—such as income-support programmes for families with children, conditional and unconditional cash transfers, and child benefits—improved child and family welfare, but were not sufficient to lift families out of poverty permanently. Families, especially those headed by women, needed assistance with job training, and access to education, health care, housing and high-quality childcare to escape the poverty trap. Governments, in cooperation with employers' and workers' organizations, were responsible for implementing the legislative and policy frameworks that facilitated work-family balance; those measures included leave entitlements, childcare and working-time arrangements, as well as other policies that made workplaces more responsive to families' needs and supported child development and gender equality.

The Secretary-General recommended that Governments prevent the intergenerational transfer of poverty through adequate family-centred benefits, including social protection, old-age pensions, cash transfers, housing assistance, child benefits and tax breaks; increase the provision and flexibility of parental leave, invest in early childhood care and education, improve the availability of flexible working arrangements in line with decent work and gender equality objectives; and promote policies strengthening intergenerational solidarity through investment in family caregiver support programmes and intergenerational learning, mentoring and volunteering programmes. On the observance of the twentieth anniversary, the Secretary-General recommended that Governments, United Nations agencies and bodies, civil society organizations and academic institutions share good practices and data on family policy development, especially in the areas of poverty, work-family balance and intergenerational solidarity, and establish partnerships with each other and private enterprises in support of family-oriented policy and programme design, implementation and evaluation.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 20 December [meeting 60], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/67/449 & Corr.1], adopted **resolution 67/142** without vote [agenda item 27 (b)].

Preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/82 of 8 December 1989, 50/142 of 21 December 1995, 52/81 of 12 December 1997, 54/124 of 17 December 1999, 56/113 of 19 December

2001, 57/164 of 18 December 2002, 58/15 of 3 December 2003, 59/111 of 6 December 2004, 59/147 of 20 December 2004, 60/133 of 16 December 2005, 62/129 of 18 December 2007, 64/133 of 18 December 2009 and 66/126 of 19 December 2011 concerning the proclamation of, preparations for and observance of the International Year of the Family and its tenth and twentieth anniversaries,

Recognizing that the preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year in 2014 provide a useful opportunity to draw further attention to the objectives of the International Year for increasing cooperation at all levels on family issues and for undertaking concerted actions to strengthen family-centred policies and programmes as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development,

Noting that the family-related provisions of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits of the 1990s and their follow-up processes continue to provide policy guidance on ways to strengthen family-centred components of policies and programmes as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development,

Noting also the importance of designing, implementing and monitoring family-oriented policies, especially in the areas of poverty eradication, full employment and decent work, work-family balance, social integration and intergenerational solidarity,

Recognizing that the family has the primary responsibility for the nurturing and protection of children and that children, for the full and harmonious development of their personality, should grow up in a family environment and in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding,

Cognizant of the need for continued inter-agency and regional cooperation on family issues in order to generate greater awareness of this subject among the governing bodies of the United Nations system,

Convinced that civil society, including research and academic institutions, has a pivotal role in advocacy, promotion, research and policymaking in respect of family policy development and capacity-building,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General,

1. *Encourages* Governments to continue to make every possible effort to realize the objectives of the International Year of the Family and its follow-up processes and to integrate a family perspective into national policymaking;

2. *Invites* Governments and regional intergovernmental entities to provide for more systematic national and regional data on family well-being and to identify and ensure support for constructive family policy developments, including the exchange of information on good policies and practices;

3. *Urges* Member States to view 2014 as a target year by which concrete efforts will be made to improve family well-being through the implementation of effective national policies, strategies and programmes;

4. *Encourages* Member States to continue their efforts to develop appropriate policies and programmes that address family poverty, social exclusion, work-family balance and intergenerational issues and to share good practices in those areas;

5. *Also encourages* Member States to promote the delivery of family-centred benefits, such as social protection

and social transfer programmes to reduce family poverty and prevent the intergenerational transfer of poverty;

6. *Further encourages* Member States to strengthen provisions for parental leave, extend flexible working arrangements for employees with family responsibilities, promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, enhance paternal involvement and support a wide range of quality childcare arrangements in order to improve work-family balance;

7. *Encourages* Member States to support social integration and intergenerational solidarity through the provision of social protection assistance and investments in cross-generational facilities, volunteering programmes for youth and older persons and mentoring and job-sharing programmes;

8. *Urges* Member States to create a conducive environment to strengthen and support all families, recognizing that equality between women and men and respect for all the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all family members are essential to family well-being and to society at large, noting the importance of reconciliation of work and family life and recognizing the principle of shared parental responsibility for the upbringing and development of the child;

9. *Invites* Governments to continue to develop strategies and programmes aimed at strengthening national capacities to address national priorities relating to family issues;

10. *Invites* Member States to consider undertaking activities in preparation for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year at the national level;

11. *Invites* Member States, United Nations organizations and bodies, regional commissions, civil society organizations and academic institutions to continue providing information on their activities in support of the objectives of and preparations for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year and to share good practices and data on family policy development;

12. *Invites* Member States, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and academic institutions to support, as appropriate, the preparations for regional meetings in observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year;

13. *Encourages* Governments to support the United Nations Trust Fund on Family Activities to enable the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to continue research activities and provide assistance to countries, upon their request;

14. *Recommends* that United Nations organizations and bodies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, research and academic institutions and the private sector play a supportive role in promoting the twentieth anniversary of the International Year;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, through the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council, on the preparations for the observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year at all levels;

16. *Decides* to consider the topic "Preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family" at its sixty-eighth session under the sub-item entitled "Social development, including questions

relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family” of the item entitled “Social development”.

Global Day of Parents

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 17 September [meeting 130], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 66/292** [draft: A/66/L.59/Rev.1] without vote [agenda item 27].

Global Day of Parents

The General Assembly

1. *Decides* to proclaim 1 June the Global Day of Parents, to be observed annually, honouring parents throughout the world;
2. *Invites* Member States to celebrate the Global Day of Parents in full partnership with civil society, particularly involving young people and children;
3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and civil society organizations for appropriate observance.

Cultural development

Culture of peace

Follow-up to the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/116 [YUN 2011, p. 1043], the Secretary-General transmitted an August report [A/67/284] by the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace [YUN 1999, p. 594]. The report highlighted new approaches implemented in the context of the interdisciplinary and intersectoral programme of action for a culture of peace and non-violence adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO in November 2011.

UNESCO continued to advise its member States on the relevance of peace as a dimension of education policies, emphasizing that improved education strategies should incorporate such values as respect for human rights, non-discrimination, tolerance, sustainable development, peace and non-violence into national education systems, with a view to educating global citizens. As the lead agency for the United Nations Decade for Education for Sustainable Development (2005–2014), UNESCO underscored the need to adopt and integrate a holistic vision of education for sustainable development, including climate change education, education for disaster preparedness and risk reduction, and new learning processes to mainstream the values and principles of sustainable development.

UNESCO developed activities in different regions of the world to ensure that the values of openness and social inclusion were also integrated in policies at all levels, with emphasis put on the situations of women and youth. The agency also provided support to the Fourth Youth Peace Ambassadors Training Workshop, held in Hiroshima, Japan, in March 2012, which issued a 44-point action plan in such areas as peace, education and sports.

In order to combat ignorance and intolerance, UNESCO paved the way for increased mutual understanding through its series of publications on general and regional histories, ensuring their wide dissemination by translating them into different languages, and developing them for pedagogical use. Since freedom of expression and access to information constituted important dimensions of peace and democratization processes, UNESCO provided technical advice on media, legal and policy reforms aimed at ensuring respect for freedom of expression. In June, ministers of education, senior policymakers, expert practitioners, researchers and relevant stakeholders from around the world gathered at UNESCO headquarters for the World Open Educational Resources Congress and passed the Paris Open Educational Resources Declaration, which called upon Governments worldwide to openly license publicly funded educational materials for public use. In preparation for the decade for the rapprochement of cultures (2013–2023), UNESCO launched a house-wide stocktaking exercise to contribute to the elaboration of the multilateral agendas beyond 2015, in particular with a view to demonstrating the relevance of peace and culture for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and sustainable development objectives.

High-level Forum

On 14 September, the General Assembly convened a High-level Forum on “Culture of Peace” [GA/11281], with education, youth outreach and women’s empowerment highlighted as keys to a more peaceful world. Speaking before the Assembly, the Secretary-General said that senseless violence—even in countries not at war—was taking too many lives. The Secretary-General announced plans to launch the Global Education First Initiative (GEFI) (see p. 1078), to be led by UNESCO, with a mission of promoting education as the most effective way to fight poverty, improve health and well-being, generate growth and promote responsible citizenship. The initiative would also aim to give every child a chance to attend school, and would encourage teachers, religious figures and community leaders as well as grass roots groups, to build a culture of peace.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 17 December [meeting 58], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 67/106** [draft: A/67/L.46 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 15].

Follow-up to the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the Charter of the United Nations, including the purposes and principles contained therein, and especially the dedication to saving succeeding generations from the scourge of war,

Recalling the Constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which states that, “since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed”,

Recognizing the importance of the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, which serve as the universal mandate for the international community, particularly the United Nations system, for the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence that benefits humanity, in particular future generations,

Recalling its previous resolutions on a culture of peace, in particular resolution 52/15 of 20 November 1997 proclaiming 2000 the International Year for the Culture of Peace, resolution 53/25 of 10 November 1998 proclaiming the period 2001–2010 the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, and resolutions 56/5 of 5 November 2001, 57/6 of 4 November 2002, 58/11 of 10 November 2003, 59/143 of 15 December 2004, 60/3 of 20 October 2005, 61/45 of 4 December 2006, 62/89 of 17 December 2007, 63/113 of 5 December 2008, 64/80 of 7 December 2009, 65/11 of 23 November 2010 and 66/116 of 12 December 2011, adopted under its agenda item entitled “Culture of Peace”,

Reaffirming the United Nations Millennium Declaration, which calls for the active promotion of a culture of peace,

Taking note of the 2005 World Summit Outcome adopted at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly,

Welcoming the observance of 2 October as the International Day of Non-Violence, as proclaimed by the United Nations,

Recognizing that all efforts made by the United Nations system in general and the international community at large for peacekeeping, peacebuilding, the prevention of conflicts, disarmament, sustainable development, the promotion of human dignity and human rights, democracy, the rule of law, good governance and gender equality at the national and international levels contribute greatly to the culture of peace,

Recognizing also the importance of respect and understanding for religious and cultural diversity throughout the world, of choosing negotiations over confrontation and of working together and not against each other,

Welcoming the report of the Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, submitted pursuant to resolution 66/116 and transmitted by the Secretary-General,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on intercultural and interreligious dialogue,

Recalling the proclamation by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization of 21 February as the International Mother Language Day, which aims at protecting, promoting and preserving linguistic and cultural diversity, and multilingualism, in order to foster and enrich a culture of peace, social harmony, cross-cultural dialogue and mutual understanding,

Expressing its appreciation for the ongoing efforts of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations in promoting a culture of peace through a number of practical projects in the areas of youth, education, media and migrations, in collaboration with Governments, international organizations, foundations and civil society groups, as well as media and corporate leaders,

Welcoming the successful holding on 14 September 2012 of the first-ever General Assembly High-level Forum on the Culture of Peace, convened by the President of the Assembly, and the wide-ranging partnership and inclusive collaboration among Member States, international organizations and civil society, as evidenced at the Forum,

Welcoming also the high-level debate organized at United Nations Headquarters by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to mark the observance of the International Day of Peace on 21 September 2012,

Welcoming further the adoption by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its thirty-sixth session of a programme of action for a culture of peace and non-violence, and noting that the objectives of that programme of action are in line with the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace adopted by the General Assembly,

Encouraging the continued and increasing efforts and activities on the part of civil society organizations throughout the world in advancing the culture of peace as envisaged in the Declaration and Programme of Action,

1. *Reiterates* that the objective of the effective implementation of the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace is to strengthen further the global movement for a culture of peace following the observance of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001–2010, and calls upon all concerned to renew their attention to this objective;

2. *Invites* Member States to continue to place greater emphasis on and expand their activities promoting a culture of peace at the national, regional and international levels and to ensure that peace and non-violence are fostered at all levels;

3. *Invites* the entities of the United Nations system, within their existing mandates, to integrate, as appropriate, the eight action areas of the Programme of Action into their programmes of activities, focusing on promoting a culture of peace and non-violence at the regional, national and international levels;

4. *Commends* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, for which the promotion of a culture of peace is the expression of its fundamental mandate, for further strengthening the activities it has undertaken to promote a culture of peace;

5. *Commends* the practical initiatives and actions by relevant United Nations bodies, including the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the University for Peace, as well as their activities in further promoting a culture of peace and non-violence, including the promotion of peace education and activities related to specific areas identified in the Programme of Action, and encourages them to continue and further strengthen and expand their efforts;

6. *Encourages* the Peacebuilding Commission to continue to promote peacebuilding activities and advance a culture of peace and non-violence in post-conflict peacebuilding efforts at the country level;

7. *Urges* the appropriate authorities to provide age-appropriate education, in children's schools, that includes lessons in mutual understanding, tolerance, active citizenship, human rights and the promotion of a culture of peace;

8. *Encourages* the involvement of media, especially the mass media, in promoting a culture of peace and non-violence, with particular regard to children and young people;

9. *Commends* civil society, non-governmental organizations and young people for their activities in further promoting a culture of peace and non-violence, including through their campaign to raise awareness on a culture of peace and the peaceful settlement of disputes;

10. *Encourages* civil society and non-governmental organizations to further strengthen their efforts to promote a culture of peace, inter alia, by adopting their own programme of activities to complement the initiatives of Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, in line with the Declaration on a Culture of Peace and Programme of Action;

11. *Welcomes* the decision of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on 10 November 2011 to proclaim 30 April International Jazz Day, and calls upon Member States to participate actively in the celebration of International Jazz Day in order to develop and increase intercultural exchanges and understanding between cultures for the purpose of mutual comprehension and tolerance;

12. *Stresses* the role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in mobilizing all relevant stakeholders within and outside the United Nations system in support of cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and a culture of peace, and invites the Organization to continue to enhance communication and outreach, including through the culture of peace website;

13. *Invites* Member States, all parts of the United Nations system and civil society organizations, including the International Day of Peace Non-Governmental Organization Committee at the United Nations, to accord increasing attention to their observance of the International Day of Peace on 21 September each year as a day of global ceasefire and non-violence, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 55/282 of 7 September 2001;

14. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to consider convening a high-level forum, as appropriate and within existing resources, devoted to the implementation of the Programme of Action on the occasion of the anniversary of its adoption, on or around 13 September;

15. *Invites* the Secretary-General, within existing resources, in consultation with the Member States and taking into account the observations of civil society organizations, to explore mechanisms and strategies, in particular strategies in the sphere of information and communications technology, for the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action and to initiate outreach efforts to increase global awareness of the Programme of Action and its eight areas of action aimed at their implementation;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a report on

actions undertaken to implement the present resolution and on heightened activities by the United Nations and its affiliated agencies to implement the Programme of Action and to promote a culture of peace and non-violence;

17. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session the item entitled "Culture of peace".

Interreligious and intercultural understanding

In response to General Assembly resolution 66/226 [YUN 2011, p. 1045], the Secretary-General submitted an August report [A/67/283] on intercultural and interreligious dialogue, which outlined the main activities carried out by the UN system in support of dialogue among cultures, civilizations and religions. The report covered a wide range of topics, including the new Programme of Action adopted by UNESCO, the Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, communication, awareness-raising and educational activities in promoting intercultural and interreligious dialogue, increased recognition of indigenous cultures, as well as a rights-based approach to the issue.

The new Programme of Action, adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO at its thirty-sixth session in November 2011, aimed to enhance intercultural as well as interreligious dialogue, which was an important component of promoting dialogue among cultures and civilizations. It took advantage of the lessons learned in the implementation of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World (2001–2010), the International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2010) and the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity (2001). UNESCO participated in the Fourth Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, held in Kazakhstan in May 2012, and organized the High-level Panel on Peace and Dialogue among Cultures in Paris in November 2012. Different projects to facilitate intercultural understanding included the publication of a new volume in the UNESCO series of General and Regional Histories, entitled *Islam in the World Today*, as well as guidelines for educators to address Islamophobia.

In its fifth operational year, the activities of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations focused on five key objectives: facilitating the global conversation on diversity; promoting policy changes; preventing intercultural crises; supporting innovative, grass-roots bridge-building initiatives; and mobilizing broad public support for cultural diversity, tolerance and inclusion. Through the Group of Friends, which included 110 countries, 23 international organizations and a steadily growing number of civil society partners, the Alliance had been enabled to operate as a global matchmaker and a creative laboratory for intercultural understanding and cooperation.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) continued its engagement with faith-based cultural agents of change, including its Global Interfaith Network on

Population and Development. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), in view of the extensive networks of religious communities, published *Partnering with Religious Communities for Children* to support its staff and partners, including other child-rights organizations. The work of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues promoted intercultural dialogue. Several United Nations agencies had developed specific policies to address the needs of indigenous populations, while fostering respect for their cultures and promoting them as an engine for development. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) promoted sustainable development for indigenous peoples through its Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme as well as the United Nations Indigenous Peoples' Partnership—the inter-agency initiative to advance the rights of indigenous peoples.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 17 December [meeting 58], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 67/104** [draft: A/67/L.44 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 15].

Promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion,

Recalling its resolution 66/226 of 23 December 2011 on the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace and its other related resolutions,

Recalling also its resolution 64/14 of 10 November 2009, on the Alliance of Civilizations, in which it welcomed efforts to promote greater understanding and respect among people from different civilizations, cultures and religions,

Bearing in mind the valuable contribution that interreligious and intercultural dialogue can make to an improved awareness and understanding of the common values shared by all humankind,

Noting that interreligious and intercultural dialogue has made significant contributions to mutual understanding, tolerance and respect, as well as to the promotion of a culture of peace and an improvement of overall relations among people from different cultural and religious backgrounds and among nations,

Recognizing that cultural diversity and the pursuit of cultural development by all peoples and nations are sources of mutual enrichment for the cultural life of humankind,

Bearing in mind that tolerance of cultural, ethnic, religious and linguistic diversities contributes towards peace, mutual understanding and friendship among people of different cultures and nations and that these diversities should be made part of intercultural and interreligious dialogue efforts, as appropriate,

Emphasizing the importance of culture for development and its contribution to the achievement of the Millennium

Development Goals, and in this regard noting the close links between cultural diversity, dialogue and development,

Noting the various initiatives at the local, national, regional and international levels for enhancing dialogue, understanding and cooperation among religions, cultures and civilizations, which are mutually reinforcing and interrelated,

Welcoming the inauguration of the King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue in Vienna, initiated by King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, established on the basis of the purposes and principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and acknowledging the important role that the Centre is expected to play as a platform for the enhancement of interreligious and intercultural dialogue,

Acknowledging the tenth anniversary of the 2001 Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, and welcoming the commemoration of the International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures in 2010 and the adoption by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its thirty-sixth session of resolution 40, entitled "Proclamation of an international decade for the rapprochement of cultures (2013–2022)",

Encouraging activities aimed at promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue in order to enhance peace and social stability, respect for diversity and mutual respect in diverse communities and to create, at the global level, and also at the regional, national and local levels, an environment conducive to peace and mutual understanding,

Recognizing the contributions of the media and of new information and communications technology to changing peoples' perceptions of different cultures and religions, including through the promotion of dialogue,

Reaffirming the importance of sustaining the process of engaging all stakeholders, including young men and women as relevant actors, in interreligious and intercultural dialogue within the appropriate initiatives at various levels which aims to challenge preconceived ideas and improve mutual understanding,

Recognizing the commitment of all religions to peace and the need for voices of moderation from all religions and beliefs to work together in order to build a more secure and peaceful world,

1. *Reaffirms* that mutual understanding and interreligious and intercultural dialogue constitute important dimensions of the dialogue among civilizations and of the culture of peace;

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on intercultural and interreligious dialogue;

3. *Notes* the continuing work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on intercultural and interreligious dialogue and its efforts to promote dialogue among civilizations, cultures and peoples, as well as activities related to a culture of peace, and welcomes in particular the adoption of its new programme of action for a culture of peace and non-violence and its focus on concrete actions at the global, regional and subregional levels;

4. *Takes note* of the positive outcomes of the International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures in 2010, which contributed towards an environment conducive to harmonious coexistence and congenial interaction within and among diversified societies;

5. *Proclaims* the period 2013–2022 the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures, calls upon Member States to utilize this opportunity to enhance their activities relating to interreligious and intercultural dialogue, promoting tolerance and mutual understanding, and invites the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in this context to be the lead agency in the United Nations system;

6. *Reaffirms* the solemn commitment of all States to fulfil their obligations to promote universal respect for and observance and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other instruments relating to human rights and international law, the universal nature of these rights and freedoms being beyond question;

7. *Welcomes* the outcome of the Seventh Asia-Europe Meeting Interfaith Dialogue, on harnessing the benefits and addressing the challenges of migration through interfaith and intercultural dialogue, held in the Philippines on 13 and 14 October 2011;

8. *Underlines* the importance of moderation as a value within societies for countering extremism in all its aspects and for further contributing to the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, tolerance, understanding and cooperation;

9. *Welcomes* the efforts by the media to promote interreligious and intercultural dialogue, encourages the further promotion of dialogue among the media from all cultures and civilizations, emphasizes that everyone has the right to freedom of expression, and reaffirms that the exercise of this right carries with it special duties and responsibilities and may therefore be subject to certain restrictions, but that these shall be only such as are provided by law and necessary for respect of the rights or reputations of others, protection of national security or of public order, or of public health or morals;

10. *Also welcomes* the efforts to use information and communications technology, including the Internet, to promote interreligious and intercultural dialogue, and in this regard acknowledges with appreciation the establishment by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries of the Interfaith Dialogue e-Portal pursuant to commitments made during the Special Non-Aligned Movement Ministerial Meeting on Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace and Development, held in Manila from 16 to 18 March 2010, and encourages relevant stakeholders to utilize the opportunity to disseminate their best practices and experiences on interreligious and intercultural dialogue by contributing to the Interfaith Dialogue e-Portal;

11. *Encourages* Member States to consider, as and where appropriate, initiatives that identify areas for practical action in all sectors and levels of society for the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, tolerance, understanding and cooperation, inter alia, the ideas suggested during the High-level Dialogue on Interreligious and Intercultural Understanding and Cooperation for Peace, held in New York on 4 and 5 October 2007, including the idea of an enhanced process of dialogue among world religions;

12. *Recognizes* the importance of interreligious dialogue and its valuable contribution to promoting social cohesion, peace and development, and calls upon Member

States to consider, as appropriate and where applicable, interreligious and intercultural dialogue as an important tool in efforts aimed at achieving peace and social stability and the full realization of the Millennium Development Goals;

13. *Also recognizes* the efforts by relevant stakeholders to foster peaceful and harmonious coexistence within societies by promoting respect for religious and cultural diversity, including by engendering sustained and robust interaction among various segments of society;

14. *Acknowledges* the active engagement of the United Nations system with faith-based organizations in the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue and in bringing together people of different faiths to discuss common issues and objectives;

15. *Also acknowledges* the important role of civil society, including academia, in fostering interreligious and intercultural dialogue, and encourages support for practical measures that mobilize civil society, including building capacities, opportunities and frameworks for cooperation;

16. *Invites* Member States to further promote reconciliation to help to ensure durable peace and sustained development, including through reconciliatory measures and acts of service and by encouraging forgiveness and compassion among individuals;

17. *Recognizes* that the Office for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat plays a valuable role as focal point within the Secretariat on the issue, and encourages it to continue to interact and coordinate with the relevant entities of the United Nations system and coordinate their contribution to the intergovernmental process aimed at promoting intercultural and interreligious dialogue;

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

Alliance of Civilizations

Report of High Representative. By a letter of 16 August [A/67/336], the Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly the fifth annual report of the High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations, highlighting the main activities carried out from July 2011 to July 2012 in accordance with the third implementation plan (2011–2013). The Alliance continued to consolidate and expand as one of the most relevant global platforms for intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation. It delivered on its objectives through a range of activities, including several cross-cutting projects. Efforts were made to foster stronger links between national plans, regional strategies and programmes developed by the Alliance and its partners, as reflected in preparatory work for the Second Action Plan for South-Eastern Europe and the draft Latin America Strategy. Extra efforts were made to expand and anchor the Alliance's work in new regions, namely in Asia and Africa. The expectation regarding an increased role by the Alliance as a United Nations soft-power

tool of cultural and preventive diplomacy was expressed at the General Assembly thematic debate “Fostering cross-cultural understanding for building peaceful and inclusive societies” on 22 March, and included a new demand for a mediation role for the Alliance based on the Fourth Global Forum [YUN 2011, p. 1047]. In spite of a steady expansion of the Alliance’s role and activities, the resources at its disposal continued to be limited compared to the target level, as well as erratic and almost impossible to predict. The High Representative proposed a funding model based on periodic replenishments, designed to increase the predictability of the Trust Fund’s resources and to secure funding for the Alliance’s activities. The first replenishment session took place in Istanbul, Turkey from 31 May to 1 June, and secured pledges for \$7.5 million.

Appointment of High Representative. On 28 September, the Secretary-General appointed Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz al-Nasser (Qatar) as High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations, replacing Mr. Jorge Sampaio (Portugal), who had served as High Representative since April 2007.

International Day of Charity

The General Assembly declared 5 September the International Day of Charity in resolution 67/105 (see below) during the Assembly’s consideration of the agenda item on a culture of peace [A/67/PV.58].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 17 December [meeting 58], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 67/105** [draft: A/67/L.45 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 15].

International Day of Charity

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Recalling the goals and objectives of the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace,

Reaffirming Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries and General Assembly resolutions 53/199 of 15 December 1998 and 61/185 of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years,

Reaffirming also the recognition, set forth in the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted by the Heads of State and Government at the Millennium Summit, of the fundamental value of solidarity to international relations in the twenty-first century,

Deeply concerned that poverty persists in all countries of the world, particularly in developing countries, regardless of their economic, social and cultural situation,

Recognizing the work done by Member States and the United Nations system and the role of charity in alleviating humanitarian crises and human suffering within and among nations,

Affirming that charity may contribute to the promotion of dialogue among people from different civilizations, cultures and religions, as well as of solidarity and mutual understanding,

Recognizing the efforts of charitable organizations and individuals, including the work of Mother Teresa,

1. *Decides* to designate 5 September as the International Day of Charity;

2. *Invites* all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations and individuals, to commemorate the International Day of Charity in an appropriate manner, by encouraging charity, including through education and public awareness-raising activities;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States and organizations of the United Nations system.

Sport for development and peace

Olympic Truce and ideal

Communication. On 12 June [A/66/831], the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom transmitted to the Secretary-General a joint statement on the Olympic Truce [YUN 2011, p. 1047]. As hosts of the 2012 XXX Summer Olympic Games and the XIV Summer Paralympic Games in London, and the 2014 XXII Winter Olympic Games and the XI Winter Paralympic Games in Sochi, the two countries pledged to promote the Truce’s ideals by using sport, culture, education and public engagement to promote conflict prevention; support the contribution of youth, women and those with disabilities in promoting peace through sport; and work together and with other partners to increase international public interest and involvement in the Truce’s ideals.

Solemn Appeal by President of General Assembly. On 28 June [A/66/862], the President of the General Assembly issued a solemn appeal in connection with the observance of the Olympic Truce, calling on all Member States to demonstrate their commitment to the Truce for the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games, and to undertake concrete actions to promote and strengthen a culture of peace based on the Truce’s spirit.

On 29 June (**decision 66/564**), the Assembly took note of the solemn appeal made by the President of the Assembly.

Report of Secretary-General. In response to resolution 65/4 [YUN 2010, p. 1089], the Secretary-General submitted an August report [A/67/282] on sport for development and peace: mainstreaming a versatile instrument. The report summarized the activities

undertaken by Member States and the UN system between August 2010 and August 2012. It provided an update on the activities of the Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group and the functioning of the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace and its Trust Fund. The report also took into account actions to implement General Assembly resolution 66/5 [YUN 2010, p. 1047] on building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal, and activities of the Human Rights Council related to sport and human rights issues. Lastly, the report proposed a new Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace, with the goal of providing direction on how resources could be maximized and how to harness the potential of sport for the promotion of fundamental and human rights and the achievement of inclusive and sustainable development, including the MDGs, and peacebuilding objectives.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 28 November [meeting 42], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 67/17** [draft: A/67/L.26 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 12].

Sport as a means to promote education, health, development and peace

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/5 of 3 November 2003, 59/10 of 27 October 2004, its decision to proclaim 2005 the International Year for Sport and Physical Education, to strengthen sport as a means to promote education, health, development and peace, and its resolutions 60/1 of 16 September 2005, 60/9 of 3 November 2005, 61/10 of 3 November 2006, 62/271 of 23 July 2008, 63/135 of 11 December 2008 and 65/4 of 18 October 2010,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Sport for development and peace: mainstreaming a versatile instrument”, which reviews the programmes and initiatives implemented by States Members of the United Nations, United Nations funds and programmes, specialized agencies and other partners, using sport as a tool for development and peace,

Acknowledging the major role of Member States and the United Nations system in promoting human development through sport and physical education, through its country programmes,

Recognizing the potential of sport to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, noting that sport has the potential, as declared in the 2005 World Summit Outcome, to foster peace and development and to contribute to an atmosphere of tolerance and understanding, and reaffirming that sport is a tool for education that can promote cooperation, solidarity, social inclusion and health at the local, national and international levels, as declared in the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,

Recognizing also the need to strengthen and further coordinate efforts, including multi-stakeholder partnerships,

at all levels to maximize the potential of sport for contributing to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and national peacebuilding and State-building priorities,

Acknowledging the importance of sport and physical activity in combating non-communicable diseases, as reflected in the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases,

Recalling its resolution 64/3 of 19 October 2009, in which the International Olympic Committee was invited to participate in the sessions and work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer, and welcoming the partnerships that many United Nations system organizations have established with the International Olympic Committee, including the International Forum on Sport, Peace and Development, jointly organized with the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace,

Affirming the invaluable contribution of the Olympic movement in establishing sport as a unique means for the promotion of peace and development, in particular through the ideal of the Olympic Truce,

Welcoming the joint statement dated 28 May 2012 of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to promote the ideals of the Olympic Truce in advance of the Games of the XXX Olympiad and the XIV Paralympic Summer Games in London in 2012 and the XXII Olympic Winter Games and the XI Paralympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russian Federation, in 2014, and recognizing the importance of partnerships with the International Olympic Committee and the International Paralympic Committee, the International Olympic Truce Centre, future hosts of the Games, such as the Russian Federation, Brazil and the Republic of Korea, the United Nations and other Member States in supporting the implementation of future resolutions on the Olympic Truce,

Acknowledging the opportunities provided by the Games of the XXX Olympiad and the XIV Paralympic Summer Games, held in London, for education, understanding, peace, harmony and tolerance among and between peoples and civilizations, and the opportunities provided by the first Youth Winter Olympic Games, held in Innsbruck, Austria, in 2012, to inspire the youth of the world to embrace, embody and express the Olympic values, as reflected in resolution 66/5 of 17 October 2011 relating to the Olympic Truce,

Welcoming the success of the Games of the XXX Olympiad and the XIV Paralympic Summer Games in relation to the international outreach programmes that focused on inspiring all sectors of society to learn about and promote the values of the Olympic Truce, acknowledging the International Inspiration legacy programme of the United Kingdom, which has given 12 million children in 20 countries access to sport to promote dialogue, peace and development, and calling upon future hosts of the Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games and other Member States to include sport, as appropriate, in conflict-prevention activities and to ensure the effective implementation of the Olympic Truce during the Games,

Recalling article 31 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, outlining a child's right to play and leisure, and the outcome document of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled "A world fit for children", stressing the promotion of physical, mental and emotional health through play and sports,

Recalling also article 30 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, outlining the right of persons with disabilities to take part on an equal basis with others in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport,

Recognizing the important role played by the International Convention against Doping in Sport in harmonizing the actions taken by Governments in the fight against doping in sport, which are complementary to those undertaken by the sporting movement under the World Anti-Doping Code of the World Anti-Doping Agency,

Acknowledging the recommendations contained in the report of the Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group entitled "Harnessing the power of sport for development and peace: recommendations to Governments", encouraging Member States to implement the recommendations, and welcoming in this regard the efforts undertaken by the secretariat of the Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group, hosted by the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace,

Recognizing the need for indicators and benchmarks based on commonly agreed standards to assist Governments to enable the consolidation of sport in cross-cutting development strategies and the incorporation of sport and physical education in international, regional and national development policies and programmes, as laid out in the report of the Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group,

Recalling resolution 64/289 of 2 July 2010, by which the General Assembly established the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), and the opportunities it provides for the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women, including in and through sport, and welcoming the continued advancement of women in sports and sporting activities, in particular the support for their progressive high performance in sporting events, which provides opportunities for economic development through sports,

Highlighting the importance of continuing to reduce barriers to participation in sport events, particularly for participants from developing countries,

Emphasizing the critical role of productive public-private partnerships for funding sports administrations and institutional development and physical and social infrastructures,

1. *Invites* Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system, including its peacekeeping missions, special political missions and integrated peacebuilding missions, sport-related organizations, federations and associations, athletes, the media, civil society, academia and the private sector to collaborate with the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace to promote greater awareness and action to foster peace and accelerate the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals through sport-based initiatives and promote the integration of sport for development and peace in the development agenda, by working along the following principles adapted from the United Nations Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace, contained in the report of the

Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session:

(a) Global framework for sport for development and peace: further develop a framework to strengthen a common vision, define priorities and further raise awareness to promote and mainstream policies on sport for development and peace that are easily replicable;

(b) Policy development: promote and support the integration and mainstreaming of sport for development and peace in development programmes and policies, including mechanisms for growth and wealth;

(c) Resource mobilization and programming: promote innovative funding mechanisms and multi-stakeholder arrangements at all levels, including the engagement of sport organizations, civil society, athletes and the private sector, to create effective programmes with sustainable impact;

(d) Evidence of impact: promote and facilitate common evaluation and monitoring tools, indicators and benchmarks based on commonly agreed standards;

2. *Encourages* Member States to provide institutional structures, appropriate quality standards, policies and competencies and promote academic research and expertise in the field to enable ongoing training, capacity-building and education of physical education teachers, coaches and community leaders in sport for development and peace programmes;

3. *Invites* Member States and international sport organizations to continue to assist developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, in their capacity-building efforts in sport and physical education, by providing national experiences and best practices, as well as financial, technical and logistic resources for the development of sport programmes;

4. *Encourages* the stakeholders referred to in paragraph 1 above to emphasize and advance the use of sport as a vehicle to foster development and strengthen education, including physical education, for children and young persons, prevent disease and promote health, including the prevention of drug abuse, realize gender equality and empower girls and women, foster the inclusion and well-being of persons with disabilities and facilitate social inclusion, conflict prevention and peacebuilding;

5. *Encourages* the stakeholders, and in particular the organizers of mass sport events, to use and leverage such events to promote and support sport for development and peace initiatives and to strengthen existing and build new partnerships, coordinate common strategies, policies and programmes and increase coherence and synergies, while raising awareness at the local, national, regional and global levels;

6. *Encourages* Member States that have not yet done so to designate a focal point for sport for development and peace within their governments and provide updates to the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace on institutional, policy and programme-related developments;

7. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying and acceding to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the International Convention against Doping in Sport;

8. *Notes* the efforts undertaken by the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly, Member States and civil society for the observance of the Olympic Truce,

and encourages future hosts of the Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games and other Member States to support the effective implementation of the Truce;

9. *Appreciates* the leadership of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace, supported by the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace, on issues relating to sport for development and peace within the United Nations system and beyond;

10. *Encourages* Member States, in particular those committed to promoting sport as a tool for development and peace, and other stakeholders, such as international sports federations, organizers of global mass sports events, sports clubs and leagues, foundations and the private sector, especially businesses involved in the sports sector, to provide voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for Sport for Development and Peace and to enter into innovative partnerships with the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace, which is funded exclusively through voluntary contributions, and the Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group, in order to sustain the mandate of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace, ensure the continuous activities of the Office and provide project implementation funding for the Office and the United Nations system at large;

11. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts undertaken by the Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group, which met for its second and third plenary sessions on 12 May 2011 and 2 October 2012, and the commencement of the substantive work of the thematic working groups on sport and peace and sport and gender, in addition to the working group on sport and child and youth development;

12. *Invites* Member States and other relevant stakeholders, as observers, to join and support the Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group, so as to further strengthen its work on all envisaged themes, including the pending thematic working groups on sport and persons with disabilities, as well as sport and health;

13. *Encourages* Member States to join and participate in the Group of Friends of Sport for Development and Peace, an informal group of permanent missions to the United Nations in New York serving as a platform to promote dialogue and facilitate and encourage the integration of sport to support the achievement of the United Nations goals and objectives;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution, including on specific initiatives aimed at ensuring more effective implementation of the Olympic Truce and progress made by Member States and the United Nations system, including activities and the functioning of the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace and the Trust Fund for Sport for Development and Peace, as well as other relevant stakeholders, towards the implementation of the United Nations Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace and the Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group policy recommendations, provide a review of the contribution of sport to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the lead-up to 2015, and present an updated action plan on sport for development and peace;

15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session an item entitled "Sport for development and peace".

Cultural property

Return of cultural property

In response to General Assembly resolution 64/78 [YUN 2009, p. 1077], the Secretary-General, in August [A/67/219], transmitted the UNESCO Director-General's report covering a three-year period on action taken by the organization to combat illicit trafficking of cultural property and facilitate its return and restitution to its country of origin in the case of illicit appropriation. The previous report was submitted in 2009 [YUN 2009, p. 1077]. In recent years, UNESCO and its partners had developed and improved several major legal, practical and awareness-raising tools in order to facilitate and improve the implementation of the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property [YUN 1970, p. 915], including the creation of model legislative provisions defining State ownership of undiscovered archaeological heritage, and a cultural heritage protection handbook on the topic of securing heritage of religious interest, with the collaboration of the Works of Art Unit of the International Criminal Police Organization. In June 2012, the second meeting of the States parties to the Convention established two institutional mechanisms: a meeting of States parties to be held every two years, and the creation of a subsidiary committee of the meeting of the State parties, made up of 18 members, which was to be convened by the Secretariat every year.

At its 2012 session (Paris, 22 June), the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation invited the Director-General to assist in convening the necessary meetings between Greece and the United Kingdom, with the aim of reaching a mutually acceptable solution to the issue of the Parthenon Sculptures. It also welcomed the information provided by Germany and Turkey that, following bilateral meetings, the Boğazköy Sphinx would be returned to Turkey by the end of November 2011, at the latest. Germany returned the Sphinx to Turkey on 28 July 2011.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 12 December [meeting 53], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 67/80** [draft: A/67/L.34 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 10].

Return or restitution of cultural property to the countries of origin

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolutions 3026 A(XXVII) of 18 December 1972, 3148(XXVIII) of 14 December 1973, 3187(XXVIII) of 18 December 1973, 3391(XXX) of 19 November

1975, 31/40 of 30 November 1976, 32/18 of 11 November 1977, 33/50 of 14 December 1978, 34/64 of 29 November 1979, 35/127 and 35/128 of 11 December 1980, 36/64 of 27 November 1981, 38/34 of 25 November 1983, 40/19 of 21 November 1985, 42/7 of 22 October 1987, 44/18 of 6 November 1989, 46/10 of 22 October 1991, 48/15 of 2 November 1993, 50/56 of 11 December 1995, 52/24 of 25 November 1997, 54/190 of 17 December 1999, 56/97 of 14 December 2001, 58/17 of 3 December 2003, 61/52 of 4 December 2006 and 64/78 of 7 December 2009,

Recalling also its resolution 56/8 of 21 November 2001, in which it proclaimed 2002 the United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage,

Recalling further the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, the Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects, the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and the two Protocols thereto, the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, the Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage, the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions,

Welcoming the fortieth anniversary of the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property and the activities undertaken by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in this regard,

Appreciating the positive results of the second meeting of the States parties to the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, in June 2012, which adopted rules of procedure of the meeting of States parties that, *inter alia*, stipulate that the meeting of States parties shall be convened every two years, and also established a subsidiary committee, which will be convened by the secretariat every year,

Welcoming the decision of the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its 190th session, held from 3 to 18 October 2012, authorizing the Director General to convene an extraordinary meeting of the States parties to the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property during the first half of 2013, charged with electing the members of the subsidiary committee and encouraging the Director General to convene the first meeting of the committee in the first half of 2013,

Noting the adoption of the United Nations Convention on Jurisdictional Immunities of States and Their Property on 2 December 2004, as it might apply to cultural property,

Recalling the adoption by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on 17 October 2003 of the Declaration concerning the Intentional Destruction of Cultural Heritage,

Noting the adoption of the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity and the Action Plan for its implementation, adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on 2 November 2001,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General submitted in cooperation with the Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

Commending Member States, cultural and educational institutions, museums and civil society for their efforts to combat the illicit trade in cultural properties, and welcoming all initiatives for the voluntary return of cultural properties that have been illicitly appropriated,

Aware of the importance attached by the countries of origin to the return of cultural property that is of fundamental spiritual, historical and cultural value to them, so that they may constitute collections representative of their cultural heritage,

Expressing deep concern about the continuing illicit traffic in cultural property and its damage to the cultural heritage of nations,

Reaffirming the necessity of international cooperation in preventing and combating all aspects of trafficking in cultural property, and noting that such cultural property is especially transferred through licit markets, such as auctions, including through the Internet,

Expressing concern about the loss, destruction, removal, theft, pillage, illicit movement or misappropriation of and any acts of vandalism or damage directed against cultural property, in particular in areas of armed conflict, including territories that are occupied, whether such conflicts are international or internal,

Recalling Security Council resolution 1483(2003) of 22 May 2003, in particular paragraph 7 relating to the restitution of the cultural property of Iraq, and Council resolution 2056(2012) of 5 July 2012 on the situation in Mali,

1. *Commends* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation on the work they have accomplished, in particular through the promotion of bilateral negotiations, for the return or restitution of cultural property, the preparation of inventories of movable cultural property and the implementation of the Object-ID standard related thereto, as well as for the reduction of illicit traffic in cultural property and the dissemination of information and tools to the public, institutions, Member States and others, and encourages the continuation of such endeavours;

2. *Notes* the support provided by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to launch international awareness-raising and training campaigns for museum experts, police forces, customs services and legal experts in Africa, Latin America, South-Eastern Europe and the Caribbean from September to December 2012, aimed at preventing the illicit import, export and transfer of ownership of cultural property by providing the legal and operational knowledge and directly applicable skills to strengthen the protection of cultural property;

3. *Calls upon* all relevant bodies, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other relevant intergovernmental organizations to work in coordination with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, within their mandates and in cooperation with Member States, in order to continue to address the issue of return or restitution of cultural property

to the countries of origin and to provide appropriate support accordingly;

4. *Recognizes* the leading role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in combating trafficking in cultural property, and encourages the Organization to continue to provide leadership and expertise in protecting cultural property to other international bodies, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL);

5. *Reaffirms* the importance of the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, the Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects, the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and the two Protocols thereto, the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, the Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage, the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, and invites Member States that have not already done so to consider becoming parties to the aforementioned conventions and protocols that specifically address the return and restitution of cultural property to the countries of origin;

6. *Takes note* of the report of the meeting on the fortieth anniversary of the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, held in Paris at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, on 15 and 16 March 2011, and of the Declaration of the International Forum on the Return of Cultural Property, held in Seoul on 19 July 2011;

7. *Notes with appreciation* the first meeting of the special committee to review the practical operation of the Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects, held at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on 19 June 2012;

8. *Welcomes* the decision of the second meeting of the States parties to the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, which adopted the rules of procedure of the meeting of States parties, by which, inter alia, it was decided that the meeting of States parties should be convened every two years, and which established a subsidiary committee that will be convened every year by the secretariat in order to, inter alia, promote the purposes of the Convention, review national reports, and prepare and submit to the meeting of States parties recommendations and guidelines that can help the implementation of the Convention and identify problems arising from its implementation;

9. *Notes* the authorization given to the Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to convene in the first half of 2013 an extraordinary meeting of the States parties to the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, charged notably with electing the members of the subsidiary committee, as well as the encouragement to the Director General to convene the first meeting of the committee in the first half of 2013;

10. *Recognizes* the importance of the United Nations Convention on Jurisdictional Immunities of States and Their Property, notes that the Convention has still not entered into force, and invites Member States that have not already done so to consider becoming parties to the Convention;

11. *Deplores* damage to the cultural heritage of countries in situations of crisis, conflict and post-conflict, in particular recent attacks on world cultural heritage sites, calls for an immediate end to such acts, and reminds States parties to the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict of the provisions contained therein to safeguard and respect cultural property and to prohibit, prevent and, if necessary, put a stop to any form of theft, pillage or misappropriation of and any acts of vandalism directed against cultural property;

12. *Welcomes* the most recent efforts made by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for the protection of the cultural heritage of countries in conflict, including the safe return to those countries of cultural property and other items of archaeological, historical, cultural, rare scientific and religious importance that have been illegally removed, and calls upon the international community to contribute to these efforts;

13. *Urges* Member States to introduce effective national and international measures to prevent and combat illicit trafficking in cultural property, including by publicizing legislation and offering special training for police, customs and border services and to consider such trafficking a serious crime, as defined in the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;

14. *Invites* Member States, in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to continue to draw up systematic inventories of their cultural property;

15. *Invites* States to consider establishing and developing national, regional and international databases inventorying cultural property, which would also register trafficked, illicitly exported or imported, stolen, looted or illicitly excavated, and illicitly dealt-in, cultural property, and encourages States to enhance the exchange of information by sharing or interconnecting inventories of cultural property and databases on trafficked, illicitly exported or imported, stolen, looted or illicitly excavated, and illicitly dealt-in, cultural property and contributing to international inventories and databases;

16. *Recognizes* the advancement of the Database of National Cultural Heritage Laws of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which includes legislation from 180 Member States, and invites Member States to provide their legislation in electronic format for inclusion in the database if they have not yet done so, to provide regular updates to the database and to promote it;

17. *Applauds* the efforts of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to promote the use of identification and inventory systems, in particular the application of the Object-ID standard, and to encourage the linking of identification systems and existing databases, including the one developed by INTERPOL, to allow for the electronic transmission of information in order to reduce illicit trafficking in cultural property, and encourages the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to make further efforts in this regard in cooperation with Member States, where appropriate;

18. *Notes* the adoption by the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation, at its sixteenth session, from 21 to 23 September 2010, of the rules of procedure for mediation and conciliation, and invites Member States to consider the possibility of using such processes as appropriate;

19. *Welcomes* the presentation by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law of model provisions on state ownership of undiscovered cultural objects, and encourages Member States to consider using these model provisions and adopting effective legislation for the establishment and recognition of States' ownership of their heritage, as appropriate under national laws, with a view to facilitating restitution in cases of unlawful removal;

20. *Notes* the Model Export Certificate for Cultural Objects developed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Customs Organization as a tool to combat illicit trafficking in cultural property, and invites Member States to consider adopting the model export certificate as their national export certificate, in accordance with national law and procedures;

21. *Takes note* of resolution 102 adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its thirty-sixth session in November 2011 on the reports by Member States on the measures taken for the implementation of the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property;

22. *Recognizes* the public awareness and increased mobilization and action in favour of heritage values achieved in 2002, the United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage, and on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, and calls upon the international community and the United Nations to continue to cooperate with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the basis of that work;

23. *Invites* those who deal with trade in cultural property and their associations, where they exist, to encourage the effective implementation of the International Code of Ethics for Dealers in Cultural Property, as endorsed by the General Conference of the United Nations, Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on 16 November 1999, the International Council of Museums Code of Ethics for Museums and other existing codes;

24. *Welcomes* the initiative of the Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to hold discussions with the representatives of the international trade in art in order to improve practices and raise awareness in such areas as provenance investigations, ethics, restitution procedures and knowledge of the international legal framework;

25. *Recognizes* the importance of the International Fund for the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation, launched in November 2000, and invites Member States to increase further their voluntary contributions to the Fund in order to enhance its efficiency, and to make use of the Fund;

26. *Also recognizes* the importance of cooperation among States in the fight against illicit trafficking in

cultural property, as well as its illegal removal from the countries of origin, through, inter alia, the conclusion of bilateral agreements and mutual legal assistance, including the prosecution of persons involved in such activities and extradition, in accordance with the laws of cooperating States and under applicable international law;

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to cooperate with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in its efforts to bring about the attainment of the objectives of the present resolution;

28. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

29. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled "Return or restitution of cultural property to the countries of origin".

Human resources development

UN research and training institutes

University for Peace

In an August report [A/67/272] on the United Nations University for Peace, the Secretary-General reviewed key developments during the period 2010–2012, which included the donation of a second campus in Costa Rica, the launch of a full online master's degree programme and the opening of a doctoral programme. A United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Chair was established with the University and its on-campus partner, Earth Charter International. The University opened a new centre in The Hague and a joint programme with the University of California, Berkeley, while the first students enrolled at the Asia-Pacific Centre in Seoul. New master's programmes were opened in responsible management and sustainable economic development, sustainable urban governance and peace, and sustainable peace through sport—the last in conjunction with the International University of Monaco. In Geneva, the University initiated a popular training programme on disarmament and launched a new gender programme in cooperation with Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar. The University's respected capacity-building programmes in Africa, the Middle East and South Asia had produced peace studies programmes in 26 universities in those regions. Two countries, Monaco and the Republic of Korea, signed the Charter of the University, while others were considering doing so. The University faced challenges in financing its programmes and in achieving recognition of its status. Given that very few Member States had provided support, the institution had to cut corners and defer needed improvements to remain within its limited budget.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 59], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth (Special Political and Decolonization) Committee [A/67/420], adopted **resolution 67/111** without vote [agenda item 49].

University for Peace

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 64/83 of 10 December 2009, in which it indicated that, in its resolution 34/111 of 14 December 1979, it had approved the idea of establishing the University for Peace as a specialized international centre for higher education, research and the dissemination of knowledge specifically aimed at training and education for peace and its universal promotion within the United Nations system, as well as all preceding resolutions on this item,

Recalling also that, in its resolution 35/55 of 5 December 1980, the General Assembly approved the establishment of the University for Peace in conformity with the International Agreement for the Establishment of the University for Peace, contained in the annex to that resolution,

Noting with appreciation the vigorous actions taken by the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and with the encouragement and support of the Government of Costa Rica, to revitalize the University,

Recognizing the important and varied activities carried out by the University during the period from 2010 to 2012 with the valuable assistance and contributions of Governments, foundations and non-governmental organizations, in particular the progress made in the further development and implementation of the academic programme and in expanding its coverage in various regions of the world,

Noting with appreciation that the University has started a number of innovative new master's degree programmes in areas related to peace studies, security and the environment, in addition to regular courses in Spanish and study-abroad programmes, and that it has announced the launching of a two-track doctoral programme in peace and conflict studies,

Noting that the University places special emphasis on the areas of conflict prevention, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and the peaceful settlement of disputes and that it has launched programmes in the areas of democratic consensus-building and training of academic experts in the techniques of peaceful settlement of conflicts,

Noting with satisfaction the donation to the University of a substantial additional property in Costa Rica, which will serve as an alternative campus, with housing facilities for visiting professors, a large covered auditorium space and additional classroom areas,

Noting with appreciation the support provided to the University by the host country, Costa Rica,

Considering the importance of promoting education for peace that fosters respect for the values inherent in peace and universal coexistence among people, including respect for the life, dignity and integrity of human beings, as well as friendship and solidarity among people irrespective of their nationality, race, sex, religion or culture, in the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 64/83, outlining the extraordinary progress made by the University for Peace in introducing and implementing innovative programmes on critical subjects related to peace and security;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in view of the important work of the University and its potential role in developing new concepts and approaches to security through education, training and research in order to respond effectively to emerging threats to peace, to consider ways to further strengthen cooperation between the United Nations system and the University;

3. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to expand the scope for using the services of the University as part of his conflict-resolution and peacebuilding efforts through the training of staff, especially those concerned with peacekeeping and peacebuilding, in order to strengthen their capacities in this area, and in the promotion of the Declaration and the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace;

4. *Invites* the University to further strengthen and broaden the outreach of its programmes and activities for cooperation with and capacity-building for Member States in the areas of conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding;

5. *Invites* Member States that have not already done so to accede to the International Agreement for the Establishment of the University for Peace, thereby demonstrating their support for an educational institution established pursuant to a General Assembly resolution and devoted to the promotion of a universal culture of peace and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

6. *Encourages* Member States, intergovernmental bodies, non-governmental organizations, interested individuals and philanthropists to contribute to the programmes and core budget of the University to enable it to continue to perform its valuable work worldwide;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled "University for Peace", and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at that session a report on the work of the University.

On 24 December, the General Assembly decided that the agenda item on the United Nations Institute for Training and Research would remain for consideration during its sixty-seventh session (**decision 67/554**). By the same decision, the Assembly decided that the agenda item on the United Nations University would also remain for consideration during its sixty-seventh session.

Education

In a May report [E/2012/66] to the Economic and Social Council, the Secretary-General reviewed progress towards implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments related to education. The report looked at the activities of the UN system in the field of education through the angle of coordinated and/or joint initiatives. The role and views of UNESCO and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), two major United Nations actors in

this field, were highlighted. The report addressed how partnerships with other organizations of the United Nations system and non-United Nations actors had enhanced international action in this regard. Particular attention was given to those partnerships aimed at accelerating progress towards the achievement of Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 2, Education for All, and related goals.

The Secretary-General recommended that United Nations entities pay particular attention to addressing factors of marginalization in education, such as gender, age, location and disability, with a special focus on reaching women and girls in rural areas; ensure the realization of the right to education in humanitarian crises, particularly in conflict-affected poor countries; and assess emerging trends in education, particularly the use of information and communications technologies in education processes.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 12 July [meeting 28], the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 2012/2** [draft: E/2012/L.9] without vote [agenda item 4].

The role of the United Nations system in implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the high-level plenary meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document, and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012,

Recalling also the ministerial declaration adopted at the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2011 and its resolutions 2008/29 of 24 July 2008 and 2009/29 of 31 July 2009,

Reaffirming its commitment to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals, particularly those related to education, including the Education for All goals,

Reaffirming the right to education and the need for its full realization, and that education is essential for human development, sustainable development, world peace, just and democratic societies and the promotion of all human rights, including the right to development,

Recognizing that the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, are interlinked, expressing its concern that progress on achieving some of the goals is lagging, and reiterating its commitment to continuing to reinvigorate and strengthen the global partnership for development as a vital element for achieving those goals, in particular the education-related goals,

Recognizing also the growing issue of youth unemployment and the importance of quality education, training and skills development to enhance employability and ease the

transition to decent jobs, and to help to remove some of the major constraints for the employability of young people, and in this respect reiterating the importance of full and effective participation of young people and youth-led organizations in relevant decision-making processes through appropriate channels,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the theme of the coordination segment of its substantive session of 2012;

2. *Recognizes* efforts made by the United Nations system to accelerate progress towards the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 2 and Education for All and related goals, and encourages further efforts in that regard;

3. *Reaffirms* the need for Governments to take the lead in education, and underlines the importance of commitments by national Governments, official institutions and local authorities to education, recognizing that each country has primary responsibility for and ownership of its own economic and social development and that development strategies, national policies and domestic resources are critical to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the Education for All goals, and calls upon the United Nations system to support those national efforts and commitments;

4. *Encourages* the United Nations system to increase its efforts and mobilize adequate resources to raise the profile of the international education agenda and maximize educational results;

5. *Looks forward* to the launch of the Secretary-General's Global Initiative on Education;

6. *Calls upon* the funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system, as appropriate and within their mandates, to give attention to addressing factors of marginalization in education for all, particularly with regard to rural and indigenous women and girls;

7. *Urges* the United Nations system to support national efforts to improve the quality of education, so that recognized and measurable learning outcomes can be achieved by all, especially in literacy, numeracy and essential life skills;

8. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to support the efforts of Member States to improve the collection and analysis of education data disaggregated by sex, age, disability, location and other relevant factors for effective policy design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation;

9. *Also calls upon* the United Nations system to support the efforts of countries to counter the portrayal of stereotyped roles of women and men that can restrain educational choices at all levels of education;

10. *Encourages* efforts to provide education in humanitarian emergencies, including in order to contribute to a smooth transition from relief to development;

11. *Stresses* the importance of the contribution of voluntary partnerships on education 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;

12. *Encourages* the United Nations system to continue to act as a framework provider and a facilitator for partnerships on education with a wide range of relevant

stakeholders, with a view to building trust among all actors and sharing good practices and lessons learned for the final push to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and the Education for All goals;

13. *Urges* the relevant United Nations entities working in the education, health and food sectors, within their respective mandates, to seek synergies in order to enhance enrolment, retention, participation and achievement of girls and boys at school and maximize interventions to the benefit of children;

14. *Encourages* the relevant United Nations entities and the international financial institutions working in the economic and educational fields to strengthen their collaboration in order to advance, as appropriate, technical and vocational training, higher education, access to and participation in the workforce and the promotion of entrepreneurship among youth;

15. *Encourages* relevant United Nations entities, within their respective mandates, to assess emerging trends in education and training, particularly the increased focus on learning outcomes, teacher training and the use of information and communications technologies in education processes, and to analyse the implications for their programmes on education;

16. *Stresses* that, when assisting Member States, upon their request, in determining future policy options, the United Nations system should have a broad vision that encompasses early childhood care and education, youth and adult literacy and vocational skills development as well as concern for the improvement of the quality and relevance of basic learning;

17. *Also stresses* that achieving development goals on education requires a coordinated and integrated approach in support of national and local efforts, involving all relevant stakeholders, including, as appropriate, civil society and the private sector;

18. *Encourages* appropriate consideration of education in the processes devoted to the definition of the post-2015 United Nations development agenda;

19. *Decides* to continue monitoring progress in education-related development goals and commitments, including the role of partnerships in education.

Global Education First Initiative

On 26 September, the United Nations Secretary-General launched the Global Education First Initiative (GEFI) to spur renewed efforts to reach global education goals. The Initiative aimed to raise the political profile of education, inspire new partnerships and mobilize additional funding to deliver on the promise of Education for All. The Initiative focused on three priority areas: to put every child in school, by removing barriers to school enrolment and completion; to improve the quality of learning by ensuring children had adequate skills in life and work; and to foster global citizenship, by helping people to forge more just, peaceful and tolerant societies. In announcing the Initiative, the Secretary-General said that education was the basic building block of every society and that progress on education would bring progress on all

of the MDGs, on which the international community must spare no effort to achieve by 2015.

By **resolution 67/18** of 28 November (see p. 624), the General Assembly encouraged Member States to integrate education for democracy, along with civic education and human rights education, into national education standards. It also encouraged the developing and strengthening of curricular and extracurricular educational activities aimed at the promotion of democratic values and human rights, in order to facilitate citizens' empowerment and participation in political life and policymaking at all levels.

International Year of Crystallography, 2014

The General Assembly proclaimed 2014 the International Year of Crystallography in resolution 66/284 (see below), introduced by Morocco and sponsored by many Member States, during the Assembly's consideration of the agenda item on integrated and co-ordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields [A/66/PV.121].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 3 July [meeting 121], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 66/284** [draft: A/66/L.51 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 14].

International Year of Crystallography

The General Assembly,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries and General Assembly resolutions 53/199 of 15 December 1998 and 61/185 of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years,

Recognizing that humankind's understanding of the material nature of our world is grounded, in particular, in our knowledge of crystallography,

Stressing that education about and the application of crystallography are critical in addressing challenges such as diseases and environmental problems, by providing protein and small molecule structures suited for drug design essential for medicine and public health, as well as solutions for plant and soil contamination,

Considering that the impact of crystallography is present everywhere in our daily lives, in modern drug development, nanotechnology and biotechnology, and underpins the development of all new materials, from toothpaste to aeroplane components,

Considering also the significance of the scientific achievements of crystallography, as illustrated by twenty-three Nobel Prizes awarded in the area, and that crystallography is still fertile ground for new and promising fundamental research,

Considering further that 2014 marks the centenary of the beginning of modern crystallography and its identification as the most powerful tool for structure determination of matter,

Being aware that 2014 provides an opportunity to promote international collaboration as part of the sixty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the International Union of Crystallography,

Noting the broader welcome by the crystallographic community worldwide of the idea of 2014 being designated as the International Year of Crystallography,

Recognizing the leading role of the International Union of Crystallography, an adhering body of the International Council for Science, in coordinating and promoting crystallographic activities at the international, regional and national levels around the world,

1. *Decides* to proclaim 2014 the International Year of Crystallography;

2. *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, mindful of the provisions of the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67, to facilitate implementation of the International Year of Crystallography, in collaboration with Governments, the

International Union of Crystallography and its associated organizations throughout the world, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, the International Council for Science, as well as other relevant non-governmental organizations, also invites the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to keep the General Assembly informed of progress made in this regard, and stresses that the costs of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution above and beyond activities currently within the mandate of the lead agency should be met from voluntary contributions, including from the private sector;

3. *Encourages* all Member States, the United Nations system and all other actors to take advantage of the International Year of Crystallography to promote actions at all levels aimed at increasing awareness among the public of the importance of crystallography and promoting widespread access to new knowledge and to crystallography activities.