

## PART THREE

### Economic and social questions



## **Development policy and international economic cooperation**

In 2014, the global economy continued to expand at only a moderate estimated pace of 2.6 per cent. Recovery was hampered by new challenges, including a number of unexpected shocks, such as the heightened geopolitical conflicts in different parts of the world. Most economies had seen a shift in gross domestic product growth to a noticeably lower path compared to pre-crisis levels, raising the spectre of longer-term mediocre economic growth. In developing countries and economies in transition, growth rates had become more divergent during the year, with a sharp deceleration in a number of large emerging economies, particularly in Latin America and the Commonwealth of Independent States. At the same time, inequality within countries had increased markedly, and global inequality remained very high. Public policy actions by national Governments and other stakeholders were an important starting point for tackling and reducing inequality, and policy frameworks for reducing inequality needed to be designed and implemented in accordance with country-specific circumstances. At the United Nations, accelerating progress towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), as well as steps for advancing the development agenda beyond 2015, were major focus areas in development policy and international economic cooperation.

The high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council 2014 session, held in July, included the three-day ministerial meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Council. The segment discussed the theme of addressing ongoing and emerging challenges for meeting the MDGs in 2015 and for sustaining development gains in the future. The high-level political forum on sustainable development, which replaced the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development as the main UN platform on sustainable development, considered the theme of achieving the MDGs and charting the way for an ambitious post-2015 development agenda, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Ministerial Declaration adopted at the high-level segment and the high-level political forum called for the urgent implementation of all commitments under the global partnership for development so as to overcome the gaps identified in the reports of the Millennium Development Goals Gap Task Force. They called upon developed countries to fulfill the official

development assistance commitments. In September, the General Assembly decided that the proposal on SDGs submitted by the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals would be the main basis for integrating the SDGs into the post-2015 development agenda. In December, the Assembly decided that the UN summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda would be held in New York from 25 to 27 September 2015. Further activities by the UN system in the field of sustainable development were related to sustainable tourism, and the role of transport and transit corridors in ensuring international cooperation for sustainable development. In November, the World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development, organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to mark the end of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005–2014), adopted the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development.

The Assembly reviewed progress made in implementing the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017) and stressed the need for the development of a global strategy on youth employment.

In June, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development reviewed progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society. It also considered two priority themes: “Science, technology and innovation for the post-2015 development agenda” and “Information and communications technologies for inclusive social and economic development”.

With regard to development policy and public administration, the Committee for Development Policy, in March, addressed four themes: global governance and global rules for development in the post-2015 era; review and fine-tuning of the criteria for the identification of least developed countries (LDCs); monitoring of countries that were graduating and had graduated from the list of LDCs; and the role of country groupings for development.

The Committee of Experts on Public Administration, at its April session, considered transforming public administration for sustainable development by strengthening national and local capacities for

sustainable development management; promoting leadership, innovation and risk management for sustainable development; and invigorating the professionalism and morale of the public service.

The United Nations continued to address the development problems of groups of countries in special situations, including the follow-up on the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries; UN system support to small island developing States, as well as progress in implementing the 1994 Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States; the follow-up 2005 Mauritius Strategy; and the 2003 Almaty Programme of Action for assisting landlocked developing countries. At the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in September, participants adopted the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (Samoa Pathway), which was endorsed by the General Assembly in a November resolution. The 10-year Review Conference on the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action (second United Nations conference on landlocked developing countries), in November, adopted the Vienna Declaration and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, both of which were endorsed by the Assembly in December.

## International economic relations

### Economic and social trends

The *World Economic and Social Survey 2014: Reducing Inequality for Sustainable Development* [E/2014/50], published by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), discussed trends in the evolution of inequality and alternative ways to reduce inequality. The Survey focused on four key areas in which policies could have a significant impact in reducing inequality: the environment, employment, redistributive policies, and global measures affecting climate change, taxation and migration. It also investigated the channels through which income inequality would impact the environment. The Survey explored inequality within countries and provided references to the broader global context, as many of the drivers of national inequality related to global processes, including technological developments and international flows of people, goods, services and finance, threats to environmental sustainability and climate change, among others.

The Survey noted that inequality within countries had increased markedly in preceding decades. The majority of the world's population lived in countries where inequality in 2010 was higher than it was in

1980. The standardized and updated indicators used in the Survey showed that inequality in Asia had increased, reaching levels similar to those in Latin America, which at that time was the region with the highest inequality in the world. Countries in Europe, including the Russian Federation and Eastern European economies in transition, experienced a sharp increase in inequality during the 1990s, whereas countries in North America and Oceania experienced a marked increase in inequality since the 1980s. Global inequality, which combined between- and within-country inequality, remained very high.

On the positive side, within-country inequality had decreased in Latin America and Africa, although uncertainty about inequality trends in Africa remained, owing to poor data. Overall, however, the weight of inequality reductions in those regions had not surpassed that of the increases in the other regions.

With regard to the links between inequality and environmental sustainability, qualitative analysis showed that the influence of inequality on the environment ran along four channels—individual, community, national and international—which often overlapped, and their overall impact depended on the sum total of their interactions. Therefore, a vicious circle could arise, with inequality causing ecological damage, which would then exacerbate inequality.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (see p. 1191) highlighted the serious risks arising from climate change, including coastal and inland flooding; breakdown of infrastructure networks; threats to food systems and food security; loss of rural livelihoods and income; and loss of ecosystems and biodiversity. Those risks disproportionately affected the least developed countries (LDCs) and vulnerable communities, which had the least capacity to cope with the consequences, implying an increase in inequality. The Survey stated that, from the perspective of development and inequality, as well as environmental sustainability, it was imperative to secure a binding global agreement designed to limit global carbon emissions to a sustainable level, while ensuring that development was not impeded.

The Survey emphasized that public policy actions by national Governments and other stakeholders were an important starting point for tackling and reducing within-country inequality. Policy frameworks would need to be designed and implemented in accordance with country-specific circumstances. Reducing inequality in the context of sustainable development might require, among other things, an integrated employment framework supporting decent jobs; increased progressivity of the tax system; the taxation of negative externalities arising from unsustainable production and consumption patterns; a greater empowerment of women in managing common-property resources, as in other areas of sustainable

development; and international tax cooperation involving developing countries.

The *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2014* [Sales No. E.14.II.C.2], jointly produced by DESA, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the five UN regional commissions, found that the world economy had begun to show signs of improvement. The euro area had finally come out of a protracted recession; the economy of the United States continued to recover; and a few large emerging economies, including China, had either stopped a further slowdown or would see accelerated growth. The world economy was projected to grow at a pace of 3.0 and 3.3 per cent in 2014 and 2015, respectively. Those rates were revised downwards to 2.8 per cent and 3.2 per cent in the mid-year update [E/2014/70], mostly due to a downward revision in growth projections for developing economies and economies in transition, as the situation in a number of countries in those two groups had deteriorated. Growth in the developed economies was projected to be 2.0 per cent and 2.4 per cent for 2014 and 2015, respectively—about one percentage point higher than in the previous two years. For the first time since 2011, all major developed economies in North America, Europe and developed Asia were aligned together on the same upward growth trajectory. Nevertheless, those projected growth rates were insufficient to recuperate the output and job losses in most of those economies.

The report identified a number of risks and uncertainties for the world economy, including international spillovers from the future unwinding of monetary easing by major developed economies; vulnerabilities of emerging economies on both the external and domestic fronts; remaining fragilities in the euro area; unsustainable public finance in the longer term for many developed countries; and risks associated with geopolitical tensions. With regard to employment rates, a main challenge across developing countries remained the level of informal employment which, on average, had reached between 40 and 50 per cent in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. Global employment was expected to continue to grow at a slow pace.

After assessing policy challenges facing different groups of economies in the monetary and fiscal areas, the report called for the strengthening of international policy coordination to support a robust recovery of output and jobs; cooperation in international financial reforms; and the provision of sufficient development financing resources to the least developed countries.

UNCTAD *Trade and Development Report 2015* [Sales No. E.15.II.D.4] (see p. 1102) examined trends in the world economy and focused on financialization and its macroeconomic discontents, systemic challenges in the international monetary system, financial regula-

tory reform after the crisis, external debt and debt crises and new challenges, and long-term international finance for development.

## Development and international economic cooperation

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

The Council held a special high-level meeting (New York, 14–15 April) with the Bretton Woods institutions (the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund), the World Trade Organization (WTO) and UNCTAD on the overall theme “Coherence, coordination and cooperation in the context of financing for sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda” (see p. 1114). It had before it a note by the Secretary-General on the subject [E/2014/53]. The Council also held a ministerial segment on the theme “World economic situation and prospects”.

On 19 December (**decision 69/542**), the Assembly took note of the report of the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee regarding macroeconomic policy questions [A/69/466].

## High-level segment of Economic and Social Council

In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 67/290 [YUN 2013, p. 782] and 68/1 [ibid., p. 1413] and Economic and Social Council **decision 2014/202** of 30 January (see p. 1603), the Council held the high-level segment of its substantive 2014 session (New York, 7–11 July) [A/69/3/Rev.1], including the three-day ministerial meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development (7–9 July) (see p. 994). As decided in decision 2011/208 [YUN 2011, p. 791], the Council discussed the theme: “Addressing on-going and emerging challenges for meeting the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 and for sustaining development gains in the future”. On 8 July, the Council also held a ministerial panel discussion on integrating employment-centric sustainable development into the post-2015 development agenda.

The Council had before it the Secretary-General’s reports on the subject [E/2014/61] (see p. 960); on options for the scope and methodology for a global sustainable development [E/2014/87] (see p. 944); on trends and progress in international development cooperation [E/2014/77] (see p. 938); and on effective governance, policymaking and planning for sustainable urbanization [E/2014/67] (see p. 938).

It also had before it the *World Economic and Social Survey 2014: Reducing Inequality for Sustainable Development* [E/2014/50] (see p. 936); the report on the

world situation and prospects 2014: as at mid-2014 [E/2014/70]; and the summary report of the parliamentary hearing-note by the President of the General Assembly [A/68/790-E/2104/52].

On 9 July, the Council adopted a draft ministerial declaration on the theme of the high-level segment and the high-level political forum [E/2014/L.22] (see p. 944).

On 25 July (**decision 2014/248**), the Economic and Social Council took note of the reports submitted by the Secretary-General under the high-level segment item.

**Policy-dialogue.** On 7 July [A/69/3/Rev.1], the Council held a high-level policy dialogue on macro-economic policies in support of a post-2015 sustainable development agenda.

**Development Cooperation Forum.** As part of its high-level segment, the Council held the fourth biennial Development Cooperation Forum (10–11 July). Outcome documents of high-level symposiums held in preparation for the Forum were submitted to the Council President by Switzerland [E/2014/88] and Mexico [A/68/944-E/2014/89]. The Forum considered the Secretary-General's report [E/2014/77] on trends and progress in international development cooperation, submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 61/16 [YUN 2006, p. 1589], which underscored the need for a new narrative of development cooperation to fit the transformation envisaged in the emerging post-2015 development agenda. The report reviewed recent trends in international development cooperation, focusing on progress in and allocation of official development assistance (ODA), and trends in other development cooperation sources—public and private, international and domestic resources—that would be needed to support implementation of an ambitious post-2015 development agenda. It also examined the principles of quality and effectiveness of development cooperation; reviewed South-South cooperation and features of a renewed global partnership for development; and addressed how to strengthen mutual accountability and the availability of user-friendly information, looking ahead to a global monitoring and accountability framework for development cooperation after 2015. The report found that, while ODA would remain crucial, its use would have to be adapted to meet new demands and respond to a post-2015 development agenda. Progress towards the UN target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income needed to be accelerated. More ODA should be provided to support efforts to mobilize domestic resources, build productive capacity and incentivize private investment otherwise deemed too risky or unprofitable. Continued global policy dialogue and effective monitoring were needed for intensified collective action on the effectiveness of development cooperation. While Governments should take the lead in renewing the global partnership for development,

the breadth of development actors had to be engaged from the outset in its design and implementation. A basic global monitoring and accountability framework for development cooperation should function as an integral part of the monitoring and accountability of the broader post-2015 development agenda, and should be linked to a renewed global partnership for development, global enabling environment and systemic issues.

**Thematic discussion.** On 18 March (**decision 2014/209**), the Economic and Social Council decided that the theme for the thematic discussion during its 2014 session would be “Effective governance, policymaking and planning for sustainable urbanization”; and that it would take place during the integration segment (27–29 May). The Council had before it the Secretary-General's report on the topic [E/2014/67], which addressed the increasing contribution made by urban management to sustainable urbanization. According to the report, many cities were struggling to meet the development needs of the world's growing urban population that was expected to reach 6.25 billion in 2050. Of that total, 73 per cent would reside in the developing regions in Africa and Asia. Cities faced challenges in providing adequate social services, job opportunities and security without straining the urban infrastructure and imposing unsustainable demands on local and global natural resources and systems. Those challenges included congestion, pollution, access to energy, provision of basic services, adequate housing, infrastructure maintenance, crime and security, environmental degradation and natural disasters. Policy, planning and management approaches to effectively deal with the conflicts and contradictions of modern urban living were critical to addressing those challenges. While current models had made some headway in that regard, issues of fragmented decision-making, conflicting policy targets and insufficient coordination among city stakeholders continued to present obstacles to a more effective and sustainable management of rapidly changing urban areas.

To be effective, urban governance models, policies and planning tools had to address the scope and impact of urban activities across policy areas and spatial boundaries and involve an increasing number of urban stakeholders. They also needed to be strategic, participatory and action-oriented. With that in mind, the following policy initiatives were recommended: a whole-of-government approach to address complex urban challenges more holistically; inclusive, participatory mechanisms for decision-making; inclusive mechanisms to monitor the implementation of urban priorities and related initiatives and hold politicians accountable; strong partnerships with the private sector and other civil society organizations; effective coordination between national and local interventions; and a clear division of responsibilities among local authorities and between local and national authorities.

**Communication.** On 30 September, Bolivia transmitted the Ministerial Declaration [A/69/423], adopted at the thirty-eighth annual meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 and China (New York, 26 September), which underlined the need for a coherent approach to the post-2015 development agenda that should reinforce the commitment of the international community to poverty eradication and the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in a balanced manner.

## Globalization and interdependence

On 19 September, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-ninth session the item entitled: “Globalization and interdependence: International migration and development; and culture and sustainable development”, and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

### *New International Economic Order*

Pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 3201(S-VI) [YUN 1974, p. 324], and 3202(S-VI) [ibid., p. 326], the Secretary-General, in a July report [A/69/203], provided an updated overview of the major international economic and policy challenges for equitable and inclusive sustained economic growth and sustainable development, and of the role of the United Nations in addressing those issues in the light of the New International Economic Order. The report analysed the most recent global growth trends and macroeconomic policies, as well as international trade flows, commodity prices, developments in the multilateral trading system and regional trade agreements, international financial capital flows, policy measures for managing volatility in short-term capital flows, and reforms to international and domestic financial systems. It focused on policies to promote equitable, inclusive and sustained growth, and discussed measures to reduce inequality, both across and within countries. It also analysed the connection between income inequality and economic growth, and policy options for reducing inequality. It emphasizes the importance of employment and decent work in promoting inclusive growth. The report also discussed challenges for ensuring sustainable development, and the central role of the United Nations in managing global sustainable development for all.

According to the report, over the past few decades, the world economy had undergone significant changes, with the share of developing countries in global output increasing steadily. With respect to developing countries, however, the world economy continued to face challenges for achieving equitable, inclusive and sustained growth in the aftermath of the global financial crisis and for ensuring global sustainable development. Six years after the erup-

tion of that crisis, the world economy had still not fully recovered, particularly with respect to employment. International policy coordination was needed to support demand, output and jobs; mitigate negative international policy spillover effects; and push forward reforms of the international financial system. While there was some convergence in per capita income across countries, large inequality persisted in the world along economic, social and environmental dimensions. Country-specific redistributive policies were useful instruments for reducing income inequality. Achieving sustainable development required global actions to deliver on the legitimate aspiration towards further economic and social progress, robust growth and employment, and environmental protection. The United Nations had to play a central role in managing global sustainable development, reducing threats to international peace and security, and promoting human rights. The Organization had played a leading role in promoting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and would also play a leading role in promoting the post-2015 sustainable development agenda.

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/69/470], adopted **resolution 69/227** by recorded vote (131-46-3) [agenda item 21].

#### **Towards a New International Economic Order**

*The General Assembly,*

*Bearing in mind* the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations to promote the economic advancement and social progress of all peoples,

*Recalling* the principles of the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, as set out in resolutions 3201(S-VI) and 3202(S-VI), respectively, adopted by the General Assembly at its sixth special session, on 1 May 1974,

*Recalling also* its resolutions 63/224 of 19 December 2008, 64/209 of 21 December 2009, 65/167 of 20 December 2010 and 67/217 of 21 December 2012,

*Reaffirming* the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

*Recalling* the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document,

*Recalling also* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,

*Recalling further* the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, including the development goals and objectives contained therein, and recognizing the vital role played by those conferences and summits in shaping a broad development vision and in identifying commonly agreed objectives,

*Stressing* the need to fulfil all financing for development commitments, including those contained in the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and other relevant outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits,

*Noting* that there have been systemic challenges to the global economic architecture demanding a review of global economic governance,

*Concerned* about the multiple interrelated and mutually exacerbating current global crises, in particular the world financial and economic crisis, volatile energy prices, the food crisis and the challenges posed by climate change, which have a negative impact on the development prospects of developing countries and threaten to further widen the gap between developed and developing countries, including the technological and income gap, and which could further undermine the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

*Also concerned*, in this regard, that, although certain regions have made some progress, more than half of the workers in the developing world, about 1.5 billion people, live in vulnerable employment situations, and approximately one in five people in the developing regions live on less than 1.25 United States dollars a day,

*Underlining* the need for a more sustainable economic growth and recovery, and recognizing that this goal can be achieved through inclusive multilateralism and the equal participation of all countries, as envisioned, inter alia, in the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order,

*Recognizing* that innovative and enhanced approaches to financing for development are needed to address the challenges posed by the current global economic situation, poverty and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and stressing that these approaches should neither be a substitute for nor negatively affect the level of traditional sources of development financing, including official development assistance, and that they need to be developed in a spirit of partnership, cooperation and solidarity, bearing in mind the common interests and national priorities of each country,

*Recognizing also* that many relevant aspects of the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order have not been implemented and that, consequently, many developing countries continue to face significant challenges to their development prospects, including vulnerability to external shocks and lack of adequate representation in global economic governance,

*Recognizing further* the role played by regional, sub-regional and interregional cooperation as well as regional economic integration, based on equality of partnership, in strengthening international cooperation with the objective of facilitating economic coordination and cooperation for development, the achievement of development goals and the sharing of best practices and knowledge,

*Recognizing* that widespread financial deregulation has contributed to larger net capital outflows from developing countries to developed countries,

*Concerned* that excessively expansionary monetary policies and the ensuing competitive currency devaluations pursued by developed countries have an effect equivalent to an across-the-board export subsidy and a generalized increase in import tariffs, which thus nullify or impair existing World Trade Organization market access commitments and further hinder the capacity of developing countries to fulfil their commitments to implement all the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

*Stressing* the need for policy space to allow for the formulation of national development strategies by developing countries, aimed at bringing prosperity for all,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Updated overview of the major international economic and policy challenges for equitable and inclusive sustained economic growth and sustainable development, and of the role of the United Nations in addressing these issues in the light of the New International Economic Order”;

2. *Reaffirms* the need to continue working towards a new international economic order based on the principles of equity, sovereign equality, interdependence, common interest, cooperation and solidarity among all States;

3. *Also reaffirms* the need to enhance the voice and participation of developing countries in international economic decision-making and norm-setting;

4. *Further reaffirms* that international trade is an engine for development and sustained economic growth, and reaffirms the critical role that a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system can play in stimulating economic growth and development worldwide, thereby benefiting all countries at all stages of development;

5. *Decides* to continue considering the international economic situation and its impact on development at its seventy-first session, and in that regard requests the Secretary-General to include in his report to the General Assembly, under the item entitled “Globalization and interdependence”, an updated overview of the major international economic and policy challenges for equitable and inclusive sustained economic growth and sustainable development and of the role of the United Nations in addressing those issues, as well as possible ways and means to overcome those challenges, bearing in mind the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields and the principles contained therein, and the preparations for the post-2015 development agenda, in the light of the relevant principles contained in the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order.

#### RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/227:

*In favour:* Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait,



Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against:* Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States.

*Abstaining:* Republic of Korea, Tonga, Turkey.

### *New global human order*

In response to General Assembly resolution 67/230 [YUN 2012, p. 776], the Secretary-General, submitted a September report [A/69/410] on the UN role in promoting a new global human order. The report discussed progress in human well-being, with attention to poverty, employment and social integration, and the significance of inequality in the global development agenda. Paying particular attention to the ongoing deliberations of the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals (SDGs), the report noted the work of the UN system and other actors in taking better account of inequality and its impacts on human well-being.

According to the report, much progress had been made since the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action [YUN 1995, p. 1114] and the Second South Summit [YUN 2005, p. 983]; however, transformations in human well-being had been too slow for too many. Progress in both poverty eradication and gender equality was varied, and significant disparities remained. In the area of employment, progress was stymied by the impact of and slow recovery from the 2008 global financial and economic crisis. While the employment crisis affected developed countries more directly than other countries, the impact on the global marketplace was not negligible. Similarly, progress towards equitable growth and social integration was mixed, with the reality and perception of rising inequality threatening social and economic stability in many parts of the world. With the growing attention to inequality within the international community, the project of promoting a new global human order, in which no one was left behind, had taken on renewed fervour, and the post-2015 development agenda was likely to feature the reduction and prevention of high

inequality. Those goals were supported by UN system agencies and were featured in the report of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals [A/68/970] (see p. 945).

The Secretary-General recommended that countries and the international community improve the employability of all members of society and ensure their access to full and productive employment and decent work; and create an enabling environment for the development of a vibrant, representative and accountable civil society sector as a means of strengthening the efficiency, equity and effectiveness of investments in human well-being and social integration.

### **GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/202** [draft: A/69/L.45 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 15].

#### **The role of the United Nations in promoting a new global human order**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 55/48 of 29 November 2000, 57/12 of 14 November 2002, 62/213 of 21 December 2007, 65/120 of 10 December 2010 and 67/230 of 21 December 2012,

*Recalling also* the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and its outcome document, entitled "The future we want",

*Acknowledging* that peace and security, development and human rights are the pillars of the United Nations system and the foundations for collective security and well-being and that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing,

*Reaffirming* that development is a central goal by itself and that sustainable development in its economic, social and environmental aspects constitutes a key element of the overarching framework of United Nations activities,

*Recognizing* that the well-being of people and the full development of their potential is pivotal to sustainable development, and convinced of the urgency of international cooperation towards that end,

*Deeply concerned* about persistent and considerable disparities between rich and poor, both within and among countries, and about the adverse implications of these disparities for the promotion of human well-being and development throughout the world,

*Recalling* resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014, in which the General Assembly welcomed the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group contained in the report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the Assembly,

*Taking account* of the significance of inequality in the global development agenda and the importance of continued efforts to strive for inclusive and equitable development approaches to overcome poverty and inequality,

*Taking note* of the work of the United Nations system and other actors in taking better account of inequality,

*Stressing* the multidimensional nature of inequality and unequal access to social and economic opportunities and their complex interrelationship with efforts to eradicate poverty and promote sustained, inclusive and equitable growth and sustainable development and the full enjoyment of human rights, especially for those people living in situations of vulnerability,

*Concerned* by the prevalence of gender inequality in various forms worldwide, which is often expressed in poorer outcomes for women relative to men on many social development indicators,

*Considering* that inequality continues to pose major barriers to attaining the Millennium Development Goals and that efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, often take inadequate account of the relationship and impact of inequality on sustainable development,

*Reaffirming* the need to achieve sustainable development by, inter alia, promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, fostering equitable social development and inclusion and promoting integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems,

*Noting* the successes and challenges in recent years in promoting a new global human order at national and international levels,

*Recognizing* the need to strengthen national capacities for robust data collection and effective data utilization in support of policy formulation, implementation and monitoring,

*Recognizing also* the need to encourage coherent and complementary policies to reduce inequality, to mainstream them into the activities of United Nations organizations and programmes and more effectively to integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development,

*Recognizing further* the action already under way by all Member States, the United Nations system and other international, regional and national forums and organizations and the progress made to implement the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General, including its recommendations for promoting a new global human order;

2. *Underlines* the continued relevance of the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields and the commitments set out therein, including the Millennium Development Goals, which have raised awareness and continue to generate real and important development gains, have played a vital role in shaping a broad development vision and constitute the overarching framework for the development activities of the United Nations, and strongly reiterates its determination to ensure the timely and full implementation of those outcomes and commitments;

3. *Takes note with appreciation* of the convening by the President of the General Assembly of the informal thematic debate on 8 July 2013 to address the issue of inequality;

4. *Recognizes* that attention must be focused on the particular needs of the people in developing countries and on the large and increasing economic and social inequality that exists, and further recognizes that disparities both within and among countries, including between developed

and developing countries, and inequality between the rich and the poor and between rural and urban populations, inter alia, remain persistent and significant and need to be addressed;

5. *Emphasizes* the need to accelerate efforts to promote human well-being and the full realization of human potential;

6. *Notes* that the new global human order is premised on a spirit of partnership that puts the needs, rights and aspirations of people at the centre of decisions and joint actions and is about making equitable and inclusive improvements in human well-being and establishing a cooperative and integrated approach to achieving this in a fair and balanced manner;

7. *Reaffirms* that national ownership and leadership are indispensable in the development process and that there is no one-size-fits-all approach, and reiterates that each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that the role of national policies, domestic resources and development strategies cannot be overemphasized; domestic economies are now interwoven with the global economic system and, therefore, the effective use of trade and investment opportunities can help countries to fight poverty, and development efforts at the national level need to be supported by an enabling national and international environment that complements national actions and strategies;

8. *Also reaffirms* that the eradication of poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today, particularly in Africa, in the least developed countries and in some middle-income countries, and underlines the importance of accelerating sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, including full, productive employment generation and decent work for all;

9. *Stresses* the critical need for the expansion of and access to education and training, and encourages programmes to promote universal access to secondary education and to expand access to quality higher education, which is relevant to the needs of the labour market, in accordance with each country's specific realities and development challenges;

10. *Invites* Member States to adopt a multisectoral approach and to work on determinants of health within sectors including, as appropriate, through the health-in-all-policies approach, while taking into consideration the social, environmental and economic determinants of health, with a view to reducing health inequities and enabling sustainable development, and stresses the urgent need to act on social determinants for the final push towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

11. *Encourages* Member States, in collaboration with other stakeholders where applicable, to plan or pursue the transition of their health systems towards universal coverage, while continuing to invest in and strengthen health-delivery systems to increase and safeguard the range and quality of services and to adequately meet the health needs of their populations;

12. *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, and 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 for addressing poverty and vulnerability, and in this regard takes note of Recommendation No. 202 concerning national floors of social protection, adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 101st session, on 14 June 2012;

13. *Reaffirms* the commitment to sound policies, good governance at all levels and the rule of law, to mobilizing domestic resources, fostering international financial flows, assuring long-term investment in human capital and infrastructure, promoting international trade as an engine for economic growth and development and increasing international financial and technical cooperation for development, sustainable debt financing and external debt relief, and to enhancing the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems;

14. *Recognizes* that inequality within and among countries is a concern for all countries regardless of their level of development and that it represents a growing challenge with multiple implications for the realization of economic and social potential and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

15. *Also recognizes* the need to continue and intensify efforts to enhance the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems, and reiterates the importance of ensuring their openness, fairness and inclusiveness in order to complement national development efforts to ensure sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

16. *Emphasizes* the importance of efforts to address all aspects and dimensions of inequality, and calls upon Member States to pursue ambitious efforts to address inequality;

17. *Recognizes* the efforts of many countries in addressing inequality, and acknowledges the need for strengthened international efforts to complement national efforts in this area;

18. *Encourages* Member States in their efforts to address inequality and in partnership with relevant stakeholders to consider as appropriate, inter alia, programmes to promote the participation and empowerment of all members of society, implementing social protection floors or extending the scope of existing social protection programmes;

19. *Encourages* greater consideration of the impact of inequalities in development, including in the design and implementation of development strategies, and in this regard also encourages further analytical and empirical research, in particular by the relevant institutions of the United Nations system, as well as the regional commissions and other national and international organizations;

20. *Also encourages* giving due consideration to the need to reduce inequality in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

21. *Recognizes* that regional, subregional and inter-regional cooperation can facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experience and promote the most effective use of

resources aimed at achieving human development and reducing inequality;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, highlighting the efforts of the United Nations system to reduce inequality and promote human development globally, in particular in the context of the post-2015 development agenda;

23. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session the item entitled "The role of the United Nations in promoting a new global human order".

## Human security

The Helsinki Citizen's Assembly hosted a conference entitled "Humanizing Security" (Istanbul, Turkey, 31 January–1 February) to raise awareness of local and regional human security issues, including social inclusion, inter-communal reconciliation and good governance. The conference marked the launch of the "Crossborder Citizens' Network on Human Security" project, intended to build a citizens' network for peace, reconciliation and human security across Turkey and Balkans.

On 18 June, the General Assembly President convened a thematic debate on human security entitled "Responding to the opportunities and challenges of the 21st century: Human security and the post-2015 development agenda" to exchange views on the third report of the Secretary-General on human security [YUN 2013, p. 779] and to discuss how human security might be included in the post-2015 development framework (see p. 960). On 21 July, the United Nations Human Security Unit announced the release of its *Strategic Plan for the period 2014–2017*, which laid out the strategies to mainstream the concept in UN activities and extend its global awareness over the next four years.

The Human Security Network held its annual high-level meeting (New York, 26 September) that focused on how the human security approach could be included in the next development framework, and on efforts to continue mainstreaming the approach into other areas of the UN system.

The fourth Istanbul Conference on Human Security (Istanbul, Turkey, 23–24 October), entitled "Twenty Years On: Human Security at Crossroads" was held to explore the development of the human security approach, while reflecting on and examining how human security had evolved, both within theory and practice.

## Sustainable development

In 2014, various UN bodies, including the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, and the high-level political forum on sustainable development considered the implementation of the outcomes of the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustain-

able Development [YUN 2012, p. 780], the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development [YUN 2002, p. 821], particularly the Johannesburg Declaration and Plan of Implementation, which outlined actions and targets for stepping up implementation of Agenda 21—a programme of action for sustainable development worldwide, adopted at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development [YUN 1992, p. 672]—and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, adopted by the Assembly at its nineteenth special session in 1997 [YUN 1997, p. 792].

### High-level political forum on sustainable development

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/290 [YUN 2013, p. 782] and Economic and Social Council **decision 2014/202** (see p. 1603), the first meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development was convened (New York, 30 June–9 July) under the auspices of the Council [E/HLPF/2014/2]. The theme for the high-level forum for 2014, as decided by the Council in **decision 2014/208**, was “Achieving the Millennium Development Goals and charting the way for an ambitious post-2015 development agenda, including the sustainable development goals.” The high-level forum held 11 moderated dialogues on the following themes: From the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to the post-2015 period: towards an integrated and universal sustainable development agenda; means of implementation for sustainable development; how sustainable consumption and production could contribute to the SDGs; scope and methodology for a global sustainable development report; ideas and trends; promoting genuine and durable partnerships; countries in special situations: building resilience; from silos to integrated policymaking; reviewing progress and implementation: making the most of the forum’s reviews after 2015; unlocking and reshaping development and enhancing implementation: the regional context; and shaping the forum for the post-2015 period. The forum also held a dialogue with the Chair of the Board of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production. It also held six ministerial dialogues on the following: A universal integrated policy agenda to implement the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development [YUN 2012, p. 780] and realize the future we want; weaving regional realities and regional priorities into the post-2015 development agenda; long-term measures to make poverty eradication irreversible and reduce inequalities; international cooperation for sustainable development; multi-stakeholder partnerships and voluntary commitments for sustainable development: ensuring accountability for all; preparing the high-level political forum for the post-2015 period: steering implementation of the

development agenda and reviewing progress; and charting pathways to the future we want.

The forum had before it reports of the Secretary-General on options for the scope and methodology for a global sustainable development [E/2014/87] and on mainstreaming of the three dimensions of sustainable development throughout the UN system [A/69/79-E/2014/66] (see p. 947). It also considered inputs from the Economic Commission for Europe [E/2014/CRP.1], the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean [E/2014/CRP.2], the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia [E/2014/CRP.3], and the Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific [E/2014/CRP.4].

On 9 July, the forum adopted the ministerial declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development [E/HLS/2014/1] at its first meeting (below), and the theme for its 2015 session: “Strengthening integration, implementation and review: the high-level political forum after 2015”.

**Ministerial declaration.** Ministers welcomed what had been achieved through implementation of the MDGs, and expressed their determination to address the remaining unevenness and gaps in achievement and the challenges that remained, in particular, for the most off-track MDGs, and those where progress had stalled. They declared their commitment to establish a strong, ambitious, inclusive and people-centred post-2015 development agenda that would build on the foundations laid and experiences gained during the MDGs process, and complete the unfinished business and respond to new challenges. They reaffirmed that poverty eradication should be central to the post-2015 development agenda.

Ministers acknowledged the processes mandated in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development [YUN 2012, p. 782] being undertaken, in particular, the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (see p. 945); the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing; and the process to develop options for a technology facilitation mechanism, as well as the preparations for the third International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in July 2015. The Ministers looked forward to the submission of the Secretary-General’s report before the end of 2014 synthesizing the full range of available inputs to the intergovernmental negotiations that would culminate in a high-level summit in September 2015. The Ministers reiterated that, starting in 2016, the high-level political forum on sustainable development should conduct regular reviews on the follow-up to, and implementation of sustainable development commitments and objectives, including those related to implementation within the context of the post-2015 development agenda. The reviews should be voluntary, while encourag-

ing reporting, and include developed and developing countries, as well as relevant UN entities; be State-led, involving ministerial and other relevant high-level participants; provide a platform for partnerships; and replace the national voluntary presentations held in the context of the Council's annual ministerial-level substantive reviews, as well as experiences and lessons learned in that context. The reviews should take into account the lessons learned from and the experiences of relevant review mechanisms, including the national voluntary presentations held in the context of the annual ministerial reviews. Acknowledging the importance of the regional dimension for sustainable development, the Ministers invited the UN regional commissions to contribute to the work of the Council and the forum through, inter alia, annual regional meetings with other relevant regional entities, major groups and other relevant stakeholders.

### **Follow-up to UN Conference on Sustainable Development**

#### *Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals*

The Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals, established by Assembly resolution 66/288 [YUN 2012, p. 782] to develop a set of SDGs for consideration and action by the Assembly at its sixty-eight session, held its seventh (6–10 January), eighth (3–7 February), ninth (3–5 March), tenth (31 March–4 April), eleventh (5–9 May), twelfth (16–20 June) and thirteenth (14–19 July) sessions.

The Working Group report, submitted by its Co-Chairs in August [A/68/970 & Corr.1], contained 17 SDGs and targets: Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere; Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture; Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages; Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all; Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all; Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all; Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all; Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation; Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries; Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable; Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns; Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts; Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable

development; Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss; Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels; and Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

The goals and targets would be further elaborated through indicators focused on measurable outcomes, and would take into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and build on the foundation laid by the MDGs. Targets were defined as aspirational global targets, with each Government setting its own national targets.

#### **GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 10 September [meeting 108], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 68/309** [draft: A/68/L.61] without vote [agenda item 14].

#### **Report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/288**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, contained in resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, in which Heads of State and Government, inter alia, resolved to establish an inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process on sustainable development goals open to all stakeholders, with a view to developing global sustainable development goals to be agreed by the General Assembly,

1. *Acknowledges* the conclusion of the work of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, and welcomes its report;

2. *Decides* that the proposal of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals contained in the report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

#### **Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing**

The Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, established by General Assembly decision 67/559 [YUN 2013, p. 781] to develop options for a sustainable development financing strategy to facilitate the mobilization of resources and their effective use in achieving sustainable development objectives, held its third (3–7 March), fourth (12–16 May) and fifth (4–8 August) sessions [A/69/315], all in New York. On 5 March, it held a joint meeting with the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals.

The Committee assessed sustainable development financing needs, financing flows and potential sources of financing. It found that needs were huge and the challenges in meeting them were enormous, but surmountable. Yet, it was clear that the financing and investment patterns would not deliver sustainable development. The solution included better aligning private incentives with public goals and creating a policy framework that encouraged for-profit investment in those areas, while also mobilizing public resources for essential sustainable development activities. Efforts to reduce corruption and adopt more economically and socially effective public sector policies were thus important, as well as policies that would better match investor preference with investment needs. The Committee concluded that there was no one simple policy solution. Instead, a basket of policy measures would be necessary, encompassing a toolkit of policy options, regulations, institutions, programmes and instruments. The Committee recommended a cohesive approach, with national financing strategies as an integral part of national sustainable development strategies. While the design and implementation of policies would be at the national level, achieving sustainable development would require international support and cooperation. The Committee found that a concerted effort that drew on all actors and mobilized all resources would allow the Committee to finance the investments necessary to achieve sustainable development for all. Specifically, it considered policy options to strengthen the four basic categories of financial resource mobilization available for financing sustainable development, namely, domestic public, domestic private, international public and international private finance, with an additional focus on means for blending official and private resources and collaboration between various actors. It further addressed international policy imperatives for a strong international economic environment and its governance, and concluded with a discussion of options for the way forward.

On 8 December [A/69/PV.65], the General Assembly held a meeting which provided an opportunity for Member States to express views and make statements on the contents of the report and the options contained therein.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 8 December [meeting 65], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/108** [draft: A/69/L.32] without vote [agenda item 13 (a) and 115].

#### **Report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/288**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, contained in resolution 66/288 of 27 July

2012, in which Heads of State and Government agreed, inter alia, to establish an intergovernmental process under the auspices of the General Assembly, to assess financing needs, consider the effectiveness, consistency and synergies of existing instruments and frameworks and evaluate additional initiatives, with a view to preparing a report proposing options on an effective sustainable development financing strategy to facilitate the mobilization of resources and their effective use in achieving sustainable development objectives,

*Recalling also* resolution 68/279 of 30 June 2014 on modalities for the third International Conference on Financing for Development in its entirety,

1. *Welcomes* the conclusion of the work of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, and takes note with appreciation of its report;

2. *Notes* the holding of a meeting of the General Assembly, on 8 December 2014, to take action on the report of the Committee, which provided an opportunity for Member States to express views and make statements on the contents of the report and the options contained therein, without prejudice to further discussions on the report in the forthcoming processes;

3. *Reaffirms* that the report of the Committee, the outcome of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, as mandated in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want,” and the synthesis report of the Secretary-General, as mandated by its resolution 68/6 of 9 October 2013, will serve as important inputs for the preparations for the third International Conference on Financing for Development, the outcome of which should constitute an important contribution to and support the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.

#### *The 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns*

The 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns was established by General Assembly resolution 67/203 [YUN 2012, p. 811]. The 10-member board governing the framework held meetings in New York on 2 October 2013 and 30 March 2014. The board adopted its terms of reference; guided development of the 10-year framework programmes; set up criteria and processes for the adoption of new programme areas; approved the establishment of a sixth programme; and guided the operationalization of the framework trust fund. A third meeting was planned to take place in Santiago, Chile (15–16 October). After its first meeting in October 2013, key milestones for the next year were to accelerate the consultation process and launching of the five initial framework programmes; hold the first five regional consultations; and undertake fundraising activities to secure resources for the 10-year framework trust fund. Financial support for the framework, amounting to \$4.4 million, was provided in the period 2012–2014 by Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden and the European Commission. Further official pledges

totalling \$3.5 million were made at the United Nations Environment Assembly in June (see p. 1170), comprised of \$2.5 million from Japan and \$1 million from Brazil. The United Nations Environment Programme served as the secretariat of the 10-year framework, while the Inter-Agency Coordination Group provided inputs for the development of the framework.

**Board membership.** In response to Assembly resolution 67/203 [YUN 2012, p. 811], the Secretary-General, in a September note [A/69/379], proposed that for the duration of the subsequent terms of the board of the 10-year framework, members serve for a period of two years, effective 16 September of every second year. UN regional groups might wish to re-nominate one of their existing two board members, in which case they should be able to do so for one further consecutive term, taking into account the importance of ensuring continuity in the board's work. No Member State might be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms.

On 19 December, (**decision 69/545**), the Assembly took note of the Secretary-General's note on the term of the board of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns (see above).

**Progress report.** By a September note [E/2014/93], the Secretary-General transmitted the progress report on the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns (see p. 1171), prepared in response to Assembly resolutions 67/203 [YUN 2012, p. 811] and 68/210 [YUN 2013, p. 787]. According to the report, the adoption of the 10-year framework created important momentum for the shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns, placing the topic on the agenda of global and regional ministerial meetings, as well as at the sessions of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. The nomination of over 110 national focal points for the framework and the engagement of six major groups signalled widespread interest in engaging in framework implementation. While progress had been achieved, there was still the challenge to communicate and demonstrate the added value of sustainable consumption and production and its potential contributions to competitiveness, social development, poverty eradication and climate change mitigation. Attracting funding and enhancing the participation of the private sector and financial institutions were additional related challenges. It was recommended that the Economic and Social Council call upon all countries and other stakeholders to secure predictable and adequate financial contributions to the 10-year framework trust fund. Among the recommendations to the Economic and Social Council were for the UN system to ensure that the development of the 10-year framework and its programmes was consistent with and supportive of the post-2015 development agenda; and to strengthen communication to facilitate the exchange of best practices and share the progress made on

the implementation of 10-year framework programmes through the sustainable consumption and production global clearinghouse and the framework website.

On 17 November, (**decision 2014/254**), the Economic and Social Council took note the Secretary-General's note.

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

**Reports of Secretary-General.** In accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/210 [YUN 2013, p. 787], the Secretary-General submitted an April report [A/69/79-E/2014/66] on mainstreaming the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in UN work. The report examined processes and tools that could boost mainstreaming; pointed to the creation of the high-level political forum on sustainable development as an important development; and analysed whether sustainable development approaches were guiding the strategic plans of funds, programmes and specialized agencies, and their operational activities for development in developing countries. It reviewed developments in quality assurance and safeguard mechanisms as a tool for mainstreaming the three dimensions of sustainable development; and considered the role of inspections and independent evaluations in the UN system.

The Secretary-General found that strengths, challenges and gaps identified in his previous report [YUN 2013, p. 786] remained relevant to the discussion on mainstreaming the three dimensions of sustainable development. While there was some progress in updating the strategic plans of the funds, programmes and agencies, more work remained to be done to mainstream sustainable development in United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and the "Delivering as one" programmes at the country level. The Secretary-General recommended that Member States welcome efforts by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination to continue promoting policy coherence and system-wide coordination for accelerating the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in the work of the UN system; call upon the UN system to accelerate efforts to mainstream sustainable development into strategic plans and programmes at the country level; encourage efforts by the United Nations Evaluation Group to study how evaluation could best contribute to mainstreaming sustainable development in the work of the UN system; call upon the UN system to establish a common repository of environmental and social assessments and related lessons learned; and request the Secretary-General to report on progress on sustainable development.

On 17 November (**decision 2014/250**), the Economic and Social Council took note of the report on the mainstreaming of the three dimensions of sustainable development throughout the United Nations system.

In August, the Secretary-General provided a report [A/69/312] on the progress made in implementing Assembly resolution 68/210 [YUN 2013, p. 787] on the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development [YUN 2012, p. 780]. The report focused on the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (see p. 945); the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing (*ibid.*); the General Assembly process to identify options for a facilitation mechanism that promoted the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies (see p. 964); and the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (see p. 995). The report also highlighted the role of the high-level political forum on sustainable development in reviewing the overall follow-up to the Conference in the context of the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda; and examined how coherence and synergies across the different functions of the forum could be achieved in order to best support the agenda. In particular, the report looked at agenda-setting; follow-up and review of progress in the implementation of the outcomes of the major UN conferences and summits; national voluntary reviews; increasing transparency and strengthening civil society participation; strengthening the science-policy interface; promoting the coordination of sustainable development policies; and improving cooperation and coordination within the UN system on sustainable development programmes and policies.

The report attested that the 2014 session of the forum had proved its potential to fulfil the mandates of the outcome document of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development [YUN 2012, p. 783] and Assembly resolution 67/290 [YUN 2013, p. 782]. It also proved capable of helping to set the agenda of the entire UN system and the international community in relation to sustainable development, and was expected to be the main platform for reviewing and monitoring the SDGs in the context of the post-2015 development agenda. The Assembly could consider calling upon relevant actors, including Governments, UN system organizations, other relevant intergovernmental organizations, including WTO, major groups and other relevant stakeholders to fully engage in and support the work of the forum; fully implement relevant resolutions and enhance the forum as a dedicated platform for leadership and implementation of sustainable development commitments; ensure that the forum maintained a focused, relevant and flexible

agenda; ensure also that the forum followed up on the processes launched at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and bring cohesion and complementarity among them; and propose possible themes and areas, including new and emerging issues, for discussion at the high-level political forum. The Assembly could also call upon the UN system to make further efforts to integrate the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in its work and invite the Secretary-General to continue reporting on further progress in that regard. The forum could provide detailed guidance on that topic at its 2015 meeting. The UN system should be invited to discuss the best ways to conduct reviews of its implementation of the post-2015 development agenda in the context of the forum.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/69/468/Add.1], adopted **resolution 69/214** without vote [agenda item 19 (*a*)].

#### **Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 55/199 of 20 December 2000, 56/226 of 24 December 2001, 57/253 and 57/270 A of 20 December 2002, 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 64/236 of 24 December 2009, 65/152 of 20 December 2010, 66/197 of 22 December 2011, 66/288 of 27 July 2012, 67/203 of 21 December 2012, 68/210 of 20 December 2013, 68/309 of 10 September 2014, 68/310 of 15 September 2014 and 69/108 of 8 December 2014 and all other relevant resolutions on the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,

*Recalling also* its resolutions 67/290 of 9 July 2013 on the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and 68/1 of 20 September 2013 on the review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 of 20 November 2006 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council,

*Recalling further* the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation) and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, as well as the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, the Programme of Action of the



International Conference on Population and Development, the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals,

*Recalling* the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action),

*Recalling also* the outcome of the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Vienna from 3 to 5 November 2014, the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 and the Vienna Declaration,

*Recalling further* the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Declaration and state of progress and initiatives for the future implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the outcome document of the High-level Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in Apia from 1 to 4 September 2014, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,

*Reaffirming* the commitment to implementing Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, including the time-bound goals and targets, and the other internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and reaffirming also other internationally agreed goals in the economic, social and environmental fields since 1992, as well as the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,

*Recognizing* that eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, in particular for developing countries, and that although each country has the primary responsibility for its own sustainable development and poverty eradication and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, concerted and concrete measures are required at all levels to enable developing countries to achieve their sustainable development goals related to the internationally agreed poverty-related targets and goals, including those contained in Agenda 21, the relevant outcomes of United Nations conferences and the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

*Reaffirming* the need to further mainstream sustainable development at all levels, integrating economic, social and environmental aspects and recognizing their interlinkages, so as to achieve sustainable development in all its dimensions, and reiterating that sustainable development is a key element of the overarching framework for United Nations activities,

*Recognizing* that eradicating poverty, changing unsustainable and promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development

are the overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development,

*Reaffirming* the importance of freedom, peace and security, respect for all human rights, including the right to development and the right to an adequate standard of living, as well as the right to food, the rule of law, gender equality and women's empowerment, and the overall commitment to just and democratic societies for development,

1. *Reaffirms* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", and urges its speedy implementation;

2. *Recalls* its resolution 68/309, in which it welcomed the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group contained in the report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly;

3. *Also recalls* its resolution 69/108 on the report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing established pursuant to its resolution 66/288;

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

5. *Welcomes* the adoption, at the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, the theme of which was "The sustainable development of small island developing States through genuine and durable partnerships", of the outcome document, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (Samoa Pathway), which represents the renewed political commitment of the international community to support the efforts of small island developing States to achieve sustainable development and in which Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives, inter alia, reaffirmed that small island developing States remain a special case for sustainable development in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities, also welcomes the partnerships discussed at the Conference, which are critical for the implementation of the sustainable development of small island developing States, and in this regard calls for the implementation of the Samoa Pathway and highlights the need to continue to give due consideration to the priorities of small island developing States in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

6. *Reaffirms* its resolution 68/1, recalls the commitment made at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to strengthen the Economic and Social Council within its mandate under the Charter of the United Nations as a principal organ in the integrated and coordinated follow-up of the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, and recognizes its key role in achieving a balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development;

7. *Also reaffirms* its resolution 67/290 on the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, and welcomes the inaugural meeting of the forum, held under the auspices of the General Assembly on 24 September 2013, as well as the meeting of the forum held under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council from 30 June to 9 July 2014;

8. *Takes note* of the report on the meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development held under

the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, and affirms that the forum, at its 2015 meeting, to be held under the auspices of the Council, shall discuss its role and ways to implement its functions in following up on and reviewing the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 61/16, 67/290 and 68/1, taking account of and in order to contribute to the intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda;

9. *Acknowledges* the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development, and invites the United Nations regional commissions to continue to contribute to the work of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, including through annual regional meetings, with the involvement of other relevant regional entities, major groups and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate;

10. *Recognizes* the need to consider the realignment of the current cycle of the high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the General Assembly in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda to ensure an integrated and coherent follow-up to and review of progress made in the implementation of sustainable development commitments, taking into account all relevant processes, including the quadrennial comprehensive policy review;

11. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council to continue to coordinate with the bureaux of the relevant committees of the Assembly and with the Bureau of the Council to organize the activities of the high-level political forum on sustainable development so as to benefit from the inputs and advice of the United Nations system, the major groups and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, and encourages broad consultations on the organization of the meeting of the forum under the auspices of the Council in 2015;

12. *Recalls* its resolution 68/310, in which it took note of the summary prepared by the President of the General Assembly of the discussions and recommendations that emerged from the four one-day structured dialogues held during the sixty-eighth session of the Assembly to consider possible arrangements for a facilitation mechanism to promote clean and environmentally sound technologies, and in this regard stresses its resolve to continue consultations based on the above-mentioned recommendations contained in the summary prepared by the President of the Assembly, with the aim of reaching a conclusion during its sixty-ninth session in the context of the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

13. *Also recalls* paragraph 5 of its resolution 67/203, in which it decided to review the arrangement to designate the Economic and Social Council as the ad interim Member State body to receive reports from the board and the secretariat of the 10-year framework of programmes, as elaborated in the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns, as well as its resolution 68/210 in this regard, also recalls the interactive discussions on sustainable consumption and production at the July 2014 meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, held under the auspices of the Council, requests the board and the secretariat to submit updated reports, through the Council, for the consideration of the forum in 2015, and decides that such an ad interim arrangement shall be reviewed at the seventieth session of the General Assembly with a view to establishing a permanent arrangement;

14. *Reaffirms* its resolution 67/203, and decides that the duration of subsequent terms for members of the board of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns shall continue to be two years, starting on 16 September of every second year, and that the United Nations regional groups may renominate one of their existing two members of the board for one consecutive term, while ensuring that no Member State may be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms and taking into account the importance of ensuring continuity and rotation in the work of the board;

15. *Recalls* its decision that the high-level political forum on sustainable development shall strengthen the science-policy interface, also recalls the interactive discussions at the forum under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council held in July 2014 on the scope and methodology of a global sustainable development report, takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the options for such a report, and affirms that the forum shall further consider the scope and methodology of a global sustainable development report at its next meeting under the auspices of the Council, taking account of and in order to contribute to the intergovernmental process of the post-2015 development agenda;

16. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the mainstreaming of the three dimensions of sustainable development throughout the United Nations system, reiterates the call of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development for the further mainstreaming of the three dimensions throughout the United Nations system, and in this regard invites the Secretary-General to continue to report to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, on progress made, including for the consideration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

18. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development—would remain for consideration during its sixty-ninth (2015) session."

On 29 December (**decision 69/554**), the Assembly decided that the agenda item on sustainable development—Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development—would remain for consideration during its sixty-ninth (2015) session.

### **Facilitation mechanism for clean and environmentally sound technologies**

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/210 [YUN 2013, p. 787], four structured dialogues (New York, 29–30 April, 4 June, 23 July) [A/69/554] were convened by the Assembly President to consider possible arrangements for a facilitation mechanism to

promote the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies.

At the first two dialogues (29–30 April), participants took stock of the consideration by the United Nations of a possible technology facilitation mechanism; reviewed developments in existing mechanisms and processes; and discussed the scope and extent of fragmentation among them and options for enhancing synergy and coherence. It was agreed that, while a wide range of activities regarding the development, dissemination and transfer of clean and environmentally sound technologies existed, more needed to be done to address fragmentation and strengthen synergies of efforts in that area.

The third dialogue (4 June) identified possible functions that could be undertaken by technology facilitation and options for the way forward. Proposals by Member States included improving synergy and coherence, improving data and information, and the analysis of needs and gaps.

At the fourth dialogue (23 July), participants discussed concrete options regarding the possible functions, modalities and organization of a technology facilitation mechanism that included better information on and mapping of existing facilitation activities; improving coherence and synergy between existing facilitation activities; conducting analyses of technology needs and gaps in addressing them; and promoting the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies through a technology facilitation mechanism. Participants recommended that the next step was to facilitate the launch of the technology bank and science, technology and innovation supporting mechanism for the least developed countries, as mandated in Assembly resolution 68/224 [YUN 2013, p. 822]. The Secretary-General should make a proposal to the Assembly with regard to developing an online platform to undertake a thorough mapping of existing technology facilitation mechanisms, frameworks and processes for clean and environmentally sound technologies; improving coordination within the UN system on clean and environmentally sound technologies; analysing technology needs and gaps in addressing them; and including certain elements for continued discussions.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 15 September [meeting 109], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 68/310** [draft: A/68/L.62] without vote [agenda item 19 (a)].

#### **Four one-day structured dialogues on possible arrangements for a facilitation mechanism to promote the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies**

*The General Assembly,*

Welcoming the convening of four structured dialogues on possible arrangements for a facilitation mechanism to

promote the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies, on 29 and 30 April, 4 June and 23 July 2014, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/210 of 20 December 2013,

*Taking note* of the summary prepared by the President of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly of the discussions and recommendations that emerged from the four one-day structured dialogues to consider possible arrangements for a facilitation mechanism to promote clean and environmentally sound technologies, held during the sixty-eighth session of the Assembly,

*Noting* the views expressed by and the active participation of Member States and other stakeholders, as well as experts and panellists, during the dialogues,

1. *Requests* the President of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly to continue consultations based on the above-mentioned recommendations prepared by the President of the sixty-eighth session, with the aim of reaching a conclusion during the sixty-ninth session in the context of the post-2015 development agenda;

2. *Invites* the Secretary-General to take into account the recommendations that emerged from the structured dialogues on possible arrangements for a facilitation mechanism to promote the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies, contained in the summary prepared by the President of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, when preparing his synthesis report.

#### **International cooperation for sustainable development**

On 8 August, the Secretary-General announced the membership of a High-level Advisory Group on Sustainable Transport to provide recommendations on sustainable transport actionable at global, national, local and sector levels. The Advisory Group was established for a period of three years to work with governments, transport providers, businesses, financial institutions, civil society and other stakeholders to promote sustainable transport systems and their integration into development strategies and policies, including in climate action; and promote sustainable transport in line with inclusive and equitable growth, social development, protection of the global environment and ecosystems, and addressing climate change.

**Communication.** On 9 September [A/68/991], Turkmenistan transmitted to the Secretary-General the Ashgabat Declaration on the Role of Transport and Transit Corridors in Ensuring International Cooperation, Stability and Sustainable Development, which was adopted at the High-level International Conference on the Role of Transit Transport Corridors in Ensuring International Cooperation, Stability and Sustainable Development (Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, 3–4 September).

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee

[A/69/468 & Corr.1], adopted **resolution 69/213** without vote [agenda item 19].

### **Role of transport and transit corridors in ensuring international cooperation for sustainable development**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation) and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,

*Taking note* of the Ashgabat Declaration, adopted at the High-level International Conference on the Role of Transit Transport Corridors in Ensuring International Cooperation, Stability and Sustainable Development, held in Ashgabat on 3 and 4 September 2014, in cooperation with the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the International Road Transport Union,

*Noting* the establishment of the Secretary-General’s High-level Advisory Group on Sustainable Transport,

*Noting also* the initiative to establish the global partnership for sustainable transport, as announced by the participants in the conference entitled “Sustainable Transport as a Driver of Economic Development in the Post-2015 Development Agenda”, organized jointly by the United Nations Global Compact and the International Road Transport Union and held in New York on 10 October 2014,

*Recognizing* the important role of environmentally sound, safe, efficient, reliable and affordable transport and transit corridors for the efficient movement of goods and people in supporting sustainable economic growth, improving the social welfare of people and enhancing international cooperation and trade among countries,

*Highlighting* the role of international roads and railways, intermodal logistics centres and dry ports, global logistics and supply chains, the integration of transport modes, appropriate technologies and the maintenance and upgrading of infrastructure in promoting seamless international transit transport,

*Emphasizing* the need to harmonize and improve transport and border-crossing infrastructure and facilities and services along the international transport and transit corridors,

*Noting* the importance of United Nations Development Account projects focused on developing broader transport corridors, which are being implemented by the five United Nations regional commissions, and identifying the physical and institutional infrastructure requirements that would be needed to make them operational,

*Recalling* its resolutions 57/309 of 22 May 2003, 58/9 of 5 November 2003, 58/289 of 14 April 2004, 60/5 of 26 October 2005, 62/244 of 31 March 2008, 64/255 of 2 March 2010, 66/260 of 19 April 2012 and 68/269 of 10 April 2014, on improving global road safety, and the need to develop plans to improve road safety along international road transit corridors in line with the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011–2020,

*Welcoming*, in this regard, the second High-level Global Conference on Road Safety, to be held in Brasilia on 18 and 19 November 2015, to review progress in implementing the

Global Plan for the Decade of Action and in meeting the goal of the Decade of Action,

*Recognizing* the importance of addressing the special needs of landlocked developing countries, inter alia, by establishing and promoting efficient transit transport systems that link them to international markets, and in this regard underlining the importance of partnerships between landlocked and transit developing countries and their development partners at the national, bilateral, sub-regional, regional and global levels,

1. *Recognizes* the need for continued international cooperation to address the issues relating to transport and transit corridors as an important element of sustainable development;

2. *Welcomes* the efforts of the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, other international organizations, in particular the World Bank, the regional development banks, the World Customs Organization, the World Trade Organization, the International Road Transport Union, the International Union of Railways, regional economic integration organizations and other relevant regional and subregional organizations, within their respective mandates, to develop and operationalize international transport and transit corridors;

3. *Calls for* efforts to promote regional economic integration and cooperation, including by improving cross-border transportation infrastructure, enhancing regional connectivity and facilitating regional trade and investment;

4. *Calls upon* Member States and international and regional organizations to further encourage enhanced networking and periodic consultation among related stakeholders involved in the development and operation of international transport and transit corridors;

5. *Invites* all States that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the United Nations conventions and agreements on transport and transit facilitation;

6. *Underscores* the need to mobilize, as appropriate, additional financial resources for the development of transport infrastructure and services, including through the promotion of public-private partnerships, so as to achieve inclusive and sustainable development;

7. *Encourages* the United Nations system organizations, related international financing institutions, multilateral and bilateral donors, the private sector and international organizations to further coordinate their efforts and collaborate in mobilizing financial and technical assistance to countries for the sustainable and inclusive development of transport and transit corridors;

8. *Invites* the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States, relevant regional and international organizations and entities of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, on issues relating to the development of transport and transit corridors and to communicate such views in a summary report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session.

### **Education for sustainable development**

In an August note [A/69/76], the Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly a letter from the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), forwarding the Global Action Programme on Education

for Sustainable Development as follow-up to the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development after 2014. The Global Action Programme was developed in consultation with all education for sustainable development stakeholders, with particular focus on actions on the ground and on the identification of policymakers, institutional leaders, youth, educators and local authorities as priority target and participating groups. The Programme was to be the major contribution of UNESCO to the implementation of paragraph 233 on education for sustainable development contained in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 66/288 [YUN 2012, p. 782]. The Global Action Programme focused on five priority action areas: policy support, whole-institution approaches, educators, youth, and local communities.

**UNESCO World conference.** The World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development (Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, 10–12 November) marking the end of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005–2014), proclaimed by the General Assembly in resolution 57/254 [YUN 2002, p. 826], endorsed the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/69/468 & Corr.1], adopted **resolution 69/211** without vote [agenda item 19].

#### **Follow-up to the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005–2014): Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 65/163 of 20 December 2010 and other previous resolutions on the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development,

*Recalling also* that at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Brazil from 20 to 22 June 2012, Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives resolved to promote education for sustainable development and to integrate sustainable development more actively into education beyond the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development,

*Noting* the organization by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization of the World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, from 10 to 12 November 2014, hosted by the Government of Japan,

1. *Takes note* of the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development, as a follow-up to the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development after 2014, as endorsed by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its thirty-seventh session and transmitted by the Secretary-General;

2. *Invites* Governments to take steps to implement the Global Action Programme;

3. *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as the lead agency for education for sustainable development, to continue to provide coordination for the implementation of the Global Action Programme, in cooperation with Governments, United Nations organizations, funds and programmes, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include the World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development in the review of the implementation of the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, for submission to the General Assembly at its seventieth session.

#### **Sustainable tourism**

In August [A/69/223 & Corr.1], the Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly the report of the Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) on the promotion of ecotourism for poverty eradication and environment protection, submitted in accordance with Assembly resolution 67/223 [YUN 2012, p. 813].

The report updated the previous report on the subject [ibid.] to assist in the promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, as an element of sustainable livelihoods to fight poverty and promote environment protection. It was based on the responses received and information acquired through a follow-up survey among UN Member States, conducted, early in 2014, to monitor implementation of resolution 67/223. Seventy-nine per cent of respondents indicated that they had strengthened environmental protection and natural and cultural heritage frameworks, while four countries reported the adaptation of new frameworks or the enhancement of policies and programmes that had a direct impact on local community and small tourism entrepreneurs in order to assure the sustainable development of tourism. Eighty-five per cent of respondents reported conducting impact assessments or evaluations of the impact of sustainable tourism. Aside from integrating sustainable tourism into national legislation and policies, a majority of the countries highlighted initiatives targeting the increased participation of indigenous and local communities and women. According to many Member States, a key challenge in the promotion of sustainable tourism for poverty eradication and environment protection was facilitating access by small- and medium-sized enterprises to financial capital.

The report concluded that progress in promoting ecotourism had resulted in its incorporation into national policy and priorities. States and international development institutions were increasingly recognizing the importance of cooperation in ecotourism as a means to achieve economic growth, reduce inequalities and improve livelihoods in developing countries. A majority of countries were engaged in cooperative initiatives and some States responded that they wanted

regional and international institutions to prioritize the provision of adequate support to programmes and projects relating to ecotourism, which included both financial and technical assistance. The Assembly might wish to recommend that all Member States review their current tourism frameworks and policies; invite governments and relevant stakeholders to consider using tourism to engage indigenous and local communities in order to preserve indigenous knowledge and know-how; establish and join the framework of the UNWTO Global Observatory of Sustainable Tourism; encourage all relevant stakeholders to provide more evidence-based information on how women were integrated into the planning of and decisions on tourism development; and encourage governments, the tourism sector and relevant organizations to adopt policies and practices to promote the full participation and involvement of local and indigenous communities, in addition to the full empowerment of women, in all tourism operations and development.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/69/472], adopted **resolution 69/233** without vote [agenda item 23].

#### **Promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environment protection**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

*Recalling also* the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation), the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development, 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, the report of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, entitled “SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway”,

*Recalling further* its resolutions 53/200 of 15 December 1998, entitled “Proclamation of 2002 as the International Year of Ecotourism”, 65/148 of 20 December 2010, entitled “Global Code of Ethics for Tourism” and 68/207 of 20 December 2013, entitled “Sustainable tourism and sustainable development in Central America”,

*Recalling* its resolution 67/223 of 21 December 2012, entitled “Promotion of ecotourism for poverty eradication and environment protection”,

*Stressing* that poverty is a multifaceted problem that requires a multifaceted and integrated approach in addressing its economic, political, social, environmental and institutional dimensions at all levels,

*Stressing also* that sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, is a cross-cutting activity that can contribute to the fight against poverty, the protection of the environment and the promotion of sustainable development,

*Stressing further* the role of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, in promoting rural development and better living conditions for sustainable rural populations,

*Welcoming* the efforts of the World Tourism Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to promote ecotourism and sustainable tourism worldwide,

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

*Noting* the initiatives launched and the events organized at the subregional, regional and international levels in the field of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, and sustainable development,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization transmitted by the Secretary-General of the United Nations;

2. *Recognizes* that sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, represents an important driver of sustainable economic growth and decent job creation, that it can have a positive impact on income generation and education, and thus on the fight against poverty and hunger, and that it can contribute directly to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

3. *Also recognizes* the potential of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, to reduce poverty by improving individual livelihoods in local communities and to generate resources for community development projects;

4. *Emphasizes* the need to optimize the economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits stemming from sustainable tourism, including ecotourism activities, in all countries, particularly developing countries, including African countries, the least developed countries and small island developing States;

5. *Also emphasizes* that sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, can contribute to sustainable development, in particular environment protection, and can improve the well-being of indigenous peoples and local communities;

6. *Recognizes* that sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, creates significant opportunities for the conservation, protection and sustainable use of biodiversity and of natural areas by encouraging indigenous peoples and local communities in host countries and tourists alike to preserve and respect the natural and cultural heritage;

7. *Underlines*, in this regard, the importance of establishing, at the national level, where necessary, appropriate policies, guidelines and regulations, in accordance with national priorities and legislation, for promoting and sup-

porting sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, and minimizing any potential negative impact;

8. *Invites* Governments, international organizations, other relevant institutions and other stakeholders, as appropriate, to encourage and support best practices in relation to the implementation of relevant policies, guidelines and regulations in sustainable tourism, including the ecotourism sector, and to implement and disseminate existing guidelines;

9. *Encourages* Governments at all levels to use sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, as a tool to support poverty eradication, environmental protection and/or conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity and to base tourism components on clear evidence of market demand and on a sound economic and environmental foundation;

10. *Encourages* Member States to promote investment in sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, in accordance with their national legislation, which may include creating small and medium-sized enterprises, promoting cooperatives and facilitating access to financing through inclusive financial services, including microcredit initiatives for the poor, for indigenous peoples and for local communities in areas, including rural areas, with high potential for sustainable tourism, including ecotourism;

11. *Encourages* Governments, the United Nations and the specialized agencies to support the coordination of regional and/or international sustainable tourism development frameworks, as appropriate, in order to assist countries in promoting sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environmental protection;

12. *Underlines* the importance of conducting an environmental impact assessment, in accordance with national legislation, for the development of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism opportunities;

13. *Stresses* that indigenous cultures, traditions and knowledge, in all their aspects, are to be fully considered, respected and promoted in policy development for sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, and underlines the importance of promoting the full and early participation and involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities in decisions that affect them and of integrating their knowledge, heritage and values in sustainable tourism, including ecotourism initiatives, as appropriate;

14. *Emphasizes* the need for effective measures, in the context of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism initiatives, to ensure the full empowerment of women, including the equal participation of women and men at all levels and in decision-making processes in all areas;

15. *Also emphasizes* the need for effective measures, in the context of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism initiatives, to help ensure the equal participation of youth, persons with disabilities and older persons at all levels and in decision-making processes in all areas and to promote the effective economic empowerment, including through international cooperation, of women, youth, persons with disabilities and older persons, in sustainable tourism, including ecotourism activities, mainly through decent job and income creation;

16. *Calls upon* the United Nations system, in the context of the global campaign for the Millennium Development Goals, to promote sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, as an instrument that can contribute to achieving those Goals, in particular the Goals of

eradicating extreme poverty and of ensuring environmental sustainability, and to support the efforts and policies of developing countries in this field;

17. *Encourages* the regional and international financial institutions to provide adequate support to programmes and projects related to sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, taking into account the economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits of such activities;

18. *Invites* relevant specialized agencies, in particular the World Tourism Organization, United Nations bodies and other organizations, to provide technical assistance to Governments, upon request, and to assist, as appropriate, in strengthening legislative or policy frameworks for sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, including those for environment protection and the conservation of natural and cultural heritage;

19. *Invites* relevant specialized agencies, United Nations bodies, other organizations and multilateral financial institutions to provide technical assistance to Governments, upon request and as appropriate, in identifying needs as well as opportunities to improve the contribution of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, to poverty eradication, including through securing wider community benefits from sustainable tourism, including ecotourism activities, as a viable and sustainable economic development option;

20. *Encourages* all stakeholders to cooperate in supporting, as appropriate, the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in sustainable tourism, including ecotourism activities;

21. *Encourages* the public and private sectors and relevant stakeholders to provide, upon request, assistance for capacity-building, the development of specific guidelines and awareness-raising materials and training for people involved in sustainable tourism, including ecotourism activities, such as language training and training in specific skills in tourism services, as well as to develop or strengthen partnerships, especially in protected areas;

22. *Invites* relevant stakeholders to provide, upon request and as appropriate, technical assistance to assist in building the capacity, including for marketing and product positioning, of local communities, cooperatives and small and medium-sized businesses involved in sustainable tourism, including ecotourism activities;

23. *Recognizes* the role of North-South cooperation in promoting sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, as a means to achieve economic growth, to reduce inequalities and to improve living standards in developing countries, and also recognizes that South-South and triangular cooperation, as complements to North-South cooperation, have the potential to promote sustainable tourism, including ecotourism;

24. *Invites* Governments and other stakeholders to consider joining the framework of the Global Observatory of Sustainable Tourism of the World Tourism Organization as a way to promote socioeconomic and environmentally sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, and to support better informed sustainable tourism policies around the world, mainly through the identification and dissemination of best practices and enhanced awareness of and capacity-building for sustainability among tourism stakeholders;

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session, in collaboration with the World Tourism Organization and other rel-

evant United Nations agencies and programmes, a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including recommendations on ways and means to promote sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, as a tool for fighting poverty and promoting sustainable development, taking into account relevant reports prepared by the World Tourism Organization in this field.

## Eradication of poverty

### Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty

As requested in General Assembly resolution 68/226 [YUN 2013, p. 795], the Secretary-General, in August [A/69/204], submitted a report on the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017), proclaimed by the Assembly in resolution 62/205 [YUN 2007, p. 847]. The report discussed progress and challenges to poverty eradication, presented some policy considerations, and highlighted the latest UN system activities in that area. According to the report, while progress in reducing poverty was remarkable in some regions and countries, the uneven progress across regions and within countries remained a major concern. Much more had to be done to ensure that the goal of poverty eradication was linked to the formulation of social, economic and environmental policies at all decision-making levels. To eliminate extreme poverty, policy efforts at all levels had to go beyond addressing its symptoms to building the physical, social, economic and political infrastructure needed to sustain eradication efforts. Macroeconomic policies had to be consistent with other policies to address social and environmental realities as part of an integrated effort towards inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth that generated decent and productive employment. Public spending should prioritize investment in human development, improving access to social services and building universal systems of social protection. The ongoing deliberations on the SDGs and the post-2015 development agenda provided an opportunity to reframe the approach to poverty eradication in a way that fostered more balanced and inclusive progress at national and international levels. The multidimensional nature of poverty should be adequately reflected in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda, with full employment and decent work being an essential element of that holistic approach. Countries, in pursuing poverty eradication might consider setting national strategies for achieving full and productive employment and decent work for all, especially women, young people, persons with disabilities, indigenous people and other marginalized and vulnerable groups; continuing the pursuit of sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth that supported the structural transformation of economies towards progressively higher levels of productivity in all sectors and activities; reducing inequality of oppor-

tunity and outcomes among social and populations groups, including economic, social and environmental inequalities; ensuring that all people were empowered through access to quality education, skills development and vocational training aligned with labour market needs; and creating a culture of sustainable lifestyles, including through consumer awareness-raising, tax incentives and other behaviour-changing policies.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/69/472/Add.1], adopted **resolution 69/234** without vote [agenda item 23 (a)].

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

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 68/226 of 20 December 2013 and all other resolutions related to the eradication of poverty,

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

*Recalling further* the 2005 World Summit Outcome and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,

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

*Recalling also* its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006 on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals, and its resolution 63/303 of 9 July 2009, entitled “Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development”,

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

*Recalling* the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,

*Recalling also* the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, held in 2010, and its outcome document, and the special



event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, held on 25 September 2013, and its outcome document,

*Recalling further* its resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014, in which it welcomed the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group contained in the report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly,

*Acknowledging* the importance of the eradication of poverty as an overarching objective of ongoing processes in follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and also acknowledging the central imperative of poverty eradication in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda,

*Recognizing* the need to better understand the multidimensional nature of development and poverty,

*Expressing concern* about the ongoing adverse impacts of the global financial and economic crisis on development, including on the capacity of developing countries to mobilize resources for development, recognizing that there is a need to promote recovery, and acknowledging that an effective response to the impacts of the crisis requires the timely implementation of all development commitments, including existing aid commitments,

*Concerned* that, midway into the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017), while there has been progress in reducing poverty, especially in some middle-income countries, such progress has been uneven and that the number of people living in poverty in some countries continues to increase, with women and children constituting the majority of the most affected groups, especially in the least developed countries and particularly in sub-Saharan Africa,

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

*Recognizing also* that corruption at all levels, including the illicit transfer of funds and assets, is an obstacle to development, and stressing the need for the return of such funds and assets to their countries of origin,

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

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

*Reaffirming also* that women make significant contributions to the economy, that they are key contributors to the economy and to combating poverty and inequality through both remunerated and unremunerated work at home, in the community and in the workplace and that gender equality and the empowerment of women are critical factors in the eradication of poverty,

*Recognizing* the importance of supporting countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty and promote empowerment of the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including women, children and youth, indigenous peoples, older persons and persons with disabilities,

*Recognizing also* that the difficult socioeconomic conditions that exist in many developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, have contributed to the feminization of poverty,

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

*Expressing concern* that aggregate official development assistance fell in 2012 for the second consecutive year, cognizant of the increase in aggregate official development assistance in 2013, and calling upon those Member States that have made commitments to fulfil their commitments and continue this positive momentum,

*Acknowledging* that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for but rather a complement to North-South cooperation, and recognizing the contributions of South-South and triangular cooperation to the efforts of developing countries to eradicate poverty and pursue sustainable development,

*Acknowledging also* that good governance at the national and international levels and sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, supported by full employment and decent work for all, rising productivity and a favourable environment, including public and private investment and entrepreneurship, are necessary to eradicate poverty, achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and realize a rise in living standards, and that corporate social responsibility initiatives play an important role in maximizing the impact of public and private investment,

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

*Recalling* the inter-agency system-wide plan of action for poverty eradication, involving more than 21 agencies, funds, programmes and regional commissions,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017), under the item entitled “Eradication of poverty and other development issues”;

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

3. *Also reaffirms* that poverty eradication is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, and in this regard commits itself to freeing humanity from poverty and hunger as a matter of urgency;

4. *Further reaffirms* that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that

the role of national policies and strategies for the achievement of sustainable development and poverty eradication cannot be overemphasized, and recognizes that increased effective national efforts should be complemented by concrete, effective and supportive international programmes, measures and policies aimed at expanding the development opportunities of developing countries, while taking into account national conditions and ensuring respect for national ownership strategies and sovereignty;

5. *Calls upon* the international community, including Member States, to urgently take measures to address the root causes of extreme poverty and hunger because of their negative impacts on sustainable development;

6. *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, intergovernmental and inter-agency levels, in accordance with the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields;

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

8. *Emphasizes* that the promotion of regional, sub-regional and interregional cooperation can have a catalytic impact on poverty eradication efforts and offers many benefits, including the exchange of best policies, experiences and technical expertise, the mobilization of resources and the expansion of economic opportunities and conditions favourable to job creation;

9. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to accord the highest priority to poverty eradication within the United Nations development agenda, addressing the root causes and challenges of poverty through integrated, coordinated and coherent strategies at all levels, and calls upon donor countries in a position to do so to support effective national efforts of developing countries in this regard through adequate, predictable financial resources on bilateral and multilateral bases;

10. *Stresses* the importance of public-private partnerships in a wide range of areas, with the aim of eradicating poverty and promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all and social integration, as appropriate;

11. *Acknowledges* the complexity of the challenge of poverty eradication, emphasizes that, in accelerating poverty eradication, the organizations of the United Nations development system must be driven by national priorities and be operated in an integrated, coordinated and coherent manner, within their respective mandates, making full use of the interlinked and mutually reinforcing pillars of the United Nations development system, and encourages the use of diverse strategies;

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

13. *Reaffirms* the need to fulfil all official development assistance commitments, including the commitments by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent

of gross national income for official development assistance to developing countries by 2015 and to reach a level of at least 0.5 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance by 2010, as well as a target of 0.15 per cent to 0.20 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to the least developed countries;

14. *Notes* that a few developed countries have fulfilled the commitment made by many countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance, and in this regard calls upon these countries to urgently fulfil those commitments;

15. *Welcomes* the increasing efforts to improve the quality of official development assistance and increase its development impact, recognizes the Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council, notes other initiatives, such as the high-level forums on aid effectiveness, which produced, *inter alia*, the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the Accra Agenda for Action and the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, which make important contributions to the efforts of the countries that have made commitments to them, including through the adoption of the fundamental principles of national ownership, alignment, harmonization and managing for results, and bears in mind that there is no one-size-fits-all formula that will guarantee effective assistance and that the specific situation of each country needs to be fully considered;

16. *Recognizes* the urgent need to address poverty, hunger and food security, and encourages the international community to enhance international cooperation in support of agricultural and rural development and food production and productivity, including of smallholder producers, in developing countries, particularly in the least developed countries;

17. *Encourages* Member States, international organizations, the private sector, relevant institutions, foundations and individuals to strengthen United Nations funding for the eradication of poverty through voluntary contributions to existing poverty-related system-wide funds;

18. *Recognizes* that sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth is essential for eradicating poverty and hunger, in particular in developing countries, and stresses that national efforts in this regard should be complemented by an enabling international environment and by ensuring greater coherence among macroeconomic, trade and social policies at all levels;

19. *Reaffirms* the importance of the eradication of poverty as an overarching objective of ongoing follow-up processes to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;

20. *Also reaffirms* that, as the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, poverty eradication shall be central to the post-2015 development agenda;

21. *Stresses* the resolve to end poverty, including eradicating extreme poverty, currently measured as living on less than 1.25 dollars a day, for all people everywhere, and the efforts to reduce by at least half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions, according to national definitions;

22. *Takes note* of proposed goal 1, contained in the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, entitled "End poverty in all its forms everywhere", and all of its targets;

23. *Recognizes* that poverty is multidimensional, invites national Governments, supported by the international community, to consider developing complementary measurements that better reflect this multidimensionality, and emphasizes the importance of developing a common understanding among national Governments and other stakeholders of the multidimensional nature of poverty and giving it due consideration in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

24. *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, in view of the negative impact of inequalities on poverty, emphasizes the importance of improving access to quality education, health care and social protection;

25. *Acknowledges* that the eradication of poverty through the development of national capacities in developing countries should continue to be a core area of focus for the United Nations development system and that its development programmes and projects should attempt to address this greatest global challenge as their underlying objective;

26. *Invites* all stakeholders, including Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system and civil society organizations, to share good practices relating to programmes and policies that address inequalities for the benefit of those living in extreme poverty and promote the active participation of those living in extreme poverty in the design and implementation of such programmes and policies, with the aim of accelerating progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and informing the discussions on the way forward after 2015, and requests the Secretary-General to include in his annual report on progress in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals a compilation of such good practices;

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

28. *Notes with concern* the continuing high levels of unemployment and underemployment, particularly among young people, as a consequence of the global financial and economic crisis, recognizes that decent work for all remains one of the best routes out of poverty, and in this regard invites donor countries, multilateral organizations and other development partners to continue to assist Member States, in particular developing countries, in adopting policies consistent with the Global Jobs Pact adopted by the International Labour Conference at its ninety-eighth session as a general framework within which each country can formulate policy packages specific to its situation and national priorities in order to promote a job-intensive recovery and sustainable development;

29. *Urges* Member States to address the global challenge of youth unemployment by developing and implementing strategies that give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work, and in this context stresses the need for the development of a global strategy on youth employment, building upon, inter alia, the Global Jobs Pact and the call for action of the International Labour Organization;

30. *Encourages* the international community to support developing countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty and promote empowerment of the poor and people in vulnerable

situations, with a view to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, improving access to finance, microfinance and credit, removing barriers to opportunity, enhancing productive capacity, developing sustainable agriculture and promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all, complemented by national efforts on effective social policies, including social protection floors, and in this regard takes note of International Labour Organization Recommendation No. 202 concerning national floors of social protection;

31. *Stresses* the importance of implementing nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including social protection floors, and of achieving substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable, and encourages Member States to continue developing and implementing social protection floors based on national priorities, paying particular attention to women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities;

32. *Notes* the reference in the proposal of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals to the need to ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions;

33. *Calls upon* Member States to ensure that the eradication of poverty is duly reflected in the deliberations of the third International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Addis Ababa from 13 to 16 July 2015;

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

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

36. *Stresses* that the impacts of natural disasters and conflicts are severely hampering efforts to achieve poverty eradication, in particular in developing countries, and calls upon the international community to give priority to addressing them;

37. *Calls upon* the organizations of the United Nations development system, including the funds, programmes and specialized agencies, in accordance with their mandates, to assign the highest priority to poverty eradication, and stresses that efforts in this area should be scaled up to address the root causes of extreme poverty and hunger;

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

39. *Encourages* greater inter-agency convergence and collaboration within the United Nations system in sharing knowledge, promoting policy dialogue, facilitating synergies, mobilizing funds, providing technical assistance in the key policy areas underlying the decent work agenda and strengthening system-wide policy coherence on employment issues, including by avoiding duplication of efforts;

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

### **Millennium Development Goals and the post-2015 development agenda**

The *Millennium Development Goals Report 2014*, published by DESA [Sales No. E.14.I.10], evaluated the progress made on MDG indicators. The report stated that important progress had been made across all goals set out in the Millennium Declaration [YUN 2000, p. 51], and some targets had been met well ahead of the 2015 deadline. The world had reduced extreme poverty by half, reducing the number of people living in extreme poverty by 700 million in 2010. Progress on poverty reduction nevertheless was uneven. While some regions, such as Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, had met the target, others, such as sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia, still lagged behind. According to World Bank projections, sub-Saharan Africa was not expected to meet the target by 2015. With regard to employment, the weak and uneven global economic recovery continued to take its toll on labour markets, particularly in the developing world. That was reflected in limited progress in the reduction of low-quality employment, which was widespread in most developing countries. Hunger continued to decline, but major efforts were needed to achieve the hunger target globally by 2015. Efforts in the fight against malaria and tuberculosis had shown results, and access to an improved drinking water source had become a reality for 2.3 billion people.

Substantial gains were made towards reaching gender parity in school enrolment at all levels of education in all developing regions. The political participation of women continued to increase, with 46 countries having more than 30 per cent female members of parliament in at least one chamber. Official development assistance stood at \$134.8 billion in 2013, the highest level ever recorded; however, aid was shifting away from the poorest countries. The debt burden of developing countries remained stable at three per cent of export revenue.

The report concluded that much had been accomplished through the concerted efforts of all, saving and improving the lives of many people, but the agenda remained unfinished. Continued progress towards the MDGs in the remaining year was essential to provide a solid foundation for the post-2015 development agenda.

**Report of Secretary-General.** In accordance with the outcome document of the General Assembly 2010 High-level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs, adopted

by the Assembly in resolutions 65/1 [YUN 2010, p. 815] and 65/10 [ibid., p. 829], the Secretary-General, in July, submitted the annual report [A/69/201] on accelerating progress towards the MDGs: options for sustained and inclusive growth and issues for advancing the UN development agenda beyond 2015.

The Secretary-General stated that remarkable progress had been made in achieving the MDGs, particularly regarding the targets related to poverty reduction, improved drinking water sources, primary education and health. Nevertheless, significant shortfalls remained in the targets related to the reduction of hunger and child and maternal mortality, gender equality, environmental sustainability and the delivery of global partnership commitments. Progress was uneven across countries and among different population groups and regions within countries. In the world’s poorest countries in particular, progress often failed to keep up with rapidly changing demographics. Many initiatives and actions to accelerate the achievement of the MDGs had been taken at the national, regional and global levels, involving a large number of different stakeholders; and while they had produced encouraging results, efforts needed to be redoubled. Policy options for supporting sustained, inclusive and equitable growth were proposed, including advancing the reforms in financial regulation to reduce risks of financial and economic crisis; strengthening countercyclical policy space; incentivizing long-term investment for sustainable development; enhancing international policy coordination and cooperation; promoting employment with decent wages, and in particular, the employment of women and young people; reducing inequality through social protection and other redistributive measures; and sharing the benefit derived from natural resources more inclusively among the population.

**Annual ministerial review.** From 7 to 9 July, during the high-level segment of its 2014 substantive session [A/69/3/Rev.1] (see p. 1028), the Economic and Social Council held its annual ministerial review on the theme “Addressing ongoing and emerging challenges for meeting the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 and for sustaining development gains in the future”, in accordance with decision 2011/208 [YUN 2011, p. 791].

It also had before it a report [E/2014/61] of the Secretary-General on the topic, which addressed ongoing and emerging challenges for meeting the MDGs in 2015 and for sustaining development gains in the future. It highlighted opportunities for accelerating the achievement of the goals through key facilitators and enablers of development at all levels, including effective leadership and conducive policy frameworks. The report stated that although significant and substantial progress had been made in meeting many of the targets, progress had also been unequal, and new challenges had emerged. A new development agenda would need to take into account an international environment that

had changed dramatically since 2000. It will need to contain a vision that integrated a broader scope of issues and the three dimensions of sustainable development with universal applicability, while taking into account the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Overcoming the significant challenges to meeting the MDGs in 2015 and sustaining development gains in the future would require addressing some of the main facilitators and enablers of development; promoting inclusive development; and enhancing measurement, monitoring and review. International cooperation and coordination would be essential to the success of that approach. Among the recommendations made were that the international community should design a unified and universal post-2015 development agenda that was guided by the intrinsic linkage between poverty reduction and sustainable development. The post-2015 framework should include an intergenerational approach towards inclusive development, addressing equally the needs of children, their parents, those in the labour force and ageing populations, in order to combat inequalities that could become cumulative over time. The international community should undertake global economic and financial coordination to reduce macroeconomic volatility and risks, many of which inordinately affected developing countries and made it very difficult for them to integrate successfully into the global economy.

**Communication.** On 14 May [E/2014/74], Nepal, in its capacity as Chair of the Commission for Social Development, forwarded to the President of the Economic and Social Council the summary of the discussion held during the fifty-second session of the Commission on of the theme “Promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all” (see p. 1228), which was closely linked to the main theme of the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council for 2014.

On 29 December, by **decision 69/554**, the Assembly decided that the agenda item on follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

### Organization of UN summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda

On 29 December, (**decision 69/550**), the General Assembly decided on the dates in 2015 for the meetings of the process of intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda (19–21 January; 17–20 February; 23–27 March; 20–24 April; 18–22 May; 22–25 June; 20–24 and 27–31 July 2015); invited all Member States and other potential donors to consider contributing generously to all relevant UN trust funds to support the travel and participation of the representatives from developing countries, in par-

ticular Least Development Countries (LDCs), in those meetings; requested the Secretary-General to provide timely and regular updates on the availability of financial resources from the relevant trust funds; and stressed the need for flexibility in convening meetings of the process of intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda, and noted the possibility of convening additional meetings of up to five days duration.

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 29 December [meeting 77], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/244** [draft: A/69/L.43] without vote [agenda items 13 (a) & 115].

### Organization of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 55/2 of 8 September 2000, 60/1 of 16 September 2005 and 65/1 of 22 September 2010, by which it adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the 2005 World Summit Outcome and the outcome of the 2010 United Nations summit on the Millennium Development Goals, respectively,

*Recalling also* its resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, by which it endorsed the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,

*Recalling further* the outcome document of the special event of the President of the General Assembly to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, held on 25 September 2013, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 68/6 of 9 October 2013, including the decision to launch a process of intergovernmental negotiations, which will lead to the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, and the request to the Secretary-General to synthesize the full range of inputs then available and to submit a synthesis report before the end of 2014, as an input to intergovernmental negotiations,

*Recalling* its resolution 68/279 of 30 June 2014, by which it decided to convene the third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa, from 13 to 16 July 2015,

*Mindful* of the processes mandated in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, in particular the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, as well as the process to develop options for a technology facilitation mechanism,

*Taking note* of other relevant inputs received and under way from United Nations intergovernmental bodies, the United Nations system and relevant United Nations meetings and processes, which could serve as useful inputs to the deliberations on the post-2015 development agenda,

*Bearing in mind* that the summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda coincides with the seventieth anniversary of the United Nations,

1. *Decides* that the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda will be held from 25 to 27 September 2015, in New York, and convened as a high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly;

2. *Also decides* that the rules of procedure and established practices of the General Assembly shall apply for the summit unless otherwise decided in the present resolution and the annexes thereto;

3. *Further decides* that the general debate of the General Assembly at its seventieth session will begin on 28 September 2015, on the understanding that these arrangements shall in no way create a precedent for the general debate at future sessions;

4. *Decides* that the summit will be composed of plenary meetings concurrent with interactive dialogues;

5. *Invites*, owing to the importance of the summit, the Head of State of the country of the President of the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session and the Head of State or Government of the country of the President of the Assembly at its seventieth session to jointly preside over the summit;

6. *Reiterates* that the 2015 summit will be held with the participation of Heads of State or Government, and encourages all Member States to be represented at that level;

7. *Invites* the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, as well as the Bretton Woods institutions, including the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organization, the regional development banks, the regional commissions of the United Nations and other relevant stakeholders, including parliamentarians, academia, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, major groups and the private sector, to participate in the summit, including in its interactive dialogues and preparatory process, according to the modalities specified in the annexes to the present resolution, and encourages them, as well as Member States and observers, to consider initiatives and activities in the preparation and the lead up to the summit;

8. *Reiterates* that, to arrive at an inclusive and people-centred post-2015 development agenda, the summit should engage all relevant stakeholders;

9. *Invites* the Inter-Parliamentary Union, including through the Fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, to develop and submit a contribution to the summit;

10. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to organize, with early preparations and in the most effective and efficient way, and to preside over two days of informal interactive hearings, before June 2015, with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, major groups and the private sector, and requests the President of the Assembly to prepare a summary of the hearings, to be made available prior to the summit;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to use the existing United Nations trust funds established prior to the high-level meetings of 2005 and 2010, as appropriate, to enhance the participation of representatives of non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations and major groups from developing countries in the hearings and the summit itself, and encourages Member States and others, as appropriate, to provide further support to the trust funds;

12. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in order to enhance the active participation in the summit of representatives from developing countries, particularly from the least developed countries, to make efforts to use, in an efficient and effective manner, the limited available resources for that purpose;

13. *Reaffirms* the decision to consider at its sixty-ninth session the need to convene a meeting of the high-

level political forum under the auspices of the General Assembly in 2015 in relation to the launch of the post-2015 development agenda, with a view to reaching agreement by the end of 2014 in this regard;

14. *Requests* the President of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly to hold open, inclusive and transparent intergovernmental consultations with all Member States through the appointment, by the end of September 2014, of two co-facilitators, one from a developing country and one from a developed country, with a view to reaching agreement on all remaining issues relating to the intergovernmental negotiation process, including the summit;

15. *Requests* that the organization and modalities for the intergovernmental negotiations be established by the end of December 2014, keeping in mind the need for effective coordination and coherence in order to build synergies with other relevant United Nations intergovernmental processes.

#### ANNEX I

##### **Organization of the plenary meetings and establishment of the list of speakers for the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda**

1. The summit will consist of plenary meetings as follows:

25 September 2015, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.

26 September 2015, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.

27 September 2015, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

2. The podium in the General Assembly Hall will have three seats to accommodate the two Co-Chairs and the Secretary-General.

3. The list of speakers for the plenary meetings of the summit will be established in accordance with the rules of procedure and established practices of the General Assembly. The initial list of speakers for the summit will be available in May 2015.

4. At the opening plenary meeting, on Friday morning, 25 September 2015, the initial speakers will include the two Co-Chairs, the Secretary-General and the head of the delegation of the host country of the Organization.

5. A representative from civil society of appropriate stature and level will be included in the list of speakers as keynote speaker after the opening statements.

6. Representatives of the intergovernmental groupings, the President of the World Bank Group, the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, the Director-General of the World Trade Organization and the heads of the United Nations system may also be included in the list of speakers for the plenary meetings of the summit.

7. Without prejudice to other organizations which have observer status in the General Assembly, a representative of each of the following may also be included in the list of speakers for the plenary meetings of the summit:

League of Arab States

African Union

Organization of Islamic Cooperation

World Conference of Speakers of Parliament of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

8. In order to accommodate all speakers at the summit, statements will be limited to five minutes, on the

understanding that this will not preclude the distribution of more extensive texts.

9. Other than for Member States, the list of speakers for the plenary meetings of the summit will be closed on Monday, 3 August 2015.

10. The arrangements set out above shall in no way create a precedent.

## ANNEX II

### Organization of the interactive dialogues for the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda

1. The summit will hold six interactive dialogues, as follows:

25 September 2015, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

26 September 2015, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

27 September 2015, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

2. The six dialogues will be co-chaired by two Heads of State or Government.

3. The interactive dialogues will be guided by the rules of procedure and established practices of the General Assembly.

4. The chairs of the interactive dialogues will be from the African States, the Asia-Pacific States, the Eastern European States, the Latin American and Caribbean States and the Western European and other States. The chairs will be selected by their respective regional groups in consultation with the President of the General Assembly.

5. Following the selection of chairs of the dialogues, participation will be determined on a first-come, first-served basis, ensuring that equitable geographical distribution is maintained, allowing for some flexibility. Member States are encouraged to be represented at the interactive dialogues at the level of Head of State or Government.

6. While retaining the intergovernmental character of the interactive dialogues, the United Nations system and other stakeholders, in accordance with annex IV below, are also invited to participate in the interactive dialogues. Arrangements will be made through existing and appropriate United Nations information and communications technology platforms to facilitate in this regard.

7. The themes for the interactive dialogues will be decided through the intergovernmental negotiation process for the summit.

8. The list of participants in each interactive dialogue will be made available prior to the meeting.

9. Summaries of the deliberations of the interactive dialogues will be presented orally by the chairs of the interactive dialogues or their representatives during the concluding plenary meeting of the United Nations summit.

## ANNEX III

### Organization of the informal interactive hearings

1. The President of the General Assembly will preside over two days of informal interactive hearings to be held before June 2015. The hearings will include participation from non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations, the private sector and major groups and an exchange of views with Member States.

2. The hearings will be attended by representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations, the private sector, major groups and Member States and observers.

3. The President of the General Assembly will determine the list of invited participants and the exact format and organization of the hearings, in consultation with Member States and representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations, the private sector and major groups.

4. The themes of the hearings will be informed by the synthesis report of the Secretary-General and decided on by the President of the General Assembly in consultation with Member States.

## ANNEX IV

### Other participants

1. Representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, including those on the roster through the list of the Commission on Sustainable Development, representatives of non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations that have participated in previous United Nations summits and non-governmental organizations and other major groups that were accredited to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in 1992 and in 2002, respectively, will be invited to participate in the plenary meetings and interactive dialogues of the summit.

2. The President of the General Assembly will draw up a list of other relevant representatives of relevant non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions and the private sector who may participate in the plenary meetings and interactive dialogue of the summit, taking into account the principle of transparency and the principle of equitable geographical representation, and submit the proposed list to Member States for their consideration on a non-objection basis.

3. Representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations, major groups and the private sector, one from each grouping, selected through a transparent and inclusive process during the informal interactive hearings, may also be included in the list of speakers for the plenary meetings of the summit, in consultation with the President of the General Assembly.

4. In addition, interested non-governmental organizations that are not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and private sector representatives may apply to the General Assembly following the procedures detailed in this annex. The complete list of applicants will be circulated to Member States.

5. The arrangements set out above shall in no way create a precedent.

### Entrepreneurship for development

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/202 [YUN 2012, p. 820], the Secretary-General submitted an August report [A/69/320] on entrepreneurship for development, prepared by UNCTAD, with inputs

from DESA, UN agencies and relevant stakeholders. The report assessed progress in the implementation of resolution 67/202, taking stock of policy trends, good practices and lessons learned. It was structured around six priority areas: formulating a national entrepreneurship strategy; optimizing the regulatory environment; enhancing entrepreneurship education and skills development; facilitating technology exchange and innovation; improving access to finance; and promoting awareness and networking. The report highlighted efforts to develop entrepreneurship policy through a bottom-up approach, building on inputs from subnational regions, cities and all types of communities, as well as on institution-building and the participation of a broad spectrum of stakeholders in policymaking. The report proposed measures to leverage national and regional policy networks in order to scale up and transfer their experiences, and encouraged the adoption of common impact indicators. It also suggested measures to enhance access to finance and to develop entrepreneurship promotion among women, youth and minorities—offering guidance on how to establish national centres of excellence in entrepreneurship, and encouraging networking and the sharing of good practices.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/69/468 & Corr.1], adopted **resolution 69/210** by recorded vote (133-30-7) [agenda item 19].

#### Entrepreneurship for development

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 67/202 of 21 December 2012,

*Reaffirming* the commitments to development and poverty eradication emanating from the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the commitments made at the 2005 World Summit, the 2010 high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and other major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions,

*Recalling* the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, held on 25 September 2013, and its outcome document,

*Recalling also* the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled “The future we want”, and recognizing the potential of entrepreneurship to contribute to specific sustainable development objectives,

*Reaffirming* the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development in its holistic approach and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,

*Recalling* the Istanbul Declaration and Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,

*Recalling also* the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the agreed conclusions adopted by the

Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-eighth session, and stressing that women, particularly in developing countries, are important drivers of entrepreneurship,

*Taking note* of the ministerial declaration adopted at the high-level segment 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”,

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

*Recognizing* the important contribution entrepreneurship can make to sustainable development by creating jobs and driving economic growth and innovation, improving social conditions and contributing to addressing environmental challenges, and stressing the importance of giving appropriate consideration to the promotion of entrepreneurship in the context of the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda,

*Recognizing also* the importance of developing comprehensive and comparable data to monitor progress in the implementation of entrepreneurship policies,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Emphasizes* the need for improved regulatory environments and policy initiatives that promote entrepreneurship and foster small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as microenterprises, and stresses the positive role entrepreneurship plays in driving job creation and expanding opportunities for all, including for women and youth;
3. *Encourages* Governments to take a coordinated and inclusive approach to promoting entrepreneurship involving all stakeholders, while noting initiatives of civil society, academia and the private sector as important entrepreneurship drivers, and to develop policies, taking into account national priorities and circumstances, that address the legal, social and regulatory barriers to equal, effective economic participation, and stresses the need for a comprehensive approach to entrepreneurship that includes support from development partners in the areas of technology transfer on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, finance and capacity-building, with a focus on education and skills development;
4. *Acknowledges* the important role trade plays in enhancing the capacity of enterprises, and reaffirms in this regard the critical role that a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system can play in stimulating economic growth and development worldwide, thereby benefiting all countries at all stages of development as they advance towards sustainable development;
5. *Emphasizes* that partnerships with the private sector play an important role in promoting entrepreneurship, generating employment and investment, increasing revenue potential, developing new technologies and innovative business models and enabling high, sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth while protecting workers' rights;



6. *Invites* Member States to strengthen the capacity of national financial institutions to reach out to those who have no access to banking, insurance and other financial services, and encourages them to adopt regulatory and supervisory frameworks that facilitate the safe and sound provision of services to such populations, increase access to information and promote financial literacy, particularly for women;

7. *Encourages* Member States to expand alternative sources of financing and diversify the retail financial service system to include non-traditional providers of financial services, such as microcredit and microfinance, stresses the value of a sound regulatory framework in this regard, and also encourages the provision of incentives to microfinance institutions that meet national standards for delivering sound financial services to the poor, with a particular emphasis on women;

8. *Emphasizes* the important role of national efforts aimed at bringing informal workers into the formal economy and integrating them into national social security systems;

9. *Recognizes* that technological improvement, particularly through the diffusion of technology, can provide new opportunities for businesses to improve their competitiveness, and in this regard encourages Member States to increase cooperation in support of technology exchange and transfer, innovation and capacity-building programmes for promoting entrepreneurship;

10. *Also recognizes* the value of teaching entrepreneurial skills at all levels of education, ensuring the full and equal participation of women and girls, and encourages entrepreneurship education through skills development, capacity-building, training programmes and business incubators;

11. *Acknowledges* the role of entrepreneurship in enabling youth to turn their creativity, energy and ideas into business opportunities by helping to facilitate their entry into the labour market;

12. *Encourages* the United Nations system, in cooperation with Member States, to identify indicators that can be used to evaluate the success of entrepreneurship policies;

13. *Recognizes* that democratic political institutions, transparent and accountable public and private entities, effective anti-corruption measures and responsible corporate governance are key conditions for making market economies and enterprises more responsive to the values and long-term goals of society;

14. *Acknowledges* that the private sector can contribute to the achievement of sustainable development and support national regulatory and policy frameworks that enable business and industry to advance sustainable development initiatives, taking into account the importance of responsible business practices and corporate social responsibility;

15. *Encourages* the international community to support the efforts of countries in promoting entrepreneurship and fostering the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as microenterprises, taking into account the challenges and opportunities of increased trade liberalization;

16. *Encourages* countries to consider establishing or strengthening national centres of excellence in entrepreneurship and similar bodies, and also encourages

cooperation and networking and the sharing of best practices between them;

17. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to further recognize and integrate entrepreneurship in its various forms into their policies, programmes and reports and to support national efforts in this regard, as appropriate;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report on the progress made in implementing the present resolution, highlighting indicators based on existing work, as well as identifying best practices and possible measures that could be taken at all levels in support of entrepreneurship.

#### RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/210:

*In favour:* Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Zambia.

*Against:* Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Chad, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Morocco, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela, Yemen.

*Abstaining:* China, Ecuador, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, South Africa, Sri Lanka.

#### Industrial development cooperation

In an August note [A/69/331], the Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/225 [YUN 2012, p. 822]. The report reviewed the most recent trends in industrial development, including manufacturing value added and growth in countries, the universal demand for innovative industrial policies and strategies and the relationship of industrialization with the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. It also analysed the importance of industrial development in the context of

the emerging development agenda beyond 2015; and described the role and recent contributions of UNIDO, as the UN specialized agency mandated to promote inclusive and sustainable industrial development and international industrial cooperation.

UNIDO statistics demonstrated that the global industrial landscape had changed dramatically, with industrial growth figures in the fourth quarter of 2013 indicating a boost in the manufacturing sector of emerging industrial countries, and more sustained growth among industrialized markets. Industry in developing countries had undergone major structural changes, which were expected to significantly benefit the industrial performance of those countries in terms of productivity and competitiveness in the medium and longer term. According to UNIDO, major efforts would be needed to ensure the increased inclusiveness of the benefits of industrialization and to achieve a more equitable distribution of those benefits among women and men and across all groups, countries and regions. In considering the development agenda beyond 2015, Member States should consider adopting a goal on inclusive and sustainable industrialization, resilient infrastructure and innovation. Technology transfer and knowledge networking should be supported as key means of achieving inclusive and sustainable industrialization. The Green Industry Platform, the Accelerated Agribusiness and Agro-Industry Development Initiative, the Institute for Capacity Development, the Networks for Prosperity initiative and the global forums on inclusive and sustainable industrial development could serve as valuable models in that regard. UNIDO should strengthen its work in advancing industry-related innovation networks and systems; support Governments in addressing key determinants for future industrial growth and prosperity; and further strengthen all four enablers: technical cooperation, analytical and policy advisory services, normative activities and convening for knowledge transfer and networking.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/69/472/Add.2], adopted **resolution 69/235** without vote [agenda item 23 (b)].

#### Industrial development cooperation

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 49/108 of 19 December 1994, 51/170 of 16 December 1996, 53/177 of 15 December 1998, 55/187 of 20 December 2000, 57/243 of 20 December 2002, 59/249 of 22 December 2004, 61/215 of 20 December 2006, 63/231 of 19 December 2008, 65/175 of 20 December 2010 and 67/225 of 21 December 2012,

*Recalling also* the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, and its outcome document, enti-

tled “The future we want”, and the outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals,

*Recalling further* the fifteenth session of the General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, held in Lima from 2 to 6 December 2013, and the Lima Declaration: towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development, in which the General Conference notably reaffirmed the unique mandate of the Organization and laid the foundation for its upcoming work to support Member States in achieving inclusive and sustainable industrial development,

*Recalling* the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in Apia from 1 to 4 September 2014, and its outcome document, entitled “SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway”,

*Recalling also* its resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014, in which it welcomed the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group contained in the report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly,

*Noting* that inclusive and sustainable industrial development can effectively contribute to the achievement of a transformative agenda, integrating, in a balanced manner, the three dimensions of sustainable development,

*Acknowledging* the industrial development reports prepared by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, which examine structural change and policies in relation to industrial development to improve the contribution of industry to sustainable development, social inclusion, decent work, productivity growth and energy efficiency,

*Emphasizing* the essential role of inclusive and sustainable industrial development as part of a comprehensive strategy of structural economic transformation in eradicating poverty and supporting sustained economic growth, and thus in contributing to achieving sustainable development in developing countries, including the most vulnerable countries, and in particular African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, while recognizing the specific challenges facing middle-income countries, and emphasizing further that countries in situations of conflict also need special attention,

*Recognizing* the diversity of ways to achieve inclusive and sustainable industrial development and, in this connection, that each country has the primary responsibility for its own development and the right to determine its own development paths and appropriate strategies,

*Stressing* the importance of international industrial cooperation to promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and to address major challenges and issues such as poverty eradication, growth and decent jobs, resource efficiency, energy, pollution and climate change, shifting demographics, knowledge networking and the narrowing of growing inequalities,

*Underscoring* the importance of using science, technology and innovation to build and maintain resilient industrial infrastructure and achieve inclusive and sustainable industrial development,

*Recognizing* the role of the business community, including the private sector, in enhancing the dynamic process of the development of the industrial sector, underlining the importance of the benefits of foreign direct investment in that process, and recognizing also in this regard that an enabling national environment is vital for mobilizing national resources, increasing productivity, reducing capital flight, encouraging the private sector and making effective use of international investment and assistance and that efforts to create such an environment should be supported by the international community,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the adoption, on 2 December 2013, of the Lima Declaration: towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development;

3. *Encourages* giving due consideration to the issue of inclusive and sustainable industrial development in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

4. *Recognizes* the unique mandate of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, within the United Nations system, to promote inclusive and sustainable industrial development and the critical contribution made by that Organization;

5. *Also recognizes* that the mobilization of national and international resources and an enabling national and international environment are key drivers for sustainable development;

6. *Underlines* the potential benefits, for developing countries, of stepping up their efforts to finance their own development by improving domestic resource mobilization and promoting financing, spurred by a robust and vibrant industrial sector, in order to achieve a long-term impact through local, national and regional ownership;

7. *Emphasizes* that each country must take the primary responsibility for its own industrial development, that national ownership and leadership are indispensable in the development process and that the role of national policies, resources and development strategies cannot be overemphasized;

8. *Recognizes* that ensuring inclusive and sustainable industrial development requires consistent industrial policies and institutional frameworks that are duly supported by the necessary investment in industrial infrastructure, innovation, environmental technologies and skills development;

9. *Also recognizes* that inclusive and sustainable industrial development can play a crucial role in the realization of other major development objectives since, through inclusive and sustainable approaches to industrial development, countries can achieve self-sustaining economic and social development in an environmentally sustainable framework;

10. *Emphasizes* the need to promote, in the context of industrial development, gender equality and the empowerment of women at all levels, including in decision-making processes;

11. *Also emphasizes* that national efforts should be supported by development partners, as appropriate, and need to be complemented by a rules-based multilateral trading system that facilitates trade and provides opportunities for developing countries to broaden their competitive export base by strengthening their capacities and facilitating the

structural transformation and diversification of their economies, which can help to promote economic growth and development;

12. *Further emphasizes* the need for the international community and the private sector, as appropriate, to contribute to creating an enabling environment for sustainable industrial development;

13. *Underlines* the importance of strengthening existing and forging new partnerships and networks at the global, regional and subregional levels, including South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, and the full involvement of all relevant stakeholders towards achieving inclusive and sustainable industrial development;

14. *Stresses* that the lack of a dynamic industrial and manufacturing sector is one of the factors that can lead to a widening of the income gap between rich and poor and to the erosion of social protection systems;

15. *Encourages* the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to promote dialogue and multi-stakeholder partnerships in order to monitor and foster progress towards the achievement of inclusive and sustainable industrial development;

16. *Notes with appreciation* the role of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in leveraging the private sector as a partner for development, including through the organization of global dialogues;

17. *Notes* the continuing cooperation of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization with the entities of the United Nations system, including the specialized agencies, funds and programmes;

18. *Underscores* the continuing work of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization as a global forum to disseminate knowledge and provide advice on industrial policies and strategies, successful industrialization experiences and best practices;

19. *Recognizes* the key role of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in promoting sustainable industrial development and industrial innovation and mainstreaming science and technology into national productive systems;

20. *Encourages* regional, subregional and interregional cooperation as a platform for international industrial cooperation aiming to promote investments and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, to disseminate good policies and practices as well as to foster decent work, including for youth and women;

21. *Calls upon* the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to continue to play an active role in implementing the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development and General Assembly resolution 64/289 of 2 July 2010 on system-wide coherence;

22. *Also calls upon* the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to continue, upon request, to support developing countries in achieving enhanced levels of inclusive and sustainable industrial development, notably in building productive capacities in an inclusive manner, building trade capacities in industries and building institutional capacities for making industries sustainable through cleaner production technologies and resource efficiency methodologies;

23. *Encourages* the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to continue to assist developing

countries, including the least developed countries and African countries, in participating in productive activities through, inter alia, the development of sustainable agro-industry and agribusiness that improves food security, eradicates hunger and is economically viable, the promotion of South-South cooperation and the transfer, diffusion and adoption of technology on mutually agreed terms, in building their engagement in international trade through the development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and in supporting, as appropriate, the meeting of international product and process standards and the integration of women and youth into the development process;

24. *Also encourages* the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to support developing countries, upon request, in achieving sustainable development, including through support for policies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and to promote environmentally sound and sustainable production, including through programmes on cleaner production, industrial water management, industrial energy efficiency and the utilization of efficient, modern and affordable forms of energy for productive use, especially in rural areas, and through continued cooperation with United Nations organizations and other organizations in order to support the achievement of multilateral environmental agreements and promote global goals on access to modern forms of energy, on energy efficiency and on renewable energy;

25. *Further encourages* the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to strengthen its role in assisting developing countries to create and disseminate knowledge by, inter alia, making use of its global network of centres for investment and technology promotion, resource-efficient and cleaner production and South-South cooperation, as well as through its Institute for Capacity Development and its Networks for Prosperity initiative;

26. *Reiterates* the importance of promoting the creation and development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises as a strategy for achieving industrial development, economic dynamism and poverty and hunger eradication, including through the mobilization of resources and measures to foster sustainable and inclusive development, and in this regard recalls International Labour Organization recommendation No. 189 concerning job creation in small and medium-sized enterprises;

27. *Acknowledges* the importance of reporting on corporate sustainability, encourages companies, where appropriate, especially publicly listed and large companies, to consider integrating sustainability information into their reporting cycle, and encourages industry, interested Governments and relevant stakeholders, with the support of the United Nations system, as appropriate, to develop models for best practices and to facilitate action for the integration of sustainability reporting, taking into account experiences gained from already existing frameworks and paying particular attention to the needs of developing countries, including for capacity-building;

28. *Welcomes* the ongoing support of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization for the New Partnership for Africa's Development, the African (Accelerated) Agribusiness and Agro-industries Development Initiative, the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa and other programmes of the African Union aimed at further strengthening the industrialization process in Africa;

29. *Stresses* the importance of the activities of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, within its mandate, to support the efforts of middle-income countries to eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities and achieve sustainable development;

30. *Encourages* the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to continue to develop its effectiveness in each of its four capacities of technical cooperation, research and analysis, normative assistance and global forum activities, with the aim of enhancing the quality of the services it provides to developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

31. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

## Science, technology and innovation for development

### Commission on Science and Technology for Development

At its seventeenth session (Geneva, 12–16 May) [E/2014/31-E/CN.16/2014/4], the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) reviewed the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) [YUN 2003, p. 857 & YUN 2005, p. 933] at the regional and international levels. It also considered two priority themes: science, technology and innovation for the post-2015 development agenda; and information and communications technologies (ICTs) for inclusive social and economic development. The session included a segment on science, technology and innovation policy, and two ministerial round tables on the review of progress made in the implementation of WSIS outcomes; and on science, technology and innovation for the post-2015 development agenda.

CSTD had before it the Secretary-General's report on the priority themes and on progress made in implementing and following up to the outcomes of WSIS at the regional and international levels (see below); and reports by UNCTAD on the meeting of the Commission's intersessional panel on science, technology and innovation for the post-2015 development agenda (Washington, D.C., 2–4 December 2013) [E/CN.16/2014/CRP.1]; the secretariat of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) on the ongoing implementation of the recommendations of the working group on improvements to the Forum [E/CN.16/2014/CRP.2] (see p. 977); and the Chair of the working group to examine the mandate of WSIS regarding enhanced cooperation as contained in the Tunis Agenda [E/CN.16/2014/CRP.3] (see below).

The Secretary-General, in his report [E/CN.16/2014/2 & Corr.1] on the priority theme of CSTD related to science, technology and innovation for the post-2015 development agenda, provided an overview of how

science, technology and innovation (STI) could address key challenges for the post-2015 development agenda. He examined the two subthemes: a decade of CSTD contributions to the MDGs; and science, technology and innovation prospects for the post-2015 development agenda. The report highlighted the work of CSTD during the past decade towards achieving the MDGs and provided a forward-looking insight into the next set of developmental challenges and policy implications surrounding STI applications beyond 2015.

The Secretary-General encouraged CSTD to help articulate the important role of STI in the post-2015 development agenda by acting as a forum for horizon scanning and strategic planning on ways and means to use STI to tackle future challenges, and where practitioners and experts could exchange best practices in using STI for inclusive and sustainable development; and increase communication and cooperation among countries on STI and sustainable development. He also invited Member States, especially developing countries, to consider promoting local innovation capabilities to meet basic needs; encourage local entrepreneurship, eliminating any roadblocks to its operation; and promote the linkages between STI and sustainable development.

The Commission recommended two draft resolutions and one draft decision for adoption by the Economic and Social Council. It adopted and brought to the attention of the Council a decision by which it took note of the report of the Secretary-General on science, technology and innovation for the post-2015 development agenda.

On 16 July (**decision 2014/237**), the Council took note of the Commission's report on its seventeenth session and approved the provisional agenda and documentation for its eighteenth (2015) session.

On 17 November, by **resolution 2014/35** (see p. 1156), the General Assembly endorsed the establishment of an intergovernmental committee on technology for development in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

#### ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 16 July [meeting 46], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development [E/2014/31], adopted **resolution 2014/28** without vote [agenda item 16 (b)].

#### Science, technology and innovation for development

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recognizing* the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development as the United Nations torch-bearer for science, technology and innovation for development,

*Recognizing also* the critical role and contribution of science, technology and innovation in building and main-

taining national competitiveness in the global economy, addressing global challenges and realizing sustainable development,

*Recognizing further* the seminal role that information and communications technologies play in promoting and empowering science, technology and innovation for development,

*Recalling* the 2005 World Summit Outcome, in which it was recognized that science and technology, including information and communications technologies, are vital for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, and reaffirming the commitments contained therein,

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

*Recognizing* that the General Assembly, in its resolution 68/220 of 20 December 2013 on science, technology and innovation for development, encouraged the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue to undertake science, technology and innovation policy reviews, with a view to assisting developing countries and countries with economies in transition in identifying the measures that are needed to integrate science, technology and innovation policies into their national development strategies,

*Recalling* Economic and Social Council decision 2011/235 of 26 July 2011 providing for the extension, until 2015, of the mandate of the Gender Advisory Board of the Commission,

*Recognizing* the instrumental role of science, technology and innovation in the achievement of a number of Millennium Development Goals, and highlighting the role of science, technology and innovation as a cross-cutting theme of the post-2015 development agenda to continue to address global challenges,

*Welcoming* the work of the Commission on its two current priority themes, "Science, technology and innovation for the post-2015 development agenda" and "Information and communications technologies for inclusive social and economic development",

*Noting* the need for new approaches that embed science, technology and innovation policies and capacity-building as crucial components of national development plans, inter alia through collaboration between sectoral ministries, science, technology and innovation and information and communications technology agencies and a range of regulatory bodies,

*Recognizing* the increased regional integration efforts throughout the world and the associated regional dimension of science, technology and innovation issues,

*Noting* the significant achievements and continuing potential contribution of information and communications technologies to human welfare, economic prosperity and employment,

*Noting also* that the success of using technology and innovation policies at the national level is facilitated by, among other things, the creation of policy environments that enable education and research institutions, businesses and industry to innovate, invest and transform science, technology and innovation into employment and economic growth incorporating all interrelated elements, including knowledge transfer,

*Recommends* the following for consideration by national Governments, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development:

(a) Governments, individually and collectively, are encouraged to take into account the findings of the Commission and to consider taking the following actions:

- (i) To closely link science, technology, innovation and strategies of sustainable development by prominently featuring capacity-building in information and communications technologies and science, technology and innovation in national development planning;
- (ii) To promote local innovation capabilities for inclusive and sustainable economic development by bringing together local scientific, vocational and engineering knowledge, including through collaboration with and among national programmes;
- (iii) To undertake systemic research on new trends in information and communications technologies and science, technology and innovation and their impact on development, particularly in the context of the post-2015 development agenda;
- (iv) To promote information and communications technologies through a capability-based approach that rests on the foundations of learning, innovation and competence-building systems, rather than a needs-based approach, and by establishing a conducive environment that attracts and supports private investment, innovation and entrepreneurship;
- (v) To seek international cooperation opportunities in information and communications technologies, particularly in terms of identifying good practices, for example in e-learning—especially massive open online courses—e-government, e-science, e-health, management of electronic waste and disaster resilience, through existing and new cooperation platforms;
- (vi) To address the ongoing and persistent gender gap in the fields of science, technology and innovation as a whole, and science, technology, engineering and mathematics education in particular, by encouraging mentoring and supporting other efforts to attract and retain women and girls in those fields;
- (vii) To support the policies and activities of developing countries in the fields of science and technology through North-South and South-South cooperation by encouraging financial and technical assistance, capacity-building and technical training programmes or courses;
- (b) The Commission is encouraged:
  - (i) To continue its role as a torch-bearer for science, technology and innovation and to provide high-level advice to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on relevant science, technology, engineering and innovation issues;
  - (ii) To help to articulate the important role of information and communications technologies and science, technology, innovation and engineering in the post-2015 development agenda by acting as a forum for horizon scanning and strategic planning, providing foresight about critical trends in science, technology and innovation in areas such as food security, the management of water and other natural resources, urbanization, advanced manufacturing and related education and voca-

tional needs, and drawing attention to emerging and disruptive technologies that can potentially affect the achievement of that agenda;

- (iii) To raise awareness among policymakers about the process of innovation and to identify particular opportunities for developing countries to benefit from such innovation, with special attention being placed on new trends in innovation that can offer novel possibilities for developing countries;
- (iv) To discuss and explore innovative financing models as a means to attract new sources of investment capital for science, technology, engineering and innovation-based solutions, in particular smaller scale, off-grid renewable energy technologies, to address pressing challenges and needs for sustainable development, in collaboration with other organizations where appropriate;
- (v) To provide a forum for sharing best practices, successful local innovation models, case studies and experiences on the use of science, technology and engineering for innovation, in symbiotic relationship with information and communications technologies, for inclusive and sustainable development;
- (vi) To play an active role in creating awareness of the potential contribution of science, technology and innovation to the post-2015 development agenda through substantive inputs to relevant processes and bodies of the United Nations and to share findings and good practices on science, technology and innovation among Member States and beyond;
- (vii) To provide a forum for sharing good practices and experiences to identify and recommend ways and appropriate measures to promote innovation, research and development, creation of new knowledge and transfer of technology, as well as information and communications technologies for capacity-building in science, technology and engineering education, research and entrepreneurship for the benefit of developing countries and, in this context, to explore ways to expand cooperation among all countries, with particular attention to addressing pollution problems in order to protect the environment and share available resources;
- (viii) To highlight the importance of the work of the Commission related to the implementation of and follow-up to the areas of information and communications technologies and science, technology and innovation related to the Millennium Development Goals and in the post-2015 development agenda, with the Chair of the Commission to report at appropriate reviews and meetings of the Economic and Social Council, including those related to the Millennium Development Goals review and the post-2015 development agenda;
- (ix) To discuss the establishment of a systematic approach for strategy development related to science, technology and engineering for innovation;
- (c) The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is encouraged:
  - (i) To seek funding proactively for the expansion of science, technology and innovation policy reviews, with an emphasis on the critical role of information and communications technologies in empower-

ing science, technology and innovation and engineering capacity-building and utilization, and the implementation of the recommendations on those reviews, as appropriate, in close cooperation with United Nations agencies and international organizations;

- (ii) To plan for periodic updates on progress made in countries for which science, technology and innovation policy reviews have been performed and to invite those countries to report to the Commission on progress made, lessons learned and challenges encountered in implementing recommendations.

### Information and communications technologies

During 2014, the United Nations continued to consider how the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications technologies (ICTs) could be made available to all, in keeping with recommendations contained in the ministerial declaration adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its 2000 high-level segment [YUN 2000, p. 799], the Millennium Declaration [ibid., p. 49] and the Geneva Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action [YUN 2003, p. 857] adopted at the first phase of WSIS [ibid.], and the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda adopted at its second phase [YUN 2005, p. 933].

#### *Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development*

The Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development, at its thirteenth session (Rome, Italy, 16–18 September), hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, focused on the theme “Mainstreaming communication for development in policies and programmes: enabling social inclusion to support food and nutrition security, resilient rural livelihoods and family farming”. The recommendations from the meeting were presented to the General Assembly.

On 19 December (**decision 69/541**), the General Assembly took note of the note [A/69/217] by the Secretary-General on communication for development programmes in the UN system, transmitting the report of the UNESCO Director-General on the implementation of Assembly resolution 50/130 [YUN 1995, p. 1438] regarding communication for development programmes in the UN system.

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

**Reports of Secretary-General.** In response to Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/46 [YUN 2006, p. 1001], the Secretary-General, in March [A/69/65-E/2014/12], reported on progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the WSIS outcomes at the regional and international levels.

According to the report, the economic and social impacts of ICTs were widespread and profound. Governments were increasingly recognizing the importance and potential of ICTs in their national social and economic objectives by developing national ICT policies. The fastest growth in Internet usage was in developing countries where people were increasingly becoming “Internet creators”, with around 150,000 Internet-related start-ups on an annual basis. Nevertheless, sizeable gaps in ICT development remained between and within regions. Internet governance was an important aspect of the ICT ecosystem, where all stakeholders had important roles to play. A multi-stakeholder model marked a good first step towards integrating the different kinds of structures—formal and informal, corporate and technologist, and hierarchical and decentralized—that Internet governance comprised. The United Nations and international agencies had begun preparations towards the WSIS+10 review to be undertaken by the General Assembly in 2015, alongside discussions on the post-2015 developmental agenda. To that end, a substantive session on WSIS+10 was to be organized by CSTD during its seventeenth session (see above). According to the Secretary-General, it was essential for the WSIS+10 review to inform the post-2015 development agenda on the complex interlinkages between ICTs and sustainable development, ensuring rights-based development, creating jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities, improving education, empowering women and other key benefits.

In his report [E/CN.16/2014/3] on the priority theme of CSTD regarding ICTs for inclusive social and economic development, the Secretary-General summarized developments in the ICT sector and ICT for development (ICT4D) since WSIS, identifying significant trends, experiences and challenges; and considered the implications of five emerging trends in ICTs for development, namely, datafication, big-data analysis, cloud computing, the Internet of things, and smart systems.

The report stated that the digital divide was changing its nature, from ICT access to how ICTs could be used to promote development outcomes. The constant emergence of new applications was creating a rift between those with the ability to benefit from them, and those who were excluded. Although ICTs provided huge benefits to human welfare, only part of their potential had been realized, and spaces of exclusion remained. Moreover, there was unevenness in the production and dissemination of information on the Internet, and zones of exclusion in the world were being amplified.

The Secretary-General recommended that CSTD play an active role in creating awareness on the potential contribution of ICTs to the post-2015 development agenda through substantive inputs to relevant UN processes and bodies, and continue to share findings and best practices on ICTs among member States

and beyond. Member States, especially developing countries, were encouraged to consider conducting systematic research on new ICT trends and their impact on development; promoting ICTs through a capability-based approach rather than a needs-based approach; and seeking international cooperation opportunities in ICTs.

**CSTD working group report.** The CSTD working group to examine the WSIS mandate regarding enhanced cooperation, as contained in the Tunis Agenda, was established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/195 [YUN 2012, p. 832]. The working group held four meetings (May 2013–May 2014) [E/CN.16/2014/CRP.3], during which it examined the mandate of enhanced cooperation through seeking, compiling and reviewing inputs from all Member States and other stakeholders, as stipulated by the Assembly. Even though consensus emerged in some issues, there was significant divergence of views in others. The complexity and the political sensitivity of the topic did not allow the group to finalize a set of recommendations on fully operationalizing enhanced cooperation.

**WSIS high-level event.** The WSIS+10 high-level event, organized by the International Telecommunication Union, UNESCO, UNCTAD and the United Nations Development Programme as an extended version of the WSIS Forum, was held in Geneva from 10 to 13 June. Participants reviewed progress made in the implementation of the WSIS outcomes under the mandates of participating agencies and took stock of achievements in the preceding 10 years based on reports of WSIS stakeholders. The event resulted in the WSIS+10 Statement on the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes and WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS Beyond 2015.

#### ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 16 July [meeting 46], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development [E/2014/31], adopted **resolution 2014/27** without vote [agenda item 16 (b)].

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

*The Economic and Social Council,*

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

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

*Recalling further* its resolution 2013/9 of 22 July 2013 on the assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 68/198 of 20 December 2013 on information and communications technologies for development,

*Taking note with satisfaction* of the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional and international levels,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Information and communications technologies for inclusive social and economic development”,

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

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

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

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

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

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

5. *Highlights* the urgent need for the incorporation of the recommendations contained in the outcome documents of the World Summit in the revised guidelines for United Nations country teams on preparing the common country assessments and United Nations Development Assistance



Frameworks, including the addition of an information and communications technology for development component;

6. *Recalls* General Assembly resolution 60/252 of 27 March 2006, in which the Assembly requested the Council to oversee the system-wide follow-up to the Geneva and Tunis outcomes of the World Summit and, to that end, requested the Council, at its substantive session of 2006, to review the mandate, agenda and composition of the Commission, including considering strengthening the Commission, taking into account the multi-stakeholder approach;

7. *Notes with satisfaction* the holding in Geneva, from 13 to 17 May 2013, of the World Summit on the Information Society Forum 2013, organized by the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Development Programme, as a multi-stakeholder platform for the coordination of implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit and to facilitate the implementation of the World Summit action lines;

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

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

10. *Notes with great concern* that many developing countries lack affordable access to information and communications technologies and that, for the majority of the poor, the promise of science and technology, including information and communications technologies, remains unfulfilled, and emphasizes the need to effectively harness technology, including information and communications technologies, to bridge the digital divide;

11. *Recognizes* that information and communications technologies present new opportunities and challenges and that there is a pressing need to address the major impediments that developing countries face in accessing the new technologies, such as an appropriate enabling environment, sufficient resources, infrastructure, education, capacity, investment and connectivity, as well as issues related to technology ownership, standards and flows, and in this regard calls upon all stakeholders to provide adequate resources, enhanced capacity-building and transfer of technology and knowledge to developing countries, particularly the least developed countries;

12. *Also recognizes* the rapid growth in broadband access networks, especially in developed countries, and

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

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

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

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

16. *Takes note* of the global report of the Broadband Commission for Digital Development on the state of broadband in 2013 and universalizing broadband, and notes with interest the continuous efforts of the Broadband Commission in promoting high-level advocacy for the establishment of an enabling environment for broadband connectivity, in particular through national broadband plans and public-private partnerships for ensuring that the development agenda challenges are met with appropriate impact and in conjunction with all stakeholders;

17. *Notes* that, while a solid foundation for capacity-building in information and communications technology has been laid in many areas with regard to building the information society, there is still a need for continuing efforts to address the ongoing challenges, especially for developing countries and the least developed countries, and draws attention to the positive impact of broadened capacity development that involves institutions, organizations and entities dealing with information and communications technologies and Internet governance issues;

18. *Recognizes* the need to focus on capacity development policies and sustainable support to further enhance the impact of activities and initiatives at the national and local levels aimed at providing advice, services and support with a view to building an inclusive, people-centred and development-oriented information society;

19. *Notes* that topics continue to emerge, such as e-environment applications and the contribution of information and communications technologies to early warning, mitigating climate change, social networking, virtualization and cloud computing and services, mobile Internet and mobile-based services, the protection of online privacy and the empowerment and protection, especially against cyberexploitation and abuse, of vulnerable groups of society, in particular children and young people;

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

#### **Internet governance**

21. *Reaffirms* that the outcomes of the World Summit related to Internet governance, namely, the process towards enhanced cooperation and the convening of the Internet Governance Forum, are to be pursued by the Secretary-General through two distinct processes, and recognizes that the two processes may be complementary;

22. *Also reaffirms* paragraphs 34 to 37 and 67 to 72 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society;

#### **Enhanced cooperation**

23. *Recognizes* the importance of enhanced cooperation in the future, to enable Governments, on an equal footing, to carry out their roles and responsibilities in international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, but not in the day-to-day technical and operational matters that do not impact on international public policy issues;

24. *Also recognizes* that the process towards enhanced cooperation, to be started by the Secretary-General, involving all relevant organizations by the end of the first quarter of 2006, will involve all stakeholders in their respective roles, will proceed as quickly as possible, consistent with legal process, and will be responsive to innovation; that relevant organizations should commence a process towards enhanced cooperation involving all stakeholders, proceeding as quickly as possible and being responsive to innovation; and that the same relevant organizations shall be requested to provide annual performance reports;

25. *Recalls* that, in its resolution 67/195 of 21 December 2012, the General Assembly invited the Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to establish a working group on enhanced cooperation to examine the mandate of the World Summit regarding enhanced cooperation as contained in the Tunis Agenda, through seeking, compiling and reviewing inputs from all Member States and all other stakeholders, and to make recommendations on how to fully implement that mandate, and requested the working group to report to the Commission at its seventeenth session, in 2014, as an input to the overall review of the outcomes of the World Summit;

26. *Also recalls* that, in its resolution 67/195, the General Assembly requested the Chair of the Commission to ensure that the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation had balanced representation between Governments, from the five regional groups of the Commission, and invitees from all other stakeholders, namely, the private sector, civil society, technical and academic communities and intergovernmental and international organizations, drawn equally from developing and developed countries;

27. *Notes* that the Working Group held four meetings between May 2013 and May 2014, at which it examined the

mandate of enhanced cooperation by issuing a questionnaire and seeking, compiling and reviewing inputs from all Member States and other stakeholders for the purpose of developing draft recommendations, as stipulated by the General Assembly in its resolution 67/195;

28. *Takes note* of the report of the Chair of the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation of the Commission, and expresses its gratitude to the Chair and members and other stakeholders that submitted inputs and contributed to the work of the Working Group;

29. *Notes* that consensus emerged on certain issues while a wide divergence of opinions persisted in a number of other issues that prevented the Working Group from making recommendations on how to fully implement enhanced cooperation as contained in the Tunis Agenda, as stipulated in the mandate given to the Working Group by the General Assembly in resolution 67/195;

30. *Also notes* the work initiated by the Working Group to review the identified international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, list where there are existing international mechanisms addressing these issues, identify the status of mechanisms, if any, and whether they are addressing the issues, and attempt to identify gaps in order to ascertain what type of recommendations may be required;

31. *Recommends* that this work may be further continued by the secretariat of the Commission with a view to the submission of findings to the Commission at its intersessional meeting for further discussion and their integration into the 10-year review of the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit, to be prepared for consideration by the Commission at its eighteenth session;

#### **Internet Governance Forum**

32. *Recognizes* the importance of the Internet Governance Forum and its mandate as a forum for multi-stakeholder dialogue on various matters, as reflected in paragraph 72 of the Tunis Agenda, including discussion on public policy issues related to key elements of Internet governance;

33. *Also recognizes* that national and regional Internet Governance Forum initiatives have emerged, taking place in all regions and addressing Internet governance issues of relevance and priority to the organizing country or region;

34. *Recalls* General Assembly resolution 67/195, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit, as part of his annual reporting on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit, information on the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum of the Commission, in particular on enhancing participation of developing countries;

35. *Notes* the holding of the eighth meeting of the Internet Governance Forum, hosted by the Government of Indonesia in Nusa Dua, Bali, from 22 to 25 October 2013, under the main theme, entitled “Building Bridges—Enhancing Multi-stakeholder Cooperation for Growth and Sustainable Development”;

36. *Welcomes* the holding of the ninth meeting of the Internet Governance Forum, to be hosted by the Government of Turkey and scheduled to take place in Istanbul from 2 to 5 September 2014, and notes that, in

the preparatory process for the meeting, recommendations from the report of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum have been taken into consideration;

37. *Also welcomes* the offer of Brazil to host the tenth meeting of the Internet Governance Forum in 2015 and, subject to the decision by the General Assembly on the renewal of the mandate of the Internet Governance Forum, further welcomes the offer of Mexico to host a meeting in 2016;

### **The road ahead**

38. *Notes* the substantive discussion on the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit during the seventeenth session of the Commission, held from 12 to 16 May 2014, and the ongoing work of the Commission of collecting input from all facilitators and stakeholders as part of the preparations for its 10-year review report on the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit, and requests the Commission to report thereon, through the Council, to the General Assembly as it makes an overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit in 2015;

39. *Also notes* the holding of the event, coordinated by the International Telecommunication Union, entitled “wsis+10 High Level Event” as an extended version of the World Summit on the Information Society Forum in Geneva, from 10 to 13 June 2014;

40. *Further notes* the holding of a 10-year review event of the World Summit entitled “Towards knowledge societies for peace and sustainable development”, coordinated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in Paris, from 25 to 27 February 2013, and the final statement of the event;

41. *Notes* the holding of the fifth World Telecommunication/Information and Communication Technology Policy Forum on international Internet-related public policy matters in Geneva, from 14 to 16 May 2013, and its output opinions;

42. *Also notes* the holding of the BYND 2015 Global Youth Summit, organized by the International Telecommunication Union and hosted by the Government of Costa Rica in San José, from 9 to 11 September 2013, and its declaration;

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

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

45. *Urges* all stakeholders to prioritize the development of innovative approaches that will stimulate the provision of universal access to affordable broadband infrastructure for developing countries and the use of relevant broadband

services in order to ensure the development of an inclusive, development-oriented and people-centred information society, and to minimize the digital divide;

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

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

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

(a) Notes with appreciation the work of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technology for Development;

(b) Also notes the holding, in Mexico City, from 4 to 6 December 2013, of the eleventh World Telecommunication/Information and Communications Technology Indicators Symposium;

(c) Encourages Member States to collect relevant data at the national level on information and communications technologies, so as to be able to respond satisfactorily to surveys such as the World Summit targets survey, to share information about country case studies and to collaborate with other countries in capacity-building exchange programmes;

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

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

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

50. *Recalls* paragraph 111 of the Tunis Agenda, in which the General Assembly was requested to make an overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit in 2015, and paragraph 106, according to which the World Summit implementation and follow-up should be an integral part of the United Nations integrated follow-up to major United Nations conferences;

51. *Also recalls* paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 67/195, in which the Assembly reaffirmed its role in the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit, to be held by the end of 2015, as recognized in paragraph 111 of the Tunis Agenda;

52. *Further recalls* paragraph 22 of General Assembly resolution 68/198, in which the Assembly decided to final-

ize the modalities of the overall review as early as possible, and invited the President of the Assembly to appoint two co-facilitators to convene open intergovernmental consultations for that purpose;

53. *Recommends* that, consistent with the World Summit process and subject to the decision by the General Assembly, an appropriate preparatory process be launched, drawing from the experience of the two phases of the World Summit;

54. *Notes* the role of the Commission, set forth in Council resolution 2006/46, in assisting the Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up, in particular the review and assessment of progress made in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit;

55. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report on the stocktaking of activities related to the World Summit, which serves as one of the valuable tools for assisting with the follow-up, beyond the conclusion of the Tunis phase of the World Summit;

56. *Reiterates* the importance of sharing best practices at the global level, and, while recognizing excellence in the implementation of the projects and initiatives that further the goals of the World Summit, encourages all stakeholders to nominate their projects for the annual World Summit project prizes as an integral part of the World Summit stocktaking process, while taking note of the report on the World Summit success stories;

57. *Requests* the Commission to invite further inputs from Member States and all facilitators and stakeholders and to organize, during its eighteenth session, in 2015, a substantive discussion on the 10-year review report on the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit, and to report thereon, through the Council, to the General Assembly as it makes an overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit in 2015;

58. *Recalls further* paragraph 48 of Council resolution 2013/9, in which the Council requested the Commission to submit, after its eighteenth session, the results of its 10-year review of progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit, through the Council, to the General Assembly as it makes an overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit in 2015;

59. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission, on a yearly basis, a report on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the present resolution as well as in the other Council resolutions on the assessment of the quantitative and qualitative progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit;

60. *Emphasizes* the importance of promoting an inclusive information society, with particular attention to bridging the digital and broadband divide, taking into account considerations of gender and culture, as well as youth and other underrepresented groups;

61. *Also emphasizes* the importance of information and communications technologies for development, and considers that it should be reflected as appropriate in the post-2015 development agenda.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 31 July [meeting 105], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 68/302** [draft: A/68/L.54] without vote [agenda item 16].

#### Modalities for the overall review by the General Assembly of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society at its first phase, held in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003, and endorsed by the General Assembly, and the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society adopted by the Summit at its second phase, held in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005, and endorsed by the Assembly,

*Recalling also* paragraph 111 of the Tunis Agenda, in which the General Assembly was requested to undertake the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society in 2015, and in this regard reaffirming the centrality of the General Assembly to this process,

*Recognizing* that the overall review will be undertaken on the basis of and with full respect for the Tunis Agenda,

*Recalling* its resolution 68/198 of 20 December 2013 and, in particular, paragraph 22 thereof in which it decided to finalize the modalities for the overall review by the General Assembly of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, to be held in 2015 in accordance with paragraph 111 of the Tunis Agenda,

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

*Reaffirming* that science, innovation and technology, including information and communications technologies, are essential enablers and drivers for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the promotion of the economic, social and environmental components of sustainable development and should be given due consideration in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda,

*Noting* that the Commission on Science and Technology for Development should submit after its eighteenth session, by June 2015, its report on the 10-year review of progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly,

1. *Decides* that the overall review will be concluded by a two-day high-level meeting of the General Assembly, to be preceded by an intergovernmental preparatory process that also takes into account inputs from all relevant stakeholders of the World Summit on the Information Society;

2. *Also decides* to convene the high-level meeting of the General Assembly, at the highest possible level, in December 2015, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly;

3. *Further decides* that the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States, will invite, in addition to all Member and observer States and observ-

ers, representatives of all relevant stakeholders of the World Summit on the Information Society to speak during the high-level meeting, and in this regard also encourages the participation of those stakeholders in the meeting;

4. *Decides* that the overall review by the General Assembly shall take stock of the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and address potential information and communications technology gaps and areas for continued focus, as well as addressing challenges, including bridging the digital divide, and harnessing information and communications technologies for development;

5. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly, in June 2015, to appoint two co-facilitators to lead, on the basis of, among other relevant inputs, submissions from Member and observer States and observers and the final report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, an intergovernmental negotiation process, which will include preparatory meetings, resulting in an intergovernmentally agreed outcome document, for adoption at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly;

6. *Decides* that during the preparatory process for the high-level meeting, the President of the General Assembly will organize informal interactive consultations with all relevant stakeholders of the World Summit on the Information Society, in order to collect their inputs for the intergovernmental negotiation process.

### Internet Governance Forum

The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) held its ninth meeting (Istanbul, Turkey, 2–5 September) on the theme “Connecting Continents for Enhanced Multistakeholder Internet Governance”. The forum was attended by more than 2,000 representatives of governments, intergovernmental organizations, the private sector, civil society and the technical community. Topics of discussion ranged from the digital divide to digital trust, from management of critical Internet resources to network neutrality, and from cybersecurity to jurisdictional issues, among others. Participants also discussed the continuing value of IGF, the overall evolution of the multi-stakeholder Internet governance arrangements, and the 2015 ten-year review of the WSIS outcome. The IGF Open Consultations and Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group Meeting was held in December.

### Broadband Commission for Digital Development

In 2014, the Broadband Commission for Digital Development [YUN 2011, p. 818] published its report *The State of Broadband 2014: Broadband for All*, which sought to raise awareness and enhance understanding of the importance of broadband networks, services, and applications to guide international broadband policy discussions and support the expansion of broadband where it was most needed. The report, which included a special focus on the importance of integrating ICT skills into education to ensure that the next generation was able to compete in the

digital economy, was structured around four main themes: policies and policy leadership; education and ICT skills; business models; and broadband for development.

According to the report, countries should use appropriate policies and strategies to make broadband available, affordable and accessible, as a vital development enabler for building inclusive, resilient and sustainable modern-day knowledge societies. It was increasingly essential to integrate everyone into modern life, with access to digital education services, culture, entertainment, healthcare, financial and commercial services. To achieve that, the public and private sectors had to work together in close partnership. The report showed that broadband for all could transform policy, social and development outcomes around the world; and stated that the world was on the cusp of fulfilling the potential of high-speed broadband.

The Commission recommended that governments—to help empower their populations and to cope with the challenges of capacity—should initiate and prioritize their National Broadband Planning process and invest in ICTs and digital e-skills as an engine of economic growth and development, taking into account both supply and demand. As regulation was not keeping pace with the changes in the market, governments and policy-makers had to review and update their regulatory frameworks. It was also crucial to evaluate the alternatives to be implemented in order to encourage private sector investment. A “one size fits all” policy to broadband roll-out could have negative implications for the ICT market. A detailed cost-benefit approach should be adopted when evaluating different public policies and regulatory options to promote the growth and development of broadband in different countries around the world.

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/69/465], adopted **resolution 69/204** without vote [agenda item 16].

### Information and communications technologies for development

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 56/183 of 21 December 2001, 57/238 of 20 December 2002, 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 59/220 of 22 December 2004, 60/252 of 27 March 2006, 62/182 of 19 December 2007, 63/202 of 19 December 2008, 64/187 of 21 December 2009, 65/141 of 20 December 2010, 66/184 of 22 December 2011, 67/195 of 21 December 2012 and 68/198 of 20 December 2013,

*Recalling also* Economic and Social Council resolutions 2006/46 of 28 July 2006, 2008/3 of 18 July 2008, 2009/7 of 24 July 2009, 2010/2 of 19 July 2010, 2011/16 of 26 July 2011 and 2012/5 of 24 July 2012, and taking

note of Council resolution 2013/9 of 22 July 2013 on the assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society,

*Recalling further* its resolution 68/302 of 31 July 2014 on the modalities for the overall review by the General Assembly of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, and welcoming the high-level meeting of the General Assembly for the overall review to be held in December 2015,

*Recalling* the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society at its first phase, held in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003, and endorsed by the General Assembly, and the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society adopted by the Summit at its second phase, held in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005, and endorsed by the Assembly,

*Recalling also* the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

*Recalling further* the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document, as well as the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, convened by the President of the General Assembly on 25 September 2013, and its outcome document,

*Recalling* the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, and its outcome document, entitled “The future we want”, and General Assembly resolution 68/310 of 15 September 2014,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels,

*Noting* the holding of the World Summit on the Information Society Forum, jointly organized annually by the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Development Programme, the first 10-year review event of the World Summit on the Information Society, coordinated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in Paris from 25 to 27 February 2013, and the high-level event on the 10-year review of the World Summit coordinated by the International Telecommunication Union in Geneva from 10 to 13 June 2014,

*Noting also* the hosting by the Republic of Korea of the Information and Communication Technologies Ministerial Meeting, held in Busan on 19 October 2014,

*Noting further* the Connect 2020 Agenda for Global Telecommunication/ICT Development, adopted by the 2014 Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union, held in Busan from 20 October to 7 November 2014,

*Noting* the establishment of the Broadband Commission for Digital Development, at the invitation of the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union and the Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, taking note of the “Broadband targets for 2015”, which sets targets for making broadband policy universal and for increasing affordability

and uptake in support of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, taking note also of the report of the Broadband Commission entitled *The State of Broadband 2014: Broadband for All*, which provides a country-by-country evaluation of those targets and the state of broadband deployment worldwide, as well as the report of the Broadband Commission Working Group on Broadband and Gender entitled “Doubling digital opportunities: enhancing the inclusion of women and girls in the information society”, which identifies a digital gender gap of approximately 200 million fewer women online than men, noting that without further action to increase access to broadband for women and girls, this digital gender gap could grow to 350 million by 2015, and taking note of the report of the Broadband Commission Task Force on Sustainable Development entitled “Means of transformation: harnessing broadband for the post-2015 development agenda”,

*Noting also* the holding of the seventeenth session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in Geneva from 12 to 16 May 2014,

*Recognizing* the need for respect for national sovereignty and applicable international law in the consideration of information and communications technologies for development, noting the importance of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in the use of information and communications technologies, and reaffirming that the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online, including the right to privacy, as set out in its resolution entitled “The right to privacy in the digital age”,

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

*Acknowledging* the positive trends in the global connectivity and affordability of information and communications technologies, in particular the steady increase in Internet access to one third of the world’s population, the rapid diffusion of mobile telephony and mobile Internet, the increased availability of multilingual content and the advent of many information and communications technologies services and applications, which offer great potential for the development of the information society,

*Noting* that progress and many innovations in the field of information and communications technologies, such as mobile Internet, social networking and cloud computing, contribute to a dynamic landscape that requires that all stakeholders continuously adapt to such innovations,

*Recognizing* ongoing efforts by relevant international and regional organizations and other stakeholders to conceptualize and articulate the impact of information and communications technologies on development, and encouraging the international community and relevant stakeholders to support the efforts of developing countries in harnessing the benefits of information and communications technologies for achieving the eradication of poverty as an overarching objective for sustainable development,

*Stressing*, however, that, in spite of recent progress, an important and growing digital divide between countries remains in terms of the availability, affordability and use of information and communications technologies and access to broadband, and stressing also the need to close the digital divide, including with regard to such issues as Internet affordability, and to ensure that the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications technologies, are available to all,

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

*Recalling* its resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014, in which it welcomed the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group contained in the report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly,

*Noting* the references to information and communications technologies contained in the proposal of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals,

*Expressing deep concern* about the ongoing adverse impacts, particularly on development, of the world financial and economic crisis, recognizing evidence of an uneven and fragile recovery, cognizant that the global economy, notwithstanding significant efforts that helped to contain tail risks, improve financial market conditions and sustain recovery, still remains in a challenging phase, with downside risks, including high volatility in global markets, high unemployment, particularly among youth, indebtedness in some countries and widespread fiscal strains that pose challenges for global economic recovery and reflect the need for additional progress towards sustaining and rebalancing global demand, and stressing the need for continuing efforts to address systemic fragilities and imbalances and to reform and strengthen the international financial system while implementing the reforms agreed upon to date,

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

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

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

*Recognizing also* that the number of Internet users is growing and that the digital divide is also changing in character from one based on whether access is available to one based on the quality of access, information and skills that users can obtain and the value they can derive from the Internet, and recognizing further in this regard that

there is a need to prioritize the use of information and communications technologies through innovative approaches, including multi-stakeholder approaches, within national and regional development strategies,

*Recognizing further* the fact that information and communications technologies are critical enablers of economic development and investment, with consequential benefits for employment and social welfare, and that the increasing pervasiveness of information and communications technologies within society has had profound impacts on the ways in which Governments deliver services, businesses relate to consumers and citizens participate in public and private life,

*Recognizing* the immense potential that information and communications technologies have in promoting the transfer of technologies in a wide spectrum of socioeconomic activity,

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

*Conscious* of the challenges faced by States, in particular developing countries, in combating the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes, including by terrorists, and emphasizing the need to reinforce technical assistance and capacity-building activities, upon their request, for the prevention, prosecution and punishment of such use in accordance with international law,

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

*Noting* the hosting by Brazil of the NETmundial Global Multistakeholder Meeting on the Future of Internet Governance in São Paulo on 23 and 24 April 2014,

*Acknowledging* the need to continue to improve the existing Internet governance framework,

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

*Recognizing also* the importance of the Internet Governance Forum and its mandate as a forum for multi-stakeholder dialogue on various matters, as reflected in paragraph 72 of the Tunis Agenda, including discussion on public policy issues related to key elements of Internet governance, while acknowledging the calls for improvements in its working methods, and taking into account the recommendations of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development,

*Reiterating* the significance of the process towards enhanced cooperation in full consistency with the mandate provided in the Tunis Agenda, and noting the ongoing work of the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development,

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

processes, and recognizing that the two processes may be complementary,

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

*Welcoming* the efforts undertaken by the host countries in organizing the meetings of the Internet Governance Forum, held in Athens in 2006, in Rio de Janeiro in 2007, in Hyderabad, India, in 2008, in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, in 2009, in Vilnius in 2010, in Nairobi in 2011, in Baku in 2012, in Bali, Indonesia, in 2013 and in Istanbul, Turkey, in 2014,

*Taking note* of the successful meetings of the Internet Governance Forum held to date, and welcoming with appreciation the offer of Brazil to host the next meeting of the Forum in 2015,

*Recognizing* the unique role, challenges and opportunities for youth in a deeply interconnected world, and taking note of the celebration of the "BYND 2015" Global Youth Summit, hosted by the Government of Costa Rica and organized by the International Telecommunication Union together with other organizations of the United Nations system as well as partners from government, industry, the media and civil society from 9 to 11 September 2013, as a contribution to the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda in the field of information and communications technologies for development,

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

*Welcoming*, in view of the existing gaps in information and communications technologies infrastructure, the Connect Africa summits held in Kigali in 2007 and in Cairo in 2008, the Connect the Commonwealth of Independent States summit held in Minsk in 2009, the meeting of Commonwealth countries held in Colombo in 2010, the first and second Digital Agenda Assemblies of the European Union, held in 2011 and 2012, the Connect Americas summit held in Panama City in 2012, the Connect Arab States summit held in Doha in 2012, the Connect Asia-Pacific summit and the International Telecommunication Union Telecom World 2013 held in Bangkok in 2013, the Transform Africa summit held in Kigali in 2013, the various national and regional Internet governance forums that are held annually around the globe, the Mesoamerican Information Highway, the Trans-Eurasian Information Superhighway, the Asia Broadband and Universal Service Leaders Forum to be held in India in October 2015, the events of the Alliance for Affordable Internet and the many other regional initiatives aimed at mobilizing human, financial and technical resources to accelerate the implementation of the connectivity goals of the World Summit on the Information Society,

1. *Recognizes* that information and communications technologies have the potential to provide new solutions to development challenges, particularly in the context of globalization, and can foster sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, competitiveness, access to information and knowledge, poverty eradication and social inclusion that will help to expedite the integration of all countries, especially developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, into the global economy;

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

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

4. *Acknowledges* the importance of investing in closing the gender gap in information and communications technologies by making them affordable and accessible, including in regard to access to broadband as a tool for the empowerment of women and girls and the exercise of their full range of human rights, access to information, access to markets, networking and increased opportunities;

5. *Notes with concern* the gender gap in women's access to the Internet, and in this regard affirms the need to empower women and girls, in particular in developing countries, through the use of information and communications technologies in education, health care, agriculture, clean drinking water, energy and public services, to enable women entrepreneurs to access services, grow businesses and develop new innovations, to strengthen women's ability to access high-value-added jobs and to increase women's economic, civil and political participation;

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

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

8. *Further stresses* the important role played by private sector, civil society and technical communities in information and communications technologies;

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

10. *Also recognizes* that information and communications technologies present new opportunities and challenges and that there is a pressing need to address the major impediments that developing countries face in accessing the new technologies, such as insufficient resources,



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

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

12. *Encourages* strengthened and continuing cooperation between and among stakeholders to ensure the effective implementation of the outcomes of the Geneva and Tunis phases of the World Summit on the Information Society through, inter alia, the promotion of national, regional and international multi-stakeholder partnerships, including public-private partnerships, and the promotion of national and regional multi-stakeholder thematic platforms in a joint effort and dialogue with developing countries, including the least developed countries, development partners and actors in the information and communications technologies sector;

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

14. *Notes* the progress that has been made by United Nations entities in cooperation with national Governments, regional commissions and other stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, in the implementation of the action lines contained in the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society, and encourages the use of those action lines for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

15. *Also notes* the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional level, facilitated by the regional commissions, as observed in the report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional and international levels;

16. *Encourages* the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, within their respective mandates and strategic plans, to contribute to the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, and emphasizes the importance of allocating adequate resources in this regard;

17. *Welcomes with appreciation* the offer made by Mexico to host the meeting of the Internet Governance Forum in 2016, and recommends that the extension of the mandate of the Forum be considered in the context of the overall review in 2015;

18. *Recognizes* the urgent need to harness the potential of knowledge and technology, and in this regard encourages the United Nations development system to continue its efforts to promote the use of information

and communications technologies as a critical enabler of development and a catalyst for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

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

20. *Takes note* of the report of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to submit, as part of his annual reporting on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, information on the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Working Group, particularly on enhancing the participation of developing countries;

21. *Stresses* the need for the enhanced participation of all developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, in all meetings of the Internet Governance Forum, and in this regard invites Member States, as well as other stakeholders, to support the participation of Governments and all other stakeholders from developing countries in the Forum itself, as well as in the preparatory meetings;

22. *Recognizes* the need to harness the potential of information and communications technologies as critical enablers of sustainable development and to overcome the digital divide, and stresses that capacity-building for the productive use of such technologies should be given due consideration in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session, through the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the Economic and Social Council, a report on the status of the implementation of and follow-up to the present resolution, as part of his annual reporting on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels;

24. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled "Information and communications technologies for development".

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## Development policy and public administration

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### Committee for Development Policy

The Committee for Development Policy (CDP), at its sixteenth session (New York, 24–28 March) [E/2014/33], addressed the following themes: global governance and global rules for development in the post-2015 era as its contribution to the discussions on the 2014 annual ministerial review; review and fine-tuning of the criteria for the identification of least developed countries (LDCs); monitoring of countries that were graduating

and had graduated from the list of LDCs; and the role of country groupings for development.

The Committee considered how intergovernmental cooperation could be reformed and strengthened to better manage the increasing interdependence among countries, reduce large inequalities among and within countries, and contribute to the fulfilment of internationally recognized social and environmental standards, while preserving the necessary policy space for government action at the country level. It proposed four main principles in that regard: common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities; subsidiarity; inclusiveness, transparency and accountability; and coherence. In preparation for the 2015 triennial review of the list of LDCs, the Committee re-examined the criteria for the identification of LDCs and their application procedures, and introduced refinements, particularly strengthening the measurement of health-related structural impediments. Thresholds for inclusion in and graduation from the category would be set at absolute rather than relative levels, focusing on the notion of development progress in overcoming absolute structural impediments.

CDP reviewed the development progress of Maldives, which had graduated from the LDC category in 2011 [YUN 2011, p. 826], and emphasized the importance of phasing out specific support measures to LDCs and the active participation by graduated countries in monitoring the implementation of their transition strategy. The Committee acknowledged the sustained development progress of Samoa, which graduated in 2014 (see p. 986), and welcomed the country's efforts towards the preparation of its transition strategy. It also noted the continued development progress of Equatorial Guinea and Vanuatu, both scheduled to graduate in 2017, and recommended that both countries initiate the preparation of their smooth transition strategy. CDP stressed the urgency of further attention to human development in Equatorial Guinea.

In its analysis of country classifications, CDP noted the proliferation of country groupings based on weak analytical foundations with low levels of effectiveness of interventions, but affirmed that among existing groupings, the LDC category had particularly strong analytical foundations and broad legitimacy. Development partners should consider allocating aid and other measures of support based on sound and objective socioeconomic criteria, preferably without creating new groups of countries. The Committee suggested that that could be achieved by considering the LDC indicators as part of the criteria used by development partners in determining the allocation of assistance. Recommendations were made in support of future discussions related to the creation of new categories.

For its seventeenth session, CDP would follow up on its work on the post-2015 UN development agenda.

## ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 13 June [meeting 24], the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 2014/9** [draft: E/2014/L.15] without vote [agenda item 16 (a)].

### Report of the Committee for Development Policy

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* General Assembly resolutions 59/209 of 20 December 2004 and 67/221 of 21 December 2012, both on a smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from the category of least developed countries, and resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011, by which the Assembly endorsed the Istanbul Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution 68/18 of 4 December 2013, by which the Assembly took note of the endorsement by the Economic and Social Council of the recommendation of the Committee for Development Policy that Equatorial Guinea and Vanuatu be graduated from the least developed country category,

*Recalling further* that graduation becomes effective three years after the date on which the General Assembly takes note of the recommendation of the Committee and that, during the three-year period, the country remains on the list of least developed countries and maintains the advantages associated with membership on that list,

*Reiterating its conviction* that no country graduating from the least developed country category should have its development progress disrupted or reversed,

*Recalling* its resolutions 1998/46 of 31 July 1998, 2007/34 of 27 July 2007 and 2013/20 of 24 July 2013,

*Bearing in mind* the importance of maintaining stability in the criteria and in the application of the established procedures for inclusion in and graduation from the least developed country category so as to ensure the credibility of the process and, consequently, of the category of least developed countries, while giving due consideration to the specific challenges and vulnerabilities and the development needs of countries potentially graduating or being considered for graduation from the least developed country category,

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

2. *Notes* the work done by the Committee on global governance and global rules for development in the post-2015 era, in accordance with the theme of the annual ministerial review of the Economic and Social Council in 2014, on the role of country groupings for development cooperation, on the monitoring of countries graduating and graduated from the least developed country category and on the review and refining of the criteria for classifying countries as least developed in preparation for the triennial review of the least developed country category in 2015;

3. *Requests* the Committee, at its seventeenth session, to examine and make recommendations on the annual theme of the programme of work of the Council and the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2015;

4. *Welcomes* the decision of the General Assembly to take note of the endorsement by the Council of the recommendation of the Committee that Equatorial Guinea and Vanuatu be graduated from the least developed country category;

5. *Requests* the Committee to monitor the development progress of countries graduating and graduated from the category of least developed countries, in accordance with paragraph 21 of General Assembly resolution 67/221;

6. *Reiterates* the invitation by the General Assembly for Equatorial Guinea and Vanuatu to prepare their national transition strategy with the support of the United Nations system and in cooperation with their bilateral and multilateral development and trading partners and to report annually to the Committee on the preparation of that strategy;

7. *Acknowledges with satisfaction* the contributions made by the Committee to various aspects of the programme of work of the Council, reiterates its invitation for increased interactions between the Council and the Committee, and encourages the Chair and, as necessary, other members of the Committee to continue this practice, as specified in Council resolution 2011/20 of 27 July 2011, within existing resources and as appropriate.

### Public administration

The Committee of Experts on Public Administration, at its thirteenth session (New York, 7–11 April) [E/2014/44], considered the main theme of transforming public administration for sustainable development, and three sub-themes: strengthening national and local capacities for sustainable development management; promoting leadership, innovation and risk management for sustainable development; and invigorating the professionalism and morale of the public service. For its consideration, the Committee had before it notes of the Secretariat on the sub-themes [E/C.16/2014/2, E/C.16/2014/3, E/C.16/2014/4].

The Committee concurred with the view that governance, the rule of law and capable institutions were both outcomes and enablers, advancing all three pillars of sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda. It stressed that the means of implementation was integral in achieving sustainable development, and any future sustainable development goals should be translated and adapted at the national level in accordance with the conditions and priorities of each country. The Committee recommended that coordination of capacity-building activities at both international and national levels be strengthened; and capacity-building be monitored, benchmarked, audited and evaluated against declared objectives. In providing assistance to countries in developing public administration and public service capacities, particular attention should be paid to the special needs of LDCs, countries emerging from conflict, those in transition, and those with limited resources. The Committee further recommended that the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly and conferences of the parties to UN conventions should include in all resolutions and requests for commitments from parties specifications as to the means of implementation, including identification of the means and sources of finance, requisite transfer of technology, such as information and communications technology

and capacity-building needs, including in the areas of leadership, innovation and risk management.

For its review of the UN Programme in Public Administration and Finance, the Committee had before it a report [E/C.16/2014/5] of the Secretariat on the topic. The Committee discussed its role in addressing public administration and capacity-building and the need for authoritative and insightful advice on governance and public administration, through building strategic partnerships and networks and emphasizing a regional approach to capacity development. There was a need to reach out to Member States to improve awareness of the programme and, with regard to online training services, to pursue partnerships with prestigious universities and public administration institutes. The Committee emphasized the importance of standardization of practices, promotion of partnerships, information and communications technology and e-libraries. It noted that key international issues pertaining to information and communications technology—including big data, open government, cybersecurity, the data revolution, and the growing gap between policy and implementation—would increase in importance, and governments needed to advance policies to facilitate handling those challenges at the global, national and subnational levels as a matter of priority. The Committee recommended that the Secretariat raise awareness of how the implementation of e-government practices could help in the achievement of national goals and internationally agreed development goals; pursue a public accountability agenda; provide advisory services on a range of participatory mechanisms; and continue its work on the United Nations Public Administration Country Studies.

### ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 18 November [meeting 53], the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 2014/38** [draft: E/2014/L.30/Rev.1] without vote [agenda item 16 (g)].

#### Report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its thirteenth session

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 2012/28 of 27 July 2012, 2013/23 of 24 July 2013 and other related resolutions on public administration and development,

*Referring* to General Assembly resolution 66/209 of 22 December 2011 on promoting the efficiency, accountability, effectiveness and transparency of public administration by strengthening supreme audit institutions,

*Recalling* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled “The future we want”, and recognizing that effective governance at the local, subnational, national, regional and global levels representing the voices and interests of all is critical for advancing sustainable development,

*Referring* to General Assembly resolution 68/1 of 20 September 2013 on the review of the implementation

of Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council, in the annex to which it is stipulated that the Council shall invite, inter alia, its subsidiary bodies to contribute, as appropriate, to its work in keeping with the agreed annual theme,

*Recognizing* the support being provided by the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance to countries on public governance and public administration,

*Recognizing also* the key role of information and communications technologies and e-government in providing effective platforms to facilitate public service delivery, citizen engagement, knowledge-sharing, transfer of innovative solutions and capacity-building for sustainable development among countries,

*Underlining* the centrality of transparent, accountable, efficient, effective, citizen-oriented, professional and ethical public administration to the successful implementation of national development policies and the management of development programmes,

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

*Noting* the acceleration of the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda and the relevance of the work of the Committee in this respect,

1. *Requests* the Committee of Experts on Public Administration, at its fourteenth and fifteenth sessions, in 2015 and 2016, to consider emerging issues in public administration that are related to the annual main themes and the integration segments of the Economic and Social Council and to support the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda, as appropriate;

2. *Invites* the Committee to enhance its interaction and coordination with the Council and other subsidiary bodies of the Council with a view to addressing cross-cutting areas through the established working methods of the Council;

3. *Takes note* of the conclusions of the Committee on transforming public administration for sustainable development, contained in the report on its thirteenth session;

4. *Underlines* that service to citizens should be at the centre of transforming public administration, requiring appropriate institutional frameworks, professional and ethical leadership, a focus on diversity and gender equality, harnessing information and communications technologies, innovation, responsibility and public sector capacity-building;

5. *Notes* that political and administrative leadership at all levels is essential to inspire, engage and motivate public servants to achieve the highest quality of performance;

6. *Reaffirms* that the foundations of sustainable development at all levels include transparent, participatory and accountable governance and a professional, ethical, responsive and information and communications technology-enabled public administration;

7. *Also reaffirms* paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 65/1 of 22 September 2010, in which the Assembly reaffirmed that good governance and the rule of law at the national and international levels were essential for sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty

and hunger, and encourages Member States to continue to support capacity development in public governance and institution-building at all levels, with a view to accelerating progress towards the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

8. *Further reaffirms* the need for the effective use of information and communications technologies in designing, planning, delivering and monitoring public services that are responsive to international, national and local needs and priorities;

9. *Stresses* that the governance challenges of sustainable development are characterized by growing complexity and dynamism in decision-making and implementation mechanisms, and encourages Member States and international organizations undertaking reforms aimed at promoting an innovative environment, agile approaches and a culture of collaboration, openness and knowledge-sharing to use scientific, technological and analytical tools as instruments to support innovative decision-making and implementation in the public sector and reduce risks to public accountability and trust arising from the governance complexity of public administration;

10. *Reiterates* the need to coordinate capacity-building activities at the international, national and local levels, and encourages all stakeholders to renew efforts to raise awareness and expand the application of the principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the Accra Agenda for Action and the outcome document of the Fourth High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, held in Busan, Republic of Korea, from 29 November to 1 December 2011, to focus on effective and efficient aid and resource allocation;

11. *Acknowledges* the indispensable role of supreme audit institutions and related capacity-building in holding Governments accountable for the use of resources and their performance in achieving development goals, and calls upon Member States to give due consideration to the importance of the independence of supreme audit institutions in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

12. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue:

(a) To address gaps in research, monitoring, capacity development and implementation in governance and public administration and, in particular, to further develop its public administration country studies, to continue to address emerging issues in public administration through the United Nations E-Government Survey and the World Public Sector Report and to continue to increase the scope and depth of its capacity-development activities with the aim of better assisting countries, according to their specific contexts and needs, in strengthening participatory governance and citizen engagement, managing development, public accountability and anti-corruption activities, including promoting the independence and strengthening the capacity of supreme audit institutions, strengthening institutional and human capacities in public administration, advancing public-private partnerships, promoting innovation and knowledge transfer in the public sector and better defining e-government strategies and policies;

(b) To promote transformative government and innovation in public governance so as to achieve sustainable development by further promoting advocacy and the transfer of knowledge on good governance at the global, regional, national and local levels, through, inter alia, United Nations Public Service Day, the United Nations

Public Service Awards and the United Nations Public Administration Network;

(c) To further strengthen governance and public administration capacity development through the provision of advisory services, training, including self-assessment and awareness-raising, and technical projects, such as the United Nations Project Office on Governance;

(d) To assist in the implementation of the Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society at its first phase, held in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003, and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society adopted by the Summit at its second phase, held in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005, on issues related to e-government, e-participation, mobile government, open government data and the use of information and communications technologies;

(e) To continue its work on supporting the reconstruction of governance and public administration in post-conflict countries for quick recovery and sustainable development.

Also on the same date, by **decision 2014/257**, the Council decided that the fourteenth session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration would be held at United Nations Headquarters from 20 to 24 April 2015, and approved the provisional agenda for that session.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/69/470], adopted **resolution 69/228** without vote [agenda item 21].

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

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 66/209 of 22 December 2011,

*Recalling also* the commitments in the outcomes of all the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental fields, including the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development entitled “The future we want”, the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, the outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,

*Recalling further* its resolutions 67/290 of 9 July 2013 and 68/1 of 20 September 2013, and the ministerial

declaration of the high-level segment of the 2014 session of the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development,

*Recalling* its resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014, in which it welcomed the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group contained in the report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6. *Acknowledges* the role of supreme audit institutions in fostering governmental accountability for the use of resources and their performance in achieving development goals;

7. *Takes note* of the interest of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions in the post-2015 development agenda;

8. *Encourages* Member States to give due consideration to the independence and capacity-building of supreme audit institutions in a manner consistent with their national institutional structures, as well as to the improvement of public accounting systems in accordance with

national development plans in the context of the post-2015 development agenda;

9. *Stresses* the importance of continuing international cooperation to support developing countries in capacity-building, knowledge and best practices related to public accounting and auditing.

## Groups of countries in special situations

On 19 September, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee [A/69/471], included in the agenda of its sixty-ninth session the item entitled “Groups of countries in special situations”, covering the follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries [YUN 2011, p. 827], and the follow-up to the second United Nations conference on landlocked developing countries (see p. 1012). The Assembly allocated the agenda item to the Second Committee.

On 19 December (**decision 69/547**), the General Assembly took note of the report of the Second Committee on the subject.

### Least developed countries

The special problems of the officially designated least developed countries (LDCs) were considered in several UN forums in 2014, particularly through implementation of the Istanbul Declaration and Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action) [YUN 2011, p. 828], adopted at the Fourth United Nations Conference on LDCs [*ibid.*, p. 827]. In addition to the Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS), the Committee for Development Policy (CDP) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) also dealt with LDC-related issues.

The *Least Developed Countries Report 2014* [Sales No. E.14.II.D.7], published by UNCTAD, addressed growth with structural transformation—a post-2015 development agenda, and examined the linkages between structural transformation, economic growth and human development. The report also considered what LDCs could do to transform their economies to foster economic growth and achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the sustainable development goals (SDGs), and what the international community could do to support LDCs in their structural transformation.

In 2013, LDCs maintained high economic growth, although they began to show signs of an economic slowdown. Sluggish global economic growth, which

translated into lower international demand for commodities and a consequent decline in their prices, adversely affected the economic growth and export performance of several LDCs, most notably the fuel exporters. That resulted in a substantial deterioration of their current account and merchandise trade. Although foreign direct investment (FDI) reached a record high and inflows of remittances continued unabated, official development assistance (ODA) started to show signs of stagnation and savings rates fell, leading to a greater need of external finance.

The report stated that given that the proposed SDGs were even more ambitious than the MDGs—meeting those goals would require nothing short of a revolution in the economic performance of LDCs. More specifically, it would necessitate their structural transformation on a scale unprecedented for those countries. Employing targeted, selective and more ambitious government policies to modify their economic structure and boost economic dynamism was of critical importance. According to the report, a one-size-fits-all model of development and policymaking was not practical. Rather, a pragmatic approach needed to be considered, based on a mix of policies selected to suit specific conditions. The types of policy instruments that might help foster structural transformation and enable the achievement of the SDGs were related to resource mobilization, industrial policy, macroeconomic framework and international measures. The report’s analysis reinforced the need for concerted efforts by the LDCs and the international community to take effective and coherent policy measures aimed at the structural transformation necessary for enabling LDCs to tackle their enormous development challenges in the post-2015 period.

### LDC list

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/20 [YUN 2013, p. 817], CDP at its sixteenth session (see p. 981) monitored the development progress of countries graduating from the LDC category, namely Equatorial Guinea and Vanuatu, both scheduled to graduate in 2017; and Samoa, which graduated from the LDC category on 1 January 2014, after a long transition period that was extended by the General Assembly in resolution 64/295 [YUN 2010, p. 843]. The Committee stressed that proper international support measures needed to be provided to Samoa to address vulnerabilities specific to small island developing States (SIDS).

In response to Assembly resolution 67/221 [YUN 2012, p. 842], CDP further reviewed the development progress of Maldives, which had graduated in 2011 [YUN 2011, p. 826]. The Committee noted the abrupt termination of trade-related support measures provided to Maldives by its main trading partners after the graduation, or after the end of a transition

period; and urged them to implement a gradual phasing out of support measures specific to LDCs for graduated countries. It recommended that Maldives submit its report on the implementation of the transition strategy for the next monitoring exercise.

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

### Follow up to the Fourth UN Conference on LDCs

In response to General Assembly resolution 67/220 [YUN 2012, p. 844], the Secretary-General submitted an August report [A/69/270] on strengthening investment promotion regimes for FDI in LDCs. The report focused on policies to attract and retain FDI as essential components of national development strategies; provided a brief overview of recent trends and patterns in FDI flows to LDCs; took stock of the policies, programmes and measures pursued by host and home countries and by international organizations to stimulate FDI flows to and increase their benefits for LDCs; and outlined options for strengthening such efforts.

The report concluded that promising trends in FDI flows to LDCs and the nascent shifts in their sectoral distribution towards manufacturing and service activities suggested scope for further efforts by LDCs, home countries, the international community and others for promoting FDI flows that contributed to those countries' productive capacity-building. The international community should consider launching an action plan for promoting FDI in LDCs and strengthening host-country benefits. Greater coordination of such efforts could be achieved through a one-stop arrangement, such as an international investment support centre dedicated to LDCs. Such a facility, as recommended in the Cotonou Agenda for productive capacity-building in LDCs (see below), could provide interrelated services, such as a common information depository containing all relevant information; contract preparation and negotiating support; advisory support in dispute resolution; and risk insurance. The Secretary-General recommended that the Assembly consider the establishment of a voluntarily funded international investment support centre for LDCs under the auspices of the United Nations and the related institutional and other matters.

**Communications.** On 17 September [A/69/392], Benin transmitted to the Secretary-General the Ministerial Declaration entitled "Cotonou Agenda for productive capacity-building in the least developed countries," adopted at the ministerial meeting (Cotonou, Benin, 28–31 July) on new partnerships for productive capacity-building in LDCs. The meeting was held on the initiative of the Government of Benin, in its capacity as Chair of the group of LDCs, in close cooperation with the United Nations, represented by OHRLLS. In the Declaration, participants invited the Assembly to include an agenda item entitled "New partnerships for building productive capacities in least developed countries" during its sixty-ninth session.

On 8 October [A/C.2/69/2], Benin transmitted to the Secretary-General the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the Annual Ministerial Meeting of the Least Developed Countries (New York, 26 September). Participants called for the early operationalization of the International Migrant Remittances Observatory for least developed countries without further delay, and invited UN system organizations, including the World Bank Group, to undertake a feasibility study, in collaboration with OHRLLS, with the aim of introducing "diaspora bonds" for least developed countries.

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/69/471/Add.1], adopted **resolution 69/231** without vote [agenda item 22 (a)].

### Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

*The General Assembly,*

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

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

*Recalling* its resolutions 68/18 of 4 December 2013 and 68/224 of 20 December 2013,

*Recalling also* Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/29 of 25 July 2014 on the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,

*Expressing its deep concern* over the most severe and complex outbreak of Ebola that has ruthlessly affected three least developed countries, namely Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, which exposes the fact that, while all

countries are at risk of such outbreaks, the least developed countries are particularly vulnerable to public health emergencies, with severe impacts on lives and livelihoods and on the economies of those countries,

*Emphasizing* the need for coordinated implementation and coherent follow-up and monitoring of the Istanbul Programme of Action, and noting the key role of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States in this regard, as set out in paragraph 155 of the Programme of Action,

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

*Recalling also* its invitation to development partners to consider the least developed country indicators, gross national income per capita, the human assets index and the economic vulnerability index as part of their criteria for allocating official development assistance,

*Noting* the conclusion of the Secretary-General's Climate Summit, and welcoming its contribution to the existing political momentum, with a view to galvanizing action to address climate change,

*Taking note* of the ministerial declaration adopted at the Ministerial Meeting of the Least Developed Countries, held in New York on 26 September 2014,

*Taking note also* of the report of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, entitled "State of the Least Developed Countries, 2014", with the special theme "Extreme poverty eradication in the least developed countries and the post-2015 development agenda",

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 and on strengthening investment promotion regimes for foreign direct investment in the least developed countries;

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

3. *Also welcomes* the progress in, and stresses the importance of, mainstreaming the Istanbul Programme of Action into the development cooperation frameworks of development

partners, and calls upon the development partners to further integrate the Programme of Action into their respective national cooperation policy frameworks, programmes and activities, as appropriate, to ensure enhanced, predictable and targeted support to the least developed countries, as set out in the Programme of Action, and the delivery of their commitments, and to consider appropriate measures to overcome shortfalls or shortcomings, if any;

4. *Calls upon* the international community to act urgently and decisively to address the outbreak of Ebola in some West African least developed countries, which has highlighted the fundamental need to strengthen national health systems and increase resilience and coordinated responses to public health challenges and emergencies, particularly in the least developed countries, as laid out in priority areas (e) and (f) of the Istanbul Programme of Action, in order to prevent, detect and rapidly respond to infectious diseases and other health emergencies, and calls upon all development partners to continue to provide financial and technical support for the risk mitigation strategies of the least developed countries in order to strengthen their capacity to respond to public health challenges and emergencies;

5. *Expresses its concern* that all countries, particularly the least developed countries, are vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change and are already experiencing increased impacts, including persistent drought and extreme weather events, sea-level rise, coastal erosion, glacial lake outburst floods and ocean acidification, which further threaten food security and efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development;

6. *Welcomes* the fact that bilateral net official development assistance to the least developed countries is estimated to have increased by 12.3 per cent in 2013, according to the preliminary estimate of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, while noting a decrease of 9.4 per cent in real terms in 2012, reiterates that official development assistance continues to be the largest source of external financing for the development of the least developed countries, that it plays an important role in their development and that progress has been made during the past decade in increasing the flow of official development assistance to the least developed countries, underlines that the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments is crucial, including the commitments by many developed countries to achieving the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to developing countries by 2015, as well as the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national income 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 the least developed countries;

7. *Recalls* the commitment, contained in the Istanbul Programme of Action, that donor countries should review their official development assistance commitments in 2015 and consider further enhancing the resources for the least developed countries, and in this regard urges donor countries to give high priority to the least developed countries in terms of their allocation of official development assistance, taking into account their needs, complex challenges and the resources gap;

8. *Reaffirms* the commitments made at the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization relating to the least developed countries, takes note of the



decisions taken at the Ninth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 3 to 7 December 2013, in particular the decision on duty-free and quota-free market access for the least developed countries, preferential rules of origin for the least developed countries and operationalization of the waiver concerning preferential treatment to services and service suppliers of the least developed countries, calls upon developed countries, and developing countries declaring themselves in a position to do so, to take steps towards the goal of realizing the timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access, on a lasting basis, for all least developed countries, consistent with the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration, and in this regard notes with appreciation the realization by some developed and developing countries of duty-free and quota-free market access for all products from all least developed countries;

9. *Underscores* that the ownership, leadership and primary responsibility for development in the least developed countries rests with themselves, and also underscores that good governance, inclusiveness and transparency, as well as domestic resource mobilization, are central to the development process of the least developed countries and that these efforts need to be given concrete and substantial international support, in a spirit of shared responsibility and mutual accountability, through renewed and strengthened global partnership;

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

11. *Calls upon* the developing countries, guided by the spirit of solidarity and consistent with their capabilities, to provide support for the effective implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in mutually agreed areas of cooperation, within the framework of South-South cooperation, which is a complement to, but not a substitute for, North-South cooperation;

12. *Reiterates* the importance of continuing to mainstream South-South cooperation, particularly for the benefit of the least developed countries, through the United Nations development system, including the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, in line with decision 18/1 of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation and relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolutions 67/226 and 67/227 of 21 December 2012 and 68/230 of 20 December 2013, and the strategic plans of the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, as appropriate;

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

14. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work undertaken thus far by the Secretary-General to constitute a high-level panel of experts to carry out a feasibility study for

a technology bank and science, technology and innovation supporting mechanism dedicated to the least developed countries, welcomes the announcement by the Secretary-General regarding the composition of the panel, and looks forward to the conclusion of the panel's work in line with its resolution 68/224;

15. *Reaffirms* its decision that the special needs and development priorities of the least developed countries, including the eight priority areas of the Istanbul Programme of Action, such as productive capacity-building, including through rapid development of infrastructure and energy, should be given appropriate consideration in relation to the post-2015 development agenda, and in this regard invites the Office of the High Representative to continue to extend the necessary substantive support to the least developed countries in preparing their positions on these matters as part of its ongoing work;

16. *Underlines* the need to ensure the mutual accountability of the least developed countries and their development partners for delivering the commitments undertaken under the Istanbul Programme of Action, reiterates that the Development Cooperation Forum should continue to take into consideration the Istanbul Programme of Action when it reviews the trends in international development cooperation, as well as policy coherence for development, and stresses the need for providing appropriate space and platforms for structured dialogue between the least developed countries and their development partners;

17. *Stresses* that the least developed countries should receive a special focus throughout the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All (2014–2024), with a view to ensuring the realization of the objective of ensuring access to energy for all by 2030, as well as other energy goals and targets set out in the Istanbul Programme of Action, requests that, in the Secretary-General's coordination of the Decade, within existing resources, the least developed countries receive such special focus throughout, with a view to ensuring the successful realization of the Decade, and in this regard welcomes the renewed focus on least developed countries within the Sustainable Energy for All initiative;

18. *Recalls* paragraph 157 of the Istanbul Programme of Action, in which the General Assembly was invited to consider conducting a comprehensive high-level midterm review of the implementation of the Programme of Action;

19. *Welcomes* the generous offer of the Government of Turkey to host the comprehensive high-level midterm review;

20. *Decides* that the comprehensive high-level midterm review:

(a) Shall be held, on an exceptional basis, in Antalya, Turkey, for a period of three days in June 2016, consisting of opening and closing plenary meetings and four additional plenary meetings, as well as four parallel thematic round-table meetings;

(b) Shall be held at the highest possible political level;

(c) Shall result in an intergovernmentally negotiated and agreed outcome in the form of a political declaration;

(d) Shall ensure that the summaries of the plenary meetings and other deliberations of the review are included in the report of the review;

21. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly at its seventieth session to appoint two co-facilitators, one from a developed country and one from a developing

country, to oversee and direct informal intergovernmental consultations on all issues relating to the review and its preparatory process;

22. *Requests* the co-facilitators to present a draft outcome document in the form of a political declaration, no later than March 2016 and in advance of the preparatory meeting of experts, prepared on the basis of inputs from the national and regional preparatory meetings, the report of the Secretary-General and other inputs, including those from Member States;

23. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to organize a four-day preparatory meeting of experts, to be chaired by the co-facilitators, with interpretation services on an "as available" basis, in March 2016, with a view to considering the draft outcome document;

24. *Decides* that all negotiations on the outcome document shall be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York, and strongly encourages Member States to conclude negotiations on the draft outcome document in advance of the comprehensive high-level midterm review;

25. *Also decides* that the comprehensive high-level midterm review and its preparatory process shall be open to participation by all States Members of the United Nations or States members of the specialized agencies and observers in the General Assembly, and that the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, as well as the supplementary arrangements established for the Commission on Sustainable Development by the Council in its decisions 1993/215 of 12 February 1993 and 1995/201 of 8 February 1995, shall apply;

26. *Invites* the host country to consider hosting, with the assistance of the Office of the High Representative, within its existing mandate and resources, and with the support of extrabudgetary resources, as available and appropriate, a private sector forum on investment opportunities in least developed countries, and encourages relevant representatives of Member States and the private sector to support and participate in the forum;

27. *Underlines* that there will be two regional-level preparatory meetings, taking advantage of the biennial regional meetings already scheduled for 2015, one in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa, which will include Haiti, and the other in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, which will include Yemen, with the regional-level meetings to be supported by broad-based and inclusive country-level preparations, and that the outcomes of the regional-level preparatory meetings should be considered in the comprehensive high-level midterm review;

28. *Decides* that the scope of the midterm comprehensive global review shall be as follows:

(a) To undertake a comprehensive review of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action by the least developed countries and their development partners, share best practices and lessons learned and identify obstacles and constraints encountered and actions and initiatives needed to overcome them, as well as new challenges and emerging issues;

(b) To reaffirm the global commitment to address the special needs of the least developed countries made at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and to further strengthen the global partnership for development for least developed countries in all priority

areas of the Istanbul Programme of Action in order to ensure the timely, effective and full implementation of the Programme of Action during the remainder of the Decade, while taking into account the post-2015 development agenda as it relates to the least developed countries;

29. *Underlines* that the Office of the High Representative, as the focal point, in accordance with mandates given by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/227 of 24 December 2001, has the responsibility for ensuring that the preparations are carried out effectively and efficiently and for mobilizing and coordinating the active involvement of the organizations of the United Nations system;

30. *Invites* the Secretary-General to convene a United Nations system high-level event during the comprehensive high-level midterm review, with a view to ensuring the full mobilization of the United Nations system in support of the least developed countries and the coordinated and timely implementation by the United Nations system of the Istanbul Programme of Action and the outcome of the review;

31. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to organize, early in 2016, a one-day special thematic event, with the participation of Member States, non-governmental organizations, civil society, the private sector and academic institutions, in order to provide input to the comprehensive high-level midterm review;

32. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council to consider the issue of the comprehensive high-level midterm review as part of its coordination and management meetings in 2016;

33. *Requests* the organs, organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to undertake sectoral appraisals in their respective fields of competence on the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, with special emphasis on areas where implementation has remained insufficient, and to make proposals for new measures, as necessary, as further inputs to the preparation for the comprehensive high-level midterm review, and in this regard affirms that appropriate inter-agency meetings should be convened in order to ensure the full mobilization and coordination of the entire United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions;

34. *Emphasizes* the importance of country-level preparations as a critical input to the preparatory process for the comprehensive high-level midterm review and to the implementation of and follow-up to its outcome, in this context calls upon the least developed countries to undertake their national reviews on the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, with a particular focus on progress, obstacles, constraints, actions and measures necessary to further its implementation, in close collaboration with the Office of the High Representative and the United Nations country teams, as part of their existing workplans, and in this regard invites the United Nations country teams to support the least developed countries in the preparation of their national reports, in close collaboration with the Office of the High Representative;

35. *Requests* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, in her capacity as Chair of the United Nations Development Group, to ensure the full involvement of the United Nations resident coordinators and country teams in the least developed countries in the preparations for the comprehensive high-level midterm review, in particular at the country level, including in the preparation of national reports;

36. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report, by the first quarter of 2016, on the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, in lieu of his report to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session and to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2016;

37. *Reiterates* the critical importance of the full and effective participation of the least developed countries in the comprehensive high-level midterm review at the national, regional and global levels, stresses that adequate resources should be provided, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to mobilize extrabudgetary resources in order to cover the cost of the participation of two government representatives from each least developed country in the review and the preparatory meeting of experts;

38. *Urges* Member States, and invites other multilateral development partners, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to make voluntary contributions to the trust fund established by the Secretary-General in accordance with resolution 59/244 of 22 December 2004;

39. *Calls upon* all Member States to take a positive interest in the preparation of the comprehensive high-level midterm review and to be represented at a high level in the plenary meeting of the review, with a view to reaching a successful outcome;

40. *Stresses* the importance of the effective participation of all relevant stakeholders, including parliamentarians, civil society and the private sector, in the comprehensive high-level midterm review and its preparatory process, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996;

41. *Notes with appreciation* that several least developed countries have expressed their intention to reach the status of graduation by 2020, invites them to start the preparations for their graduation and transition strategy, and reiterates its request to all relevant organizations of the United Nations system, led by the Office of the High Representative, to extend the necessary support in this regard in a coordinated and coherent manner;

42. *Invites* the Committee for Development Policy to continue to give due consideration to the specific constraints and vulnerabilities faced by each least developed country, including small island and landlocked least developed countries, the least developed countries with mountains and fragile ecology, low-lying coastal least developed countries and the least developed countries with large segments of the population living in extreme poverty, high dependency on primary commodity exports, low agricultural productivity and food insecurity, climate, environmental and natural disaster vulnerability, public health insecurity and energy insecurity, as well as those least developed countries caught in and emerging from conflict;

43. *Notes* the offer of the Government of Nepal to host a ministerial meeting of the Asia-Pacific least developed countries on graduation and the post-2015 development agenda, which was held in Kathmandu from 16 to 18 December 2014, and looks forward to a successful outcome, agreed upon by the ministers of those countries, which reflects their various issues and concerns;

44. *Recognizes* that private capital flows, particularly foreign direct investment, play a complementary and catalytic role in building and strengthening productive capacity in the least developed countries, also recognizes that many

least developed countries have made strong efforts to improve investment climates to attract increased foreign direct investment flows and enhance the benefits of these flows for their economies, which have been complemented by actions by their development partners, which appear to have had a positive impact, as indicated by a significant rise in foreign direct investment flows to the least developed countries in recent years, and expresses its concern that levels of investment, both foreign and domestic, in the least developed countries have yet to reach their potential, underscoring that much more needs to be done;

45. *Underlines* the need for stronger and more focused policies and strategies by the least developed countries, the home countries of foreign direct investment, international organizations and other stakeholders, as appropriate, to substantially increase foreign direct investment flows to the least developed countries in the coming years, and in this regard decides to consider those needs in the context of the comprehensive high-level midterm review of the Istanbul Programme of Action, focusing on, inter alia, the potential importance to the least developed countries of:

(a) Access to information on existing investment facilities and foreign direct investment support programmes;

(b) Technical support to assist the least developed countries in negotiating complex large-scale contracts;

(c) Access to and further strengthening of advisory support in investment-related dispute resolution;

(d) Risk insurance and guarantees, in close collaboration with the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development;

(e) Regulatory and legal frameworks that can attract foreign direct investment by improving investment climates and promoting enabling environments at all levels;

46. *Recognizes* the importance of building productive capacity as a critical enabler for the development and graduation of the least developed countries, as defined in priority area (a) of the Istanbul Programme of Action, and calls upon the least developed countries and their development partners to ensure enhanced focus on policies and means to address productive capacity-building, takes note in this regard of the Cotonou Agenda for productive capacity-building in the least developed countries, adopted by the ministers of the least developed countries at the ministerial meeting held in Cotonou, Benin, from 28 to 31 July 2014, and invites all stakeholders to give due consideration to productive capacity-building in the annual review of the Programme of Action by the Economic and Social Council;

47. *Also recognizes* that the activities relating to the least developed countries carried out within the Secretariat need to be further coordinated and consolidated in order to ensure effective monitoring and follow-up of the Istanbul Programme of Action, led by the Office of the High Representative, and to provide well-coordinated support for the realization of the goal of enabling half of the least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020;

48. *Takes note* of the work of the Inter-Agency Consultative Group for least developed countries, led by the Office of the High Representative, reiterates its invitation to the Secretary-General to appropriately integrate it within the framework of the High-level Committee on Programmes of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for

Coordination, notes the steps taken by the Chief Executives Board and the High-level Committee in supporting the coordination and follow-up of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action on a system-wide basis, reiterates its invitation to the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of the Chief Executives Board, to include the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in the agenda of the Board, encourages the Office of the High Representative, in close cooperation with the secretariat of the Board, to finalize a toolkit for mainstreaming the Programme of Action into the work programmes of the organizations of the United Nations system, and requests the Secretary-General to report on further progress made in this regard;

49. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a progress report on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 and on the implementation of the present resolution.

#### *Programme of Action (2011–2020)*

As requested in General Assembly resolution 68/224 [YUN 2013, p. 822] and Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/46 [ibid., p. 825], the Secretary-General, in May, submitted a progress report [A/69/95-E/2014/81] on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 [YUN 2011, p. 828]. The report assessed the performance and prospects of LDCs; and provided an analysis of progress made with respect to the goals and targets of the Istanbul Programme of Action, and an overview of measures deployed by LDCs, development partners and other stakeholders, including the UN system, in advancing implementation of the Programme of Action. It also included measures related to graduation and smooth transition, as well as South-South cooperation.

The report concluded that LDCs continued to make progress towards achieving the goals and targets agreed upon in Istanbul; however, many of them were unlikely to reach the MDGs and the targets of the Programme of Action. It was important that the Istanbul Programme of Action be firmly integrated into the post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs. The focus on building robust and sustainable productive capacity in agriculture, manufacturing and services in LDCs had to continue and development partners needed to strengthen their support for LDCs in that area. The trends of increasing government revenues in LDCs, as well as the actions of those countries to combat corruption and increase transparency, had to be strengthened. More priority needed to be given to LDCs in the allocation of ODA and other resources at a level commensurate with their needs and complex challenges. With respect to mutual accountability, more structured dialogue between LDCs and their development partners on the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder in the aid relationship was vitally important, and providing appropriate space

and platforms for such dialogue was essential. Given the deepening relationships between LDCs and emerging economies and the significant potential for further expansion, South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation should be strengthened in all areas of the Istanbul Programme of Action. Continued coordinated support for LDCs, led by OHRLLS, remained critical in order for those countries to effectively articulate their needs and concerns in the process of formulating the post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs. The midterm review of the Istanbul Programme of Action, scheduled for 2016, was expected to be a central element of mutual accountability with respect to the Programme of Action and would help guide the UN system towards its effective implementation.

#### **ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION**

On 25 July [meeting 47], the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 2014/29** [draft: E/2014/L.28] without vote [agenda item 9 (b)].

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

*The Economic and Social Council,*

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

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

*Recalling* its resolution 2013/46 of 26 July 2013 on the Istanbul Programme of Action,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolutions 68/18 of 4 December 2013 and 68/224 of 20 December 2013,

*Emphasizing* the need for coordinated implementation and coherent follow-up and monitoring of the Istanbul Programme of Action, and noting the key role of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States in this regard, as set out in paragraph 155 of the Programme of Action,

*Recognizing* that, over the years, the responsibilities of the Office of the High Representative have increased considerably in their scope and complexity,

*Noting* the theme of the 2014 annual ministerial review, “Addressing ongoing and emerging challenges for meeting the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 and for sustaining development gains in the future”, and the theme of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, “Achieving the Millennium Development Goals and charting the way for an ambitious

post-2015 development agenda, including the sustainable development goals”;

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020;

2. *Reaffirms* the commitment, made by the international community in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to assist the least developed countries in their efforts to achieve sustainable development, and also reaffirms the agreement to effectively implement the Istanbul Programme of Action and to fully integrate its priority areas into the framework for action contained in the outcome document, the broader implementation of which will contribute to the overarching goal of the Programme of Action of enabling half the least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020;

3. *Reaffirms* that building a critical mass of viable and competitive productive capacity in agriculture, manufacturing and services is essential if the least developed countries are to benefit from greater integration into the global economy, increase their resilience to shocks, sustain inclusive and equitable growth and eradicate poverty, achieve structural transformation and generate full and productive employment and decent work for all;

4. *Recognizes* that the least developed countries have made some progress on many of the goals and targets in the Istanbul Programme of Action, leading to structural change in a few of them, expresses its concern that most least developed countries continue to face pervasive poverty, serious structural impediments to growth, low levels of human development, inequality and high exposure to shocks and disasters, and also expresses its concern that the challenges presented by the global economic environment are putting at risk the hard-won gains achieved so far and the ability to expand those gains to all least developed countries;

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

6. *Also welcomes* the progress in, and stresses the importance of, mainstreaming the Istanbul Programme of Action into the development cooperation frameworks of development partners, and calls upon the development partners to further integrate the Programme of Action into their respective national cooperation policy frameworks, programmes and activities, as appropriate, to ensure enhanced, predictable and targeted support to the least developed countries, as set out in the Programme of Action,

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

7. *Invites* all organizations of the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations, including the Bretton Woods institutions and international and regional financial institutions, to contribute to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, including by implementing enhanced substantive and technical assistance to the least developed countries in a timely manner, and to integrate the Programme of Action into their programmes of work, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates, and to participate fully in its review at the national, subregional, regional and global levels, and in this regard invites them to report on their contribution to the implementation of the Programme of Action as part of their annual reporting to their respective governing bodies;

8. *Welcomes* the fact that the bilateral net official development assistance to the least developed countries is estimated to have increased by 12.3 per cent in 2013, according to the preliminary estimate of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, while noting a 9.4 per cent decrease in real terms in 2012, reiterates that official development assistance continues to be the largest source of external financing for the development of the least developed countries and plays an important role in their development and that progress has been made during the past decade in increasing the flow of official development assistance to the least developed countries, underlines that the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments is crucial, including the commitments by many developed countries to achieving the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to developing countries by 2015, as well as the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national income 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 the least developed countries;

9. *Also welcomes* steps to improve the effectiveness and quality of aid in the least developed countries, and underlines the need for enhancing the quality of aid to the least developed countries by strengthening national ownership, alignment, harmonization, predictability, mutual accountability and transparency, and results orientation;

10. *Recalls* the commitment, contained in the Istanbul Programme of Action, that donor countries should review their official development assistance commitments in 2015 and consider further enhancing the resources for the least developed countries, and in this regard urges donor countries to give high priority to the least developed countries in terms of their allocation of official development assistance, taking into account their needs, complex challenges and resources gap;

11. *Calls upon* the least developed countries, their development partners, the United Nations system and all other actors to further intensify their efforts to fully and effectively implement, in a coordinated, coherent and expeditious manner, the commitments that have been made in the Istanbul Programme of Action in its eight priority areas, namely, (a) productive capacity, (b) agriculture, food security and rural development, (c) trade, (d) commodities, (e) human and social development, (f) multiple crises and other emerging challenges, (g) mobilizing financial

resources for development and capacity-building, and (b) good governance at all levels;

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

13. *Calls upon* the developing countries, guided by the spirit of solidarity and consistent with their capabilities, to provide support for the effective implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in mutually agreed areas of cooperation within the framework of South-South cooperation, which is a complement to, but not a substitute for, North-South cooperation;

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

15. *Welcomes with appreciation* the decisions taken by various entities of the United Nations system to mainstream the Istanbul Programme of Action and integrate its relevant provisions into their programmes of work, and in this regard reiterates its invitation to the governing bodies of all other United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies to do the same in an expeditious manner, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates;

16. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to include the issues of concern to the least developed countries in all relevant reports in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, in order to support the implementation of the goals set out in the Istanbul Programme of Action;

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

18. *Recalls* the request made by the General Assembly in its resolution 68/224 to the Secretary-General to constitute a high-level panel of experts to carry out a feasibility study on a technology bank and science, technology and innovation supporting mechanism dedicated to the least developed countries, with secretariat support provided by the Office of the High Representative, in order to examine its scope, functions, institutional linkage with the United Nations and organizational aspects, and requests the Secretary-General to constitute the panel at the earliest possible date, to facilitate the conclusion of its work within the time frame and to transmit its report and recommendations to the Assembly for its consideration, with a view to operationalizing the technology bank during the seventieth session of the Assembly, if so recommended by the panel;

19. *Underlines* the need to ensure the mutual accountability of the least developed countries and their development partners for delivering the commitments undertaken under the Istanbul Programme of Action, reiterates that the Development Cooperation Forum should continue to take into consideration the Programme of Action when it reviews the trends in international development cooperation, as well as policy coherence for development, and stresses the need for providing appropriate space

and platforms for structured dialogue between the least developed countries and their development partners;

20. *Reaffirms* its decision to include in its annual ministerial review, in 2015, a review of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, invites the organizations of the United Nations system, including the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization, the regional commissions, the functional commissions and other relevant subsidiary bodies and follow-up mechanisms, as well as regional development banks, to contribute to the review of progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the Programme of Action and to contribute substantively to the discussions and decisions of the Council on the specific priorities of the least developed countries in the context of the post-2015 development agenda, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to submit a programme to the Council for its consideration at its 2015 session;

21. *Expresses its concern* that, although the least developed countries have made some progress in social and human development, including in primary school enrolment and gender parity in primary education, many of the goals and targets of the Millennium Development Goals have yet to be achieved, and calls upon the international community to give special priority to the least developed countries in order to accelerate the progress in attaining the Goals in the least developed countries by 2015;

22. *Recalls* the decision of the General Assembly in paragraph 24 of its resolution 68/224 that the special needs and development priorities of the least developed countries, including the eight priority areas of the Istanbul Programme of Action, such as productive-capacity-building, including through rapid development of infrastructure and energy, should be given appropriate consideration in the processes devoted to the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

23. *Notes* the biennial reviews of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action undertaken by the relevant United Nations regional commissions in 2013, and invites them to continue to carry out such reviews in close coordination with the global-level and country-level follow-up processes and in cooperation with subregional and regional development banks and intergovernmental organizations;

24. *Notes with appreciation* that several least developed countries have expressed their intention to reach the status of graduation by 2020, invites them to start the preparations for their graduation and transition strategy, and requests all relevant entities of the United Nations system, in particular the Office of the High Representative, to extend the necessary support in this regard;

25. *Recognizes* that the activities relating to the least developed countries carried out within the Secretariat need to be further coordinated and consolidated in order to ensure effective monitoring of and follow-up to the Istanbul Programme of Action led by the Office of the High Representative and to provide well-coordinated support for realizing the goal of enabling half of the least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020;

26. *Strongly encourages* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and other donors to contribute in a timely manner to the Trust Fund in support of the activities undertaken

by the Office of the High Representative to support the implementation, follow-up and monitoring of the Istanbul Programme of Action and the participation of representatives of the least developed countries in the annual review meeting on the implementation of the Programme of Action, held by the Council, as well as in other relevant forums, and in this regard expresses its appreciation to those countries that have made voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund;

27. *Welcomes* the offer of the Government of Benin to host a ministerial conference on new partnerships for productive-capacity-building in the least developed countries, which will be held in Cotonou from 28 to 31 July 2014, and looks forward to its successful outcome;

28. *Invites* the General Assembly to consider conducting a comprehensive high-level midterm review of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, in accordance with the Programme of Action, encourages the Assembly to take a decision at its sixty-ninth session, and in this regard notes with appreciation the generous offer of the Government of Turkey to host a midterm review meeting;

29. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Council at its substantive session of 2015, under the sub-item entitled “Review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020” of the item entitled “Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits”, a progress report on the implementation of the Programme of Action.

### Small island developing states

During 2014, UN bodies continued to review progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Barbados Programme of Action), adopted in 1994 [YUN 1994, p. 783]. Member States also reviewed the Mauritius Strategy for Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, adopted by the 2005 International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the 1994 Programme of Action [YUN 2005, p. 946].

### Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States

The third International Conference on Small Island Developing States was held (Apia, Samoa, 1–4 September) [A/CONF.223/10], in accordance with General Assembly decision 67/558 [YUN 2013, p. 828] and resolutions 67/207 [YUN 2012, p. 849] and 68/238 [YUN 2013, p. 828]. The Conference was attended by representatives of Member States and the European Union, intergovernmental organizations and other entities, associate members of the regional commissions, specialized agencies and related organizations, and a number of UN organs. On 4 September, on the recommendation of its Credentials Committee [A/CONF.223/6], the Conference adopted a resolution on the credentials of representatives to the

Conference. The Conference elected its President and Vice-Presidents and Rapporteur-General, and adopted its rules of procedure, agenda [A/CONF.223/1] and organization of work [A/CONF.223/4].

The Conference had before it the summaries of the Chairs of the multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues [A/CONF.223/11], and the draft outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States [A/CONF.223/3].

It also received communication from Argentina [A/CONF.223/7], rejecting the identification of representatives of the Malvinas Islands in the official list of participants of the delegation of the United Kingdom; communication from Nauru [A/CONF.223/8], forwarding the Alliance of Small Island States Leaders’ Declaration 2014, endorsed by the leaders of the Alliance on 1 September; and communication from the United States [A/CONF.223/9], transmitting to the Conference a statement for the record on the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States.

The Conference held eight plenary meetings and six multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues on sustainable economic development; climate change and disaster risk management; social development in small island developing States, health and non-communicable diseases, youth and women; sustainable energy; oceans, seas and biodiversity; and water and sanitation, food security and waste management.

On 4 September, the Conference adopted its outcome document, “The Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (Samoa Pathway)”, and recommended it to the Assembly for endorsement. It also adopted a resolution on expression of thanks to the people and Government of Samoa.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 14 November [meeting 51], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/15** [draft: A/69/L.6] without vote [agenda item 13 (a)].

#### SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, in which it decided to organize, in 2014, the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States at the highest possible level, as well as its resolutions 67/207 of 21 December 2012 and 68/238 of 27 December 2013 and its decision 67/558 of 17 May 2013,

1. *Expresses its profound gratitude* to the Government and the people of Samoa for hosting the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in Apia from 1 to 4 September 2014 and for providing all the necessary support;

2. *Endorses* the outcome document of the Conference, entitled “SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway”, which is annexed to the present resolution.

## ANNEX

**SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway****Preamble**

1. We, the Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives, having met in Apia from 1 to 4 September 2014 at the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, with the full participation of civil society and relevant stakeholders, reaffirm our commitment to the sustainable development of small island developing States. This can be achieved only with a broad alliance of people, governments, civil society and the private sector all working together to achieve the future we want for present and future generations.

2. We reaffirm the commitments we made at United Nations conferences and summits on sustainable development: the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation), including chapter VII, on the sustainable development of small island developing States, and the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Barbados Programme of Action) and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Mauritius Strategy), and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want". We further underscore that these processes are still being implemented and that there is a need for a more integrated approach to the sustainable development of small island developing States, with the support of the international community and all stakeholders.

3. We recall as well our commitments in the outcomes of all the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental fields, including the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

4. We reaffirm that we continue to be guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, with full respect for international law and its principles.

5. We reaffirm that small island developing States remain a special case for sustainable development in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities and that they remain constrained in meeting their goals in all three dimensions of sustainable development. We recognize the ownership and leadership of small island developing States in overcoming some of these challenges, but stress that, in

the absence of international cooperation, success will remain difficult.

6. We recognize that poverty eradication, changing unsustainable and promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are the overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development. We also reaffirm 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 and ecosystems that supports, *inter alia*, economic, social and human development while facilitating ecosystem conservation, regeneration, restoration and resilience in the face of new and emerging challenges.

7. We reaffirm the importance of freedom, peace and security, respect for all human rights, including the right to development and the right to an adequate standard of living, including the right to food, the rule of law, gender equality, women's empowerment, reducing inequalities and the overall commitment to just and democratic societies for development.

8. We reaffirm the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as other international instruments relating to human rights and international law. We emphasize the responsibilities of all States, in conformity with the Charter, to respect, protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, disability or other status.

9. We reaffirm our commitment to move the sustainable development agenda forward, and in this regard we urge all parties to take concrete measures to expeditiously advance the sustainable development of small island developing States, including through the internationally agreed development goals, in order for them to eradicate poverty, build resilience and improve the quality of life. We recognize the need to implement expeditiously, through genuine and durable partnerships, the global effort in support of the sustainable development of small island developing States through concrete, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented programmes.

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

11. We recognize that sea-level rise and other adverse impacts of climate change continue to pose a significant risk to small island developing States and their efforts to achieve sustainable development and, for many, represent the gravest of threats to their survival and viability, including, for some, through the loss of territory.

12. With the theme of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States being "The sustainable development of small island developing States through genuine and durable partnerships", we recognize that international cooperation and partnerships of various kinds and across a wide variety of stakeholders are critical for the implementation of the sustainable development of small island developing States. Such partnerships should be



based on the principles of national ownership, mutual trust, transparency and accountability.

13. We acknowledge that the further implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy and the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (Samoa Pathway) in support of the sustainable development of small island developing States would require appropriate consideration in the post-2015 development agenda.

14. We recognize that, in spite of the considerable efforts of small island developing States and the mobilization of their limited resources, their progress in the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and in implementing the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy has been uneven, and some have regressed economically. A number of significant challenges remain.

15. We recognize that the adverse impacts of climate change compound existing challenges in small island developing States and have placed additional burdens on their national budgets and their efforts to achieve the sustainable development goals. We note the views expressed by small island developing States that the financial resources available to date have not been adequate to facilitate the implementation of climate change adaptation and mitigation projects, and we also recognize that, at times, complex application procedures have prevented some small island developing States from gaining access to funds that are available internationally. In this regard, we welcome the recent Green Climate Fund Board decision to aim for a floor of 50 per cent of the adaptation allocation for particularly vulnerable countries, including small island developing States, and we note the importance of continued support to address gaps in the capacity to gain access to and manage climate finance.

16. We note that small island developing States consider that the level of resources has been insufficient to ensure their capacity to respond effectively to multiple crises and that, without the necessary resources, they have not fully succeeded in building capacity, strengthening national institutions according to national priorities, gaining access to and developing renewable energy and other environmentally sound technologies, creating an enabling environment for sustainable development or fully integrating the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy into national plans and strategies.

17. We underscore the need for adequate and coordinated support from the United Nations system and the importance of accessible and transparent support from the international financial institutions that take fully into account the specific needs and vulnerabilities of small island developing States for the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the Samoa Pathway, and we call for a renewed dedication of United Nations system support for cooperation among small island developing States and national, regional and interregional coordination.

18. We recognize that small island developing States have made significant efforts at the national and regional levels to implement the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy. They have mainstreamed sustainable development principles into national and in some cases regional development plans, policies and strategies, and undertaken political commitments to promote and raise

awareness of the importance of sustainable development issues. They have also mobilized resources at the national and regional levels despite their limited resource base. Small island developing States have demonstrated strong leadership by calling for ambitious and urgent action on climate change, by protecting biodiversity, by calling for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and seas and their resources and by adopting strategies for the promotion of renewable energy.

19. We recognize and call for the strengthening of the long-standing cooperation and support provided by the international community in assisting small island developing States to make progress in addressing their vulnerabilities and supporting their sustainable development efforts.

20. Mindful of the importance of ensuring that the graduation of a country from least developed country status does not disrupt the development progress which that country has achieved, we reaffirm the need for the smooth transition of small island developing States that have recently graduated, and emphasize that a successful transition needs to be based on the national smooth transition strategy elaborated as a priority by each graduating country, which can, *inter alia*, mitigate the possible loss of concessionary financing and reduce the risks of falling heavily into debt.

21. While the well-being of small island developing States and their peoples depends first and foremost on national actions, we recognize that there is an urgent need to strengthen cooperation and enable strong, genuine and durable partnerships at the subnational, national, subregional, regional and international levels to enhance international cooperation and action to address the unique and particular vulnerabilities of small island developing States so as to ensure their sustainable development.

22. We reaffirm our commitment to take urgent and concrete action to address the vulnerability of small island developing States, including through the sustained implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy, and we underscore the urgency of finding additional solutions to the major challenges facing small island developing States in a concerted manner so as to support them in sustaining the momentum realized in implementing the Samoa Pathway. With renewed political will and strong leadership, we dedicate ourselves to working in meaningful partnership with all stakeholders at all levels. It is in this context that the present Samoa Pathway presents a basis for action in the agreed priority areas.

### **Sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth with decent work for all**

*Development models in small island developing States for the implementation of sustainable development and poverty eradication*

23. We recognize that the ability of the small island developing States to sustain high levels of economic growth and job creation has been affected by the ongoing adverse impacts of the global economic crisis, declining foreign direct investment, trade imbalances, increased indebtedness, the lack of adequate transportation, energy and information and communications technology infrastructure networks, limited human and institutional capacity and the inability to integrate effectively into the global economy. The growth prospects of the small island developing States have also been hindered by other factors, including climate change,

the impact of natural disasters, the high cost of imported energy and the degradation of coastal and marine ecosystems and sea-level rise.

24. As it is vitally important to support the efforts of small island developing States to build resilient societies and economies, we recognize that, beyond the rich ecosystems of those States, people are their greatest resource. In order to achieve sustained, inclusive and equitable growth with full and productive employment, social protection and the creation of decent work for all, small island developing States, in partnership with the international community, will seek to increase investment in the education and training of their people. Migrants and diaspora communities and organizations also play an important role in enhancing development in their communities of origin. Sound macroeconomic policies and sustainable economic management, fiscal predictability, investment and regulatory certainty, responsible borrowing and lending and debt sustainability are also critical, as is the need to address high rates of unemployment, particularly among youth, women and persons with disabilities.

25. We affirm that there are different approaches, visions, models and tools available to each country, in accordance with its national circumstances and priorities, for achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions, which is our overarching goal. In this regard, we consider the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication as one of the important tools available for achieving sustainable development. We call upon the United Nations system, in collaboration with other stakeholders, to strengthen its coordination and support of small island developing States that want to pursue green economy policies.

26. We acknowledge that the implementation of sustainable development depends primarily on national action and leadership. We recognize that the private sector plays an increasingly important role in achieving sustainable economic development, including through public-private partnerships. We recognize that sustainable development will also depend, *inter alia*, on intergovernmental and international cooperation and the active engagement of both the public and private sectors.

27. Taking into full account their national development priorities and individual country circumstances and legislation, we call for support for the efforts of small island developing States to take the following actions:

(a) Enhancing international cooperation, exchanges and investments in formal and non-formal education and training to create an environment that supports sustainable investments and growth. This includes the development of entrepreneurial and vocational skills, support for transitions from basic to secondary education and from school to work, the building and strengthening of education infrastructure, better health, active citizenship, respect for cultural diversity, non-discrimination and environmental consciousness for all people, including women, youth and persons with disabilities;

(b) Enhancing the enabling environment at the national and regional levels to attract more public and private investment in building and maintaining appropriate infrastructure, including ports, roads, transportation, electricity and power generation and information and communications technology infrastructure, and also en-

hancing the development impact of the private sector and the financial services industry;

(c) Fostering entrepreneurship and innovation, building capacity and increasing the competitiveness and social entrepreneurship of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and State-owned enterprises in small island developing States, as well as encouraging inclusive and sustainable industrial development with the participation of all people, including the poor, women, youth and persons with disabilities;

(d) Supporting national, regional and international initiatives that develop and increase the capacity and development impact of the financial services industry in small island developing States;

(e) Creating local decent jobs through private and public projects and encouraging entrepreneurs to start up environmentally sound businesses through adequate and appropriate incentives;

(f) Promoting and fostering an environment conducive to increased public and private sector investment and the creation of decent jobs and livelihoods that contribute to sustainable development, with full respect for international labour standards;

(g) Promoting and enhancing the use of information and communications technologies for, *inter alia*, education, the creation of employment, in particular youth employment, and economic sustainability purposes in small island developing States;

(h) Promoting and enhancing gender equality and women's equal participation, including in policies and programmes in the public and private sectors in small island developing States;

(i) Setting national regulatory and policy frameworks, as appropriate, that enable business and industry to advance sustainable development initiatives, taking into account the importance of transparency, accountability and corporate social responsibility.

28. Acknowledging the way in which debt servicing limits the fiscal space of highly indebted small island developing States, we support the consideration of traditional and innovative approaches to promote the debt sustainability of highly indebted small island developing States, including their continued eligibility for concessionary financing from international financial institutions, as appropriate, and the strengthening of domestic revenue mobilization.

29. We acknowledge the importance of addressing debt sustainability to ensure the smooth transition of those small island developing States that have graduated from least developed country status.

#### *Sustainable tourism*

30. Recognizing that sustainable tourism represents an important driver of sustainable economic growth and decent job creation, we strongly support small island developing States in taking the following actions:

(a) Developing and implementing policies that promote responsive, responsible, resilient and sustainable tourism, inclusive of all peoples;

(b) Diversifying sustainable tourism through products and services, including large-scale tourism projects with positive economic, social and environmental impacts and the development of ecotourism, agritourism and cultural tourism;

(c) Promoting policies that allow local communities to gain optimum benefits from tourism while allowing them to determine the extent and nature of their participation;

(d) Designing and implementing participatory measures to enhance employment opportunities, in particular of women, youth and persons with disabilities, including through partnerships and capacity development, while conserving their natural, built and cultural heritage, especially ecosystems and biodiversity;

(e) Leveraging the expertise of, *inter alia*, the Global Sustainable Tourism Council, the Global Observatories on Sustainable Tourism of the World Tourism Organization, the Global Partnership for Sustainable Tourism and other United Nations bodies, as well as the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns, to provide platforms for the exchange of best practices and direct and focused support to their national efforts;

(f) Establishing, upon request, an island, food and sustainable tourism support initiative based on community participation, which takes into consideration ethical values, livelihoods and human settlements, the landscape, the sea, local culture and local products, in collaboration with the World Tourism Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, regional development banks and regional and national agricultural, cultural, environmental and tourism authorities where they exist;

(g) Establishing and maintaining, where necessary, the governance and management structures for sustainable tourism and human settlements that bring together responsibilities and expertise in the areas of tourism, environment, health, disaster risk reduction, culture, land and housing, transportation, security and immigration, planning and development, and enabling a meaningful partnership approach among the public and private sectors and local communities.

### Climate change

31. We reaffirm that small island developing States remain a special case for sustainable development in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities, and we acknowledge that climate change and sea-level rise continue to pose a significant risk to small island developing States and their efforts to achieve sustainable development and, for some, represent the gravest threat to their survival and viability.

32. We also reaffirm that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, and we express profound alarm that emissions of greenhouse gases continue to rise globally. We are deeply concerned that all countries, particularly developing countries, are vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change and are already experiencing an increase in such impacts, including persistent drought and extreme weather events, sea-level rise, coastal erosion and ocean acidification, further threatening food security and efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development. In this regard, we emphasize that adaptation to climate change represents an immediate and urgent global priority.

33. We acknowledge the leadership role of small island developing States in advocating for ambitious global efforts to address climate change, raising awareness of the need for

urgent and ambitious action to address climate change at the global level and making efforts to adapt to the intensifying impacts of climate change and to further develop and implement plans, policies, strategies and legislative frameworks with support where necessary.

34. We stress that the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change in order to protect the global climate.

35. We recall the objectives, principles and provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and underscore that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, with a view to accelerating the reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions. We recall that the Convention provides that parties should protect the climate system for the benefit of present and future generations of humankind on the basis of equity and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

36. We note with grave concern the significant gap between the aggregate effect of mitigation pledges by parties in terms of global annual emissions of greenhouse gases by 2020 and aggregate emission pathways consistent with having a likely chance of holding the increase in global average temperature below 2 degrees Celsius, or 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels.

37. We reaffirm the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on long-term climate finance, noting the importance of climate finance in addressing climate change.

38. We look forward to the full operationalization and initial capitalization of the Green Climate Fund, including the expeditious implementation of its initial resource mobilization process, taking into account that the Fund will play a key role in channelling new, additional, adequate and predictable financial resources to developing countries and will catalyse climate finance, both public and private, at the international and national levels.

39. We urge developed country parties to increase technology, finance and capacity-building support to enable increased mitigation ambition and adaptation actions on the part of developing country parties.

40. We reaffirm the importance of engaging a broad range of stakeholders at the global, regional, subregional, national and local levels, including national, subnational and local governments and the scientific community, private businesses and civil society, and also including youth and persons with disabilities, and also reaffirm that gender equality and the effective participation of women and indigenous peoples are important for effective action on all aspects of climate change.

41. We reaffirm the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to adopt a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all parties at its twenty-first session, to be held in Paris in December 2015, and for it to enter into effect and be implemented as from 2020.

42. We note the convening by the Secretary-General of the Climate Summit in New York on 23 September

2014, aimed at mobilizing actions and ambition in relation to climate change.

43. We will work together to implement and operationalize the Warsaw international mechanism for loss and damage associated with climate change impacts through comprehensive, inclusive and strategic approaches to address loss and damage associated with the impacts of climate change in developing countries, including small island developing States, that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

44. We call for support for the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To build resilience to the impacts of climate change and to improve their adaptive capacity through the design and implementation of climate change adaptation measures appropriate to their respective vulnerabilities and economic, environmental and social situations;

(b) To improve the baseline monitoring of island systems and the downscaling of climate model projections to enable better projections of the future impacts on small islands;

(c) To raise awareness and communicate climate change risks, including through public dialogue with local communities, to increase human and environmental resilience to the longer-term impacts of climate change;

(d) To address remaining gaps in capacity for gaining access to and managing climate finance.

45. We recognize that the phasing out of ozone-depleting substances is resulting in a rapid increase in the use and the release into the environment of hydrofluorocarbons with a high potential for global warming. We support the gradual phasing down of the consumption and production of hydrofluorocarbons.

46. We recognize the importance of scaling up support for activities to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in the context of the REDD-plus mechanism in small island developing States, including the implementation of the Warsaw Framework for REDD-plus.

### **Sustainable energy**

47. We recognize that dependence on imported fossil fuels has been a major source of economic vulnerability and a key challenge for small island developing States for many decades and that sustainable energy, including enhanced accessibility to modern energy services, energy efficiency and use of economically viable and environmentally sound technology, plays a critical role in enabling the sustainable development of small island developing States.

48. We highlight the efforts of small island developing States concerning sustainable energy, including through the Barbados Declaration on Achieving Sustainable Energy for All in Small Island Developing States, aimed at promoting transformational and innovative activities in such areas as access to affordable modern energy services, renewable energy, energy-efficient technologies and low carbon development, in the context of sustainable development, including, on a voluntary basis, the commitments by many small island developing States to undertake the actions contained in annex I to the Declaration. The Sustainable Energy for All initiative of the Secretary-General, which focuses on access to energy, energy efficiency and renewable energy, complemented by international commitments, provides a useful framework.

49. We urge the international community, including regional and international development banks, bilateral donors, the United Nations system, the International Renewable Energy Agency and other relevant stakeholders to continue to provide adequate support, including in the areas of capacity-building and technology transfer, on mutually agreed terms, for the development and implementation of national, regional and interregional energy policies, plans and strategies to address the special vulnerabilities of small island developing States. We welcome the Global Renewable Energy Islands Network of the International Renewable Energy Agency, which helps small island developing States by pooling knowledge and sharing best practices.

50. We strongly support actions:

(a) To develop a strategy and targeted measures to promote energy efficiency and foster sustainable energy systems based on all energy sources, in particular renewable energy sources, in small island developing States, such as wind, sustainable biomass, solar, hydroelectric, biofuel and geothermal energy;

(b) To facilitate access to existing financing mechanisms to increase capital flows for the implementation of sustainable energy projects in small island developing States on renewable energy and energy efficiency;

(c) To support investment in initiatives by and for small island developing States, in particular the "SIDS DOCK" indicative project pipeline of renewable energy and energy efficiency and conservation projects, as well as in the areas of capacity-building and human resources development and public education and awareness;

(d) To promote international collaboration to ensure the access of small island developing States to energy by, inter alia, strengthening their integration with regional and international energy markets and increasing the use of locally available sources of energy in the energy mix, joint infrastructure development projects and investment in production and storage capacities, in accordance with national legislation;

(e) To fulfil their bold and ambitious renewable energy and energy efficiency targets in small island developing States for the next decade, taking into account national circumstances, the diversification of energy systems and the provision of funds and technology on mutually agreed terms;

(f) To enhance international cooperation and cooperation among small island developing States for research and technological development and for the implementation of appropriate renewable energy and energy-efficient and environmentally sound technologies for small island developing States, including cleaner fossil fuel technology and smart grid technology, through the provision of, inter alia, financing from a variety of sources, the exchange of best practices and access to efficient technologies on mutually agreed terms;

(g) To access existing mechanisms, or, in regions with no existing mechanism, to encourage the establishment of user-friendly, accurate and comprehensive regional data repositories as online databases on energy, and to conduct technical studies and gather information on grid stability and management, including maximizing the integration of renewable energy and innovative storage mechanisms;

(h) To work on an integrated approach to establishing and strengthening innovative energy road maps

in small island developing States, with detailed resource planning, which takes into account social, environmental and economic considerations, as well as access to energy for the poor and people in remote areas.

### Disaster risk reduction

51. We recognize that small island developing States continue to grapple with the effects of disasters, some of which have increased in intensity and some of which have been exacerbated by climate change, which impede their progress towards sustainable development. We also recognize that disasters can disproportionately affect small island developing States and that there is a critical need to build resilience, strengthen monitoring and prevention, reduce vulnerability, raise awareness and increase preparedness to respond to and recover from disasters.

52. In consideration of the special case of small island developing States and their unique and particular vulnerabilities, we are committed to supporting their efforts:

(a) To gain access to technical assistance and financing for early warning systems, disaster risk reduction and post-disaster response and recovery, risk assessment and data, land use and planning, observation equipment, disaster preparedness and recovery education programmes, including under the Global Framework for Climate Services, and disaster risk management;

(b) To promote cooperation and investment in disaster risk management in the public and private sectors;

(c) To strengthen and support contingency planning and provisions for disaster preparedness and response, emergency relief and population evacuation, in particular for people in vulnerable situations, women and girls, displaced persons, children, older persons and persons with disabilities;

(d) To implement the Hyogo Framework for Action and work for an ambitious renewed international framework for post-2015 disaster risk reduction that builds on previous achievements, prioritizes prevention and mitigation and incorporates implementation frameworks to address implementation gaps if and when they exist;

(e) To mainstream policies and programmes related to disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and development, as appropriate;

(f) To harmonize national and regional reporting systems, where applicable, to increase synergies and coherence;

(g) To establish and strengthen risk insurance facilities at the national and regional levels and place disaster risk management and building resilience at the centre of policies and strategies, where applicable;

(h) To increase participation in international and regional disaster risk reduction initiatives.

### Oceans and seas

53. We acknowledge that oceans and seas, along with coastal areas, form an essential component of the Earth's ecosystem and are intrinsically linked to sustainable development, including that of small island developing States. Healthy, productive and resilient oceans and coasts are critical for, inter alia, poverty eradication, access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food, livelihoods, economic development and essential ecosystem services, including carbon sequestration, and represent an important element of identity and culture for the people of small island

developing States. Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, coastal tourism, the possible use of seabed resources and potential sources of renewable energy are among the main building blocks of a sustainable ocean-based economy in small island developing States.

54. Recognizing that small island developing States have large maritime areas and have shown notable leadership in the conservation and sustainable use of those areas and their resources, we support their efforts to develop and implement strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of those areas and resources. We also support their efforts to conserve their valuable underwater cultural heritage.

55. We reaffirm that international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources.

56. Recognizing the concern that potential oil leaks from sunken State vessels have environmental implications for the marine and coastal ecosystems of small island developing States, and taking into account the sensitivities surrounding vessels that are marine graves, we note that small island developing States and relevant vessel owners should continue to address the issue bilaterally on a case-by-case basis.

57. We recognize that an integrated ecosystem approach to ocean-related activities is needed to optimize opportunities. It should be based on the best available science, give due regard to conservation efforts and precautionary approaches and ensure coherence and balance among the three dimensions of sustainable development.

58. With this in mind, we strongly support action:

(a) To promote and support national, subregional and regional efforts to assess, conserve, protect, manage and sustainably use the oceans, seas and their resources by supporting research and the implementation of strategies on coastal zone management and ecosystem-based management, including for fisheries management, and enhancing national legal and institutional frameworks for the exploration and sustainable use of living and non-living resources;

(b) To engage in national and regional efforts to sustainably develop the ocean resources of small island developing States and generate increasing returns for their peoples;

(c) To implement fully and effectively the regional seas programmes in which small island developing States participate;

(d) To address marine pollution by developing effective partnerships, including through the development and implementation of relevant arrangements, such as the United Nations Environment Programme Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, and, as appropriate, instruments on marine debris and on nutrient, wastewater and other marine pollution, and through the sharing and implementation of best practices;

(e) To undertake urgent action to protect coral reefs and other vulnerable marine ecosystems through the development and implementation of comprehensive and integrated approaches for the management and the enhancement of their resilience to withstand pressures, including from ocean acidification and invasive species, and by drawing on measures such as those identified in the Framework for Action 2013 of the International Coral Reef Initiative;

(f) To undertake marine scientific research and develop the associated technological capacity of small island developing States, including through the establishment of dedicated regional oceanographic centres and the provision of technical assistance, for the delimitation of their maritime areas and the preparation of submissions to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf;

(g) To enhance and implement the monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing vessels so as to effectively prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, including through institutional capacity-building at the appropriate levels;

(h) To support the sustainable development of small-scale fisheries, improved mechanisms for resource assessment and management and enhanced facilities for fisheries workers, as well as initiatives that add value to outputs from small-scale fisheries, and to enhance access to markets for the products of sustainable small-scale fisheries of small island developing States;

(i) To strengthen disciplines on subsidies in the fisheries sector, including through the prohibition of certain forms of subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, in accordance with the Doha Ministerial Declaration adopted by the World Trade Organization in 2001 and the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration adopted by the World Trade Organization in 2005;

(j) For States that have not done so, to consider becoming parties to the 2001 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage;

(k) To promote the conservation, sustainable use and management of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks, including through measures that benefit small island developing States that are adopted by relevant regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements;

(l) To enhance the capacity of small island developing States to sustainably use their fisheries resources and develop fisheries-related industries, enabling them to maximize benefits from their fisheries resources and ensure that the burden of conservation and management of ocean resources is not disproportionately transferred to small island developing States;

(m) To urge the cooperation of the international community in implementing shared responsibilities under regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to enable small island developing States to benefit from and sustainably manage straddling and highly migratory fish stocks covered by those organizations and arrangements;

(n) To enhance local, national, regional and global cooperation to address the causes of ocean acidification and to further study and minimize its impacts, including through information-sharing, regional workshops, the integration of scientists from small island developing States into international research teams, steps to make marine ecosystems more resilient to the impacts of ocean acidification and the possible development of a strategy for all small island developing States on ocean acidification;

(o) To conserve by 2020 at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas in small island developing States, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and for ecosystem services, through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based

conservation measures in order to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss in the marine environment;

(p) To address concerns about the long-term effects of munitions dumped at sea, including their potential impact on human health and safety and on the marine environment and resources.

### **Food security and nutrition**

59. We recognize that small island developing States, primarily net food-importing countries, are exceptionally vulnerable to the fluctuating availability and excessive price volatility of food imports. It is therefore important to support the right of everyone to have access to safe, sufficient and nutritious food, the eradication of hunger and the provision of livelihoods while conserving, protecting and ensuring the sustainable use of land, soil, forests, water, plants and animals, biodiversity and ecosystems. We stress the crucial role of healthy marine ecosystems, sustainable agriculture, sustainable fisheries and sustainable aquaculture for enhancing food security and access to adequate, safe and nutritious food and in providing for the livelihoods of the people of the small island developing States.

60. We also recognize the danger caused by an unhealthy diet and the need to promote healthy food production and consumption.

61. We recognize the call, in the outcome of the interregional preparatory meeting for the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, adopted in Bridgetown on 28 August 2013, to facilitate a meeting on food and nutrition security in small island developing States in order to develop an action programme to address food and nutrition challenges facing those States, and we invite the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to facilitate this biennial forum.

62. We note the convening of the Second International Conference on Nutrition in Rome in November 2014, organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization, which has important implications for small island developing States, and look forward to its outcome.

63. In this regard, we are committed to working together to support the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To promote the further use of sustainable practices relating to agriculture, crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture to improve food and nutrition security while ensuring the sustainable management of the required water resources;

(b) To promote open and efficient international and domestic markets to support economic development and optimize food security and nutrition;

(c) To enhance international cooperation to maintain access to global food markets, particularly during periods of higher volatility in commodity markets;

(d) To increase rural income and jobs, with a focus on the empowerment of smallholders and small-scale food producers, especially women;

(e) To end malnutrition in all its forms, including by securing year-round access to sufficient, safe, affordable, diverse and nutritious food;

(f) To enhance the resilience of agriculture and fisheries to the adverse impacts of climate change, ocean acidification and natural disasters;

(g) To maintain natural ecological processes that support sustainable food production systems through international technical cooperation.

### **Water and sanitation**

64. We recognize that small island developing States face numerous challenges with respect to freshwater resources, including pollution, the overexploitation of surface, ground and coastal waters, saline intrusion, drought and water scarcity, soil erosion, water and wastewater treatment and the lack of access to sanitation and hygiene. Furthermore, changes in rainfall patterns related to climate change have regionally varying and potentially significant impacts on water supply.

65. In this regard, we are committed to supporting the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To develop institutional and human capacities for the effective, inclusive and sustainable implementation of the integrated management of water resources and related ecosystems, including supporting women's engagement in water management systems;

(b) To provide and operate appropriate facilities and infrastructure for safe drinking water, sanitation, hygiene and waste management systems, including the exploration of desalination technology where economically and environmentally feasible;

(c) To facilitate the expansion of wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse in the context of the sustainable and efficient use of water resources;

(d) To improve water-use efficiency and work towards eliminating over-extraction, especially of groundwater, and to mitigate the effects of saltwater intrusion.

### **Sustainable transportation**

66. We recognize that transportation and mobility are central to the sustainable development of small island developing States. Sustainable transportation can enhance economic growth, promote trade opportunities and improve accessibility. Sustainable, reliable and safe transportation achieves better integration of the economy while respecting the environment. We also recognize the importance of the efficient movement of people and goods in fostering full engagement in local, regional and global markets and the potential for sustainable transportation to improve social equity, health, the resilience of cities, urban-rural linkages and the productivity of rural areas of small island developing States.

67. In this regard, we are committed to continuing and enhancing support for the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To gain access to environmentally sound, safe, affordable and well-maintained transportation;

(b) To advance the safety of land, sea and air transportation;

(c) To develop viable national, regional and international transportation arrangements, including improved air, land and sea transport policies that take a life-cycle approach to the development and management of transport infrastructure;

(d) To increase energy efficiency in the transport sector.

### **Sustainable consumption and production**

68. As promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production is an overarching objective of and

essential requirement for sustainable development, we recall the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns and its vision, and we recognize that all countries should promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, with developed countries taking the lead and all countries benefiting from the process. This should be done in accordance with national objectives, needs and priorities, taking fully into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries with the aim of minimizing the possible adverse impacts on their development, and in a manner that protects the poor and affected communities.

69. In this regard, we call for support for the efforts of small island developing States to develop and implement programmes under the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns to advance sustainable consumption and production, with an emphasis on micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, sustainable tourism, waste management, food and nutrition, lifestyles, education for sustainable development and linkages in the supply chain to promote rural development.

### **Management of chemicals and waste, including hazardous waste**

70. We recognize that the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of waste is crucial for the protection of human health and the environment. For small island developing States, as for all countries, environmentally sound waste management is also crucial for human health and environmental protection, and the small land area and remoteness of many small island developing States pose particular challenges for the sound disposal of waste.

71. In this regard, we acknowledge the following actions to improve the management of chemicals and waste:

(a) Enhancing technical cooperation programmes, including those under the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management of the United Nations Environment Programme, the secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, the London Convention and Protocol and the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, to strengthen national, regional and international mechanisms for the management of waste, including chemical and hazardous waste, ship- and aircraft-generated waste and marine plastic litter, and further strengthening and expanding geographic coverage of oil spill contingency plans;

(b) For States that have not done so, considering becoming parties to and ensuring an enabling environment for the implementation, including with technical and other appropriate support, of the multilateral environmental agreements on chemicals and waste and implementing, as appropriate, the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management;

(c) Facilitating improved access to existing capacity-building programmes, such as those under the International Health Regulations of the World Health Organization, which call for strengthened management of specific risks, including control programmes for chemical and other toxic and environmental events;

(d) Implementing reduction, reuse, recycling, recovery and return approaches in accordance with national capacities and priorities, *inter alia*, through capacity-building and environmentally appropriate technologies.

### Health and non-communicable diseases

72. We recognize that health is a precondition for and an outcome and indicator of all three dimensions of sustainable development. Sustainable development can be achieved only in the absence of a high prevalence of debilitating communicable and non-communicable diseases, including emerging and re-emerging diseases, and when populations can reach a state of physical, mental and social well-being.

73. We recognize that the burden and threat of communicable and non-communicable diseases remain serious global concerns and constitute one of the major challenges for small island developing States in the twenty-first century. While prevention, treatment, care and education are critical, we call upon the international community to support the national actions of small island developing States in addressing communicable and non-communicable diseases.

74. We take note of the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the comprehensive review and assessment of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases.

75. In this regard, we reaffirm our commitment to support the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To develop and implement comprehensive, whole-government multisectoral policies and strategies for the prevention and management of diseases, including through the strengthening of health systems, the promotion of effective universal health coverage implementation, the distribution of medical and drug supplies, education and public awareness and incentivizing people to lead healthier lives through a healthy diet, good nutrition, sports and education;

(b) To develop specific national programmes and policies geared towards the strengthening of health systems for the achievement of universal coverage of health services and the distribution of medical and drug supplies, with the assistance of the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Population Fund, key development partners and other stakeholders, at the invitation of small island developing States;

(c) To take urgent steps to establish, for the period from 2015 to 2025, 10-year targets and strategies to reverse the spread and severity of non-communicable diseases;

(d) To implement well-planned and value-added interventions that strengthen health promotion, promote primary health care and develop accountability mechanisms for monitoring non-communicable diseases;

(e) To enable cooperation among small island developing States on diseases by using existing international and regional forums to convene joint biennial meetings of ministers of health and other relevant sectors to respond in particular to non-communicable diseases;

(f) To achieve universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support and to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV, as well as to renew and strengthen the fight against malaria, tuberculosis and neglected emerging and re-emerging tropical diseases, including chikungunya and dengue;

(g) To reduce maternal, newborn and child mortality and improve the health of mothers, infants and children.

### Gender equality and women's empowerment

76. We recognize that gender equality and women's empowerment and the full realization of human rights for women and girls have a transformative and multiplier effect on sustainable development and are a driver of economic growth in small island developing States. Women can be powerful agents of change.

77. In this regard, we support the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls;

(b) To integrate a gender perspective in priority areas for sustainable development;

(c) To strengthen women's economic empowerment and ensure equal access to full and productive employment and decent work;

(d) To end all forms of violence against women and girls;

(e) To continue to take measures to ensure women's full, equal and effective participation in all fields and leadership at all levels of decision-making in the public and private sectors through such policies and actions as temporary special measures, as appropriate, and by setting and working to achieve concrete goals, targets and benchmarks;

(f) To guarantee equal access to good-quality education and health care;

(g) To ensure in small island developing States the promotion and protection of the human rights of all women and their sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences;

(h) To tackle the structural and socioeconomic inequalities and multiple intersecting forms of discrimination that affect women and girls, including those with disabilities, that hinder progress and development;

(i) To give women equal rights with men to economic resources, including access to, ownership of and control over land and other forms of property, credit, inheritance, natural resources and appropriate new technologies.

### Social development

78. We recognize that social development, as one of the three dimensions of sustainable development, is crucial to ensuring development progress by small island developing States both now and in the future. We therefore support efforts to enhance social protection and inclusion, to improve well-being and to guarantee opportunities for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged.

79. We support small island developing States in their commitment to an approach to development that is focused on poverty eradication, which should ensure that people, particularly those living in poverty, have equal access to education, health, food, water and sanitation and other public and social services and access to productive resources, including credit, land, training, knowledge, information and know-how. That approach enables citizens and local communities to participate in decision-making on social development policies and programmes.



*Culture and sport*

80. We recognize that small island developing States possess a wealth of culture, which is a driver and an enabler for sustainable development. In particular, indigenous and traditional knowledge and cultural expression, which underscores the deep connections among people, culture, knowledge and the natural environment, can meaningfully advance sustainable development and social cohesion.

81. In this regard, we strongly support the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To promote cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and international cooperation in the cultural field in line with applicable international conventions, in particular those of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

(b) To leverage and build on the joint work of the World Intellectual Property Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

(c) To develop and strengthen national and regional cultural activities and infrastructures, including through the network of World Heritage sites, which reinforce local capacities, promote awareness in small island developing States, enhance tangible and intangible cultural heritage, including local and indigenous knowledge, and involve local people for the benefit of present and future generations;

(d) To develop cultural and creative industries, including tourism, that capitalize on their rich heritage and have a role to play in sustainable and inclusive growth;

(e) To develop domestic mechanisms to conserve, promote, protect and preserve their natural, tangible and intangible cultural heritage practices and traditional knowledge.

82. Recognizing the strong capacity of small island developing States in sport, we support the use of sport as a vehicle to foster development, social inclusion and peace, strengthen education, promote health and build life skills, particularly among youth.

*Promoting peaceful societies and safe communities*

83. We recognize the importance of supporting small island developing States in their ongoing efforts to ensure peaceful societies and safe communities, including through building responsive and accountable institutions and ensuring access to justice and respect for all human rights, taking into account their national priorities and legislations.

84. We recognize that the sustainable development of small island developing States can be negatively affected by crime and violence, including conflict, gang and youth violence, piracy, trafficking in persons, cybercrime, drug trafficking and transnational organized crime. In particular, the lack of sustainable livelihoods and opportunities for further education and the breaking down of community support structures can lead to increasing numbers of young men and women becoming involved in violence and crime.

85. We support the efforts of small island developing States to combat trafficking in persons, cybercrime, drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and international piracy by promoting the accession, ratification and implementation of applicable conventions, enacting and using legislation that prohibits trafficking, promoting strong institutions and improving protection mechanisms to ensure adequate care for victims of sex trafficking and

forced labour in accordance with relevant national and international agreements and treaties.

86. We support the development of action plans in small island developing States to eliminate violence against women and girls, who are often targets of gender-based violence and are disproportionately affected by crime, violence and conflict, and to ensure that they are centrally involved in all relevant processes.

*Education*

87. We reaffirm that full and equal access to quality education at all levels is an essential condition for achieving sustainable development and the importance of local, national, regional and international efforts in this regard.

88. We are committed, in this regard, to strongly supporting the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To provide high-quality education and training for youth and girls with a focus on the most vulnerable, in particular persons with disabilities, including in creative, cultural and environment-related fields, so that all people have the necessary skills and can take advantage of employment opportunities to lead productive lives;

(b) To ensure that education contributes to further building peace and promoting social inclusion;

(c) To increase their investment in education, training and skills development for all, including vocational training, and to improve their access to formal and non-formal education, including to gain entrepreneurial skills, through both formal and non-formal means, such as the use of distance teaching and the development of training approaches appropriate for small island developing States.

*Biodiversity*

89. We agree to promote international cooperation and partnerships, as appropriate, and information exchange, and in this context we welcome the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, 2011–2020, for the purpose of encouraging the active involvement of all stakeholders in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, as well as their access to and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, with the vision of living in harmony with nature.

90. We recognize that, overall, small island developing States have extraordinary marine and terrestrial biodiversity that in many cases is fundamental to their livelihoods and identity. Noting that this valuable biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides are at grave risk, we strongly support the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To conserve biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources;

(b) To export organic, natural, sustainably produced and locally grown products;

(c) To access financial and technical resources for the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity.

91. We invite parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to consider ratifying and implementing the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity, while acknowledging that having access to and sharing the benefits of genetic resources contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, poverty eradication and sustainable development.

*Desertification, land degradation and drought*

92. We recognize that addressing desertification, land degradation and drought challenges will be critical for the achievement by small island developing States of food security and nutrition, their adaptation to climate change, the protection of their biodiversity and the development of resilience to natural disasters. We also strongly support the efforts of small island developing States in designing and implementing preparedness and resilience policies relating to desertification, land degradation and drought as a matter of priority and in catalysing financial resources from a range of public and private sources, as well as in promoting the sustainability of their limited soil resources.

93. We acknowledge the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa entitled "Follow-up to the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)", in which the Conference of the Parties established an intergovernmental working group to, inter alia, establish a science-based definition of land degradation neutrality in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas.

*Forests*

94. Recognizing that forests are vital to livelihoods and ecosystems, we strongly support the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To implement the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests;

(b) To slow, halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation, including by promoting trade in legally and sustainably harvested forest products;

(c) To achieve appropriate and effective reforestation, restoration and afforestation;

(d) To address obstacles and pursue opportunities to mobilize financing from all sources to support national sustainable forest management policies and improve the state of biological diversity by conserving and safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity;

(e) To participate in the review of the international arrangement on forests under the United Nations Forum on Forests in order to explore the full range of options on the future of the arrangement;

(f) To strengthen their legal, institutional and human capacity for sustainable forest management on the basis of a holistic and integrated approach to the sustainable use of forest resources.

**Invasive alien species**

95. Noting that invasive alien species pose a threat to sustainable development and undermine the efforts of small island developing States to protect biodiversity and livelihoods, preserve and maintain ocean resources and ecosystem resiliency, enhance food security and adapt to climate change, we call for support for the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To enhance multisectoral collaboration at the national, regional and international levels, including through expanded support to existing structures, to effectively address invasive alien species;

(b) To improve efforts to eradicate and control invasive alien species, including through the provision of support for

research on and the development of new technologies by expanding collaboration and supporting existing regional and international structures;

(c) To develop and strengthen their capacity to address invasive alien species issues, including prevention, as well as increasing public awareness in small island developing States about this issue.

**Means of implementation, including partnerships**

96. While acknowledging the primary responsibility of small island developing States for their own sustainable development, we recognize that the persistent development challenges of the small island developing States require enhanced global partnership for development, adequate provision and mobilization of all means of implementation and continued international support to achieve internationally agreed goals.

*Partnerships*

97. We call for an increase in all forms of partnership with and for small island developing States.

98. We recognize that, given the vulnerabilities and the need to build the resilience of small island developing States, and keeping in mind the theme of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, there is an urgent need to strengthen international cooperation and ensure genuine and durable partnerships at the national, regional and international levels to address issues related to their sustainable development priorities and needs.

99. We also call for enhanced international cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, and especially cooperation among small island developing States. We reaffirm that North-South cooperation remains the core type of international cooperation and that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation. We recognize that genuine and durable partnerships will play an important role in advancing sustainable development by harnessing the full potential of engagement between governments at all levels, businesses, civil society and a wide range of other stakeholders. We further recognize that partnerships are effective instruments for mobilizing human and financial resources, expertise, technology and knowledge and can be powerful drivers for change, innovation and welfare.

100. We reaffirm that small island developing States are equal partners and that empowered, genuine and durable partnerships are based on mutual collaboration and ownership, trust, alignment, harmonization, respect, results orientation, accountability and transparency and that political will is required to undertake and implement long-term, predictable commitments. Partnerships in all their forms, regardless of size and economic value, should be utilized, enhanced and strengthened to ensure the meaningful engagement of various actors (including local authorities, civil society and non-governmental organizations, foundations, the private sector and international financial institutions) and should work to achieve the small island developing States' vision of self-reliance and to cooperate in the implementation of national policies that help to fulfil the commitments made in the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy, the Samoa Pathway, the Millennium Development Goals and other international declarations and instruments.

101. In this regard, we request the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, to present recommendations, including through the use of existing intergovernmental mechanisms, for a partnership framework to monitor and ensure the full implementation of pledges and commitments through partnerships for small island developing States. The framework should ensure that partnerships focus on the priorities of small island developing States, identify new opportunities to advance their sustainable development of and ensure the full implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the Samoa Pathway. The recommendations should be presented to the General Assembly for consideration and action at its sixty-ninth session.

#### *Financing*

102. We recognize that financing from all sources, domestic and international, public and private, the development and transfer of reliable, affordable, modern technology on mutually agreed terms, capacity-building assistance and enabling institutional and policy environments at all levels are critically important means of advancing sustainable development in small island developing States. As those States have unique and particular vulnerabilities that require dedicated attention, they will continue to make use of a wide range of available financing mechanisms to implement the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the Samoa Pathway.

103. We recognize that international financing plays an important role in increasing the capacity of small island developing States to mitigate and effectively respond to multiple crises by increasing the impact of existing funds and mobilizing, catalysing and directly providing financial resources from a variety of public and private sources, including international financial institutions, to support the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the Samoa Pathway.

104. We urge all countries to fulfil their commitments to small island developing States, including through the provision of financial resources, to support the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the Samoa Pathway. In this regard, the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments to developing countries, including the commitments by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to developing countries by 2015, as well as the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to least developed countries, is crucial.

105. We welcome increasing efforts to improve the quality of official development assistance and to increase its development impact. We also recognize the need to improve development effectiveness, increase programme-based approaches, use country systems for activities managed by the public sector, reduce transaction costs and improve mutual accountability and transparency, and in this regard we call upon all donors to untie aid to the maximum extent. Furthermore, we will make development more effective and predictable by providing developing countries with regular and timely indicative information on planned support over the medium term. We recognize the importance of the efforts of developing countries to strengthen leadership regarding their own development, national institutions, systems and capacity to ensure the best results for effective development

by engaging with parliaments and citizens in shaping those policies and deepening engagement with civil society organizations. We should also bear in mind that there is no one-size-fits-all formula that will guarantee development effectiveness. The specific situation of each country must be fully considered.

106. In this regard, we reaffirm our commitment to support the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To strengthen the use of domestic policies and financing, with due consideration for their respective levels of indebtedness and national capacities;

(b) To gain access to international arrangements and modalities for the financing of development for developing countries, particularly small island developing States, including through capacity-building and a review of application procedures;

(c) To implement, with the provision of appropriate financial resources, in line with existing international commitments within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, climate change adaptation and mitigation projects;

(d) To reduce transfer costs related to remittances while pursuing the international targets and agreed outcomes of important international initiatives set by the United Nations system concerning remittances, given their importance for the economic growth of small island developing States.

#### *Trade*

107. Given the unique and particular vulnerabilities of small island developing States, for example, small size, limited negotiating capacity and remoteness from markets, we recognize that efforts are needed to support their further integration regionally and between the regions and in world markets. With this in mind, we strongly support the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To encourage their successful engagement in trade and economic agreements, taking into consideration existing special and differential treatment provisions, as appropriate, and taking note of the work conducted to date under the work programme on small economies of the World Trade Organization;

(b) To obtain technical assistance through trade-related assistance mechanisms and other programmes to strengthen their capacity to effectively participate in the multilateral trading system, including with respect to explaining trade rules and disciplines, negotiating and implementing trade agreements and formulating and administering coherent trade policies, with a view to improving trade competitiveness as well as development and growth prospects;

(c) To assess the implications and mitigate the impact of non-tariff barriers to their market access opportunities through, inter alia, appropriate technical assistance and the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement of the World Trade Organization;

(d) To develop and strengthen partnerships to enhance the participation of small island developing States in the international trade in goods and services, build their productive capacities and address their supply side constraints.

#### *Capacity-building*

108. We affirm that small island developing States require continued and enhanced investments in education and training programmes to develop human and institutional

capacities so as to build the resilience of their societies and economies, while encouraging the use and retention of knowledge in all its forms, including traditional knowledge, within those States and ensuring accountability and transparency in all capacity-building efforts by all parties.

109. In this regard, we strongly support the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To improve existing mechanisms and resources to provide coordinated and coherent United Nations system-wide capacity-building programmes for small island developing States through United Nations country teams, in collaboration with national agencies, regional commissions and intergovernmental organizations, to enhance national capacities and institutions, building on the lessons and successes of the Capacity 2015 initiative;

(b) To strengthen their national institutions to complement capacity-building;

(c) To ensure the inclusion of capacity-building and institution-strengthening, as appropriate, in all cooperation frameworks and partnerships and their integration in the priorities and work programmes of all United Nations agencies providing assistance to small island developing States in concert with other development efforts, within their existing mandates and resources;

(d) To establish a dedicated intensive training programme for sustainable development for small island developing States in the University Consortium of Small Island States;

(e) To strengthen technical assistance programmes in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and regional institutions in small island developing States;

(f) To build national capacity, where appropriate, to utilize cost-benefit analysis for informed policymaking in the area of sustainable development, including models specific to small island developing States that evaluate the technical, financial, social, economic and environmental aspects related to the accession, ratification and implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and related instruments;

(g) To build national capacity to fulfil reporting requirements deriving from commitments made by small island developing States when signing international agreements and commitments;

(h) To establish national and regional information and communications technology platforms and information dissemination hubs in small island developing States to facilitate information exchange and cooperation, building on existing information and communications platforms, as appropriate;

(i) To enhance regional and interregional cooperation among small island developing States on education and training so as to identify and apply appropriate good practices as solutions to shared challenges;

(j) To ensure that women are fully and equally able to benefit from capacity development and that institutions are inclusive and supportive of women at all levels, including at the senior leadership levels.

#### *Technology*

110. We recognize that access by small island developing States to appropriate reliable, affordable, modern and environmentally sound technologies is critical to

achieving their sustainable development objectives and in fostering an environment that provides incentives for innovation and entrepreneurship and that science, technology and innovation are essential enablers and drivers for sustainable development.

111. In this regard, we reaffirm our commitment to support the efforts of small island developing States to gain access, on mutually agreed terms, to appropriate, reliable, affordable, modern and environmentally sound technologies and know-how and to increase connectivity and the use of information and communications technology through improved infrastructure, training and national legislation, as well as public and private sector involvement.

#### *Data and statistics*

112. We reaffirm the role that data and statistics play in development planning in small island developing States and the need for the United Nations system to collect statistics from those States, irrespective of size and in the least burdensome way, by, inter alia, allowing electronic submission and, where appropriate, submissions through competent regional agencies.

113. We recognize that improved data collection and statistical analysis are required to enable small island developing States to effectively plan, follow up on, evaluate the implementation of and track successes in attaining the internationally agreed development goals.

114. In this regard, we reaffirm our commitment to support the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To strengthen the availability and accessibility of their data and statistical systems, in accordance with national priorities and circumstances, and enhance their management of complex data systems, including geospatial data platforms, by launching new partnership initiatives or scaling up existing initiatives;

(b) To utilize existing United Nations statistical standards and resources in the areas of social and environmental statistics;

(c) To improve the collection, analysis, dissemination and use of gender statistics and data disaggregated by sex, age, disability and other relevant variables in a systemic and coordinated manner at the national level, through appropriate financial and technical support and capacity-building, while recognizing the need for international cooperation in this regard.

115. Furthermore, we call upon the United Nations, the specialized agencies and relevant intergovernmental organizations, in accordance with their respective mandates:

(a) To make greater use of the national statistics and development indicators of small island developing States, where available;

(b) To support a sustainable development statistics and information programme for small island developing States;

(c) To elaborate appropriate indices for assessing the progress made in the sustainable development of small island developing States that better reflect their vulnerability and guide them to adopt more informed policies and strategies for building and sustaining long-term resilience and to strengthen national disaggregated data and information systems as well as analytical capabilities for decision-making, the tracking of progress and the development of vulnerability-resilience country profiles.

*Institutional support for small island developing States*

116. We call upon the United Nations system, international and regional financial institutions and other multilateral development partners to continue to support small island developing States in their efforts to implement national sustainable development strategies and programmes by incorporating the priorities and activities of small island developing States into their relevant strategic and programmatic frameworks, including through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, at both the national and regional levels, in line with their mandates and overall priorities.

117. In this regard, we call upon the United Nations system to provide support:

(a) To ensure that United Nations entities take fully into account the issues of small island developing States and include support for those States and the development of their capacities in their programmes at the appropriate levels;

(b) To continue to enhance, through national and regional initiatives, the voice and participation of small island developing States in the decision-making and norm-setting processes of international financial institutions;

(c) To improve interregional and intraregional cooperation and collaboration among small island developing States, including, where required, through institutional mechanisms and capacity-building;

(d) To ensure that the issues of small island developing States are adequately addressed by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under their auspices.

118. We call upon the Committee for Development Policy of the Economic and Social Council to continue to give due consideration to the unique and particular vulnerabilities of small island developing States and to continue to monitor regularly, together with their Governments, the progress of small island developing States that have graduated from least developed country status.

119. We request that the Secretary-General conduct a comprehensive review of United Nations system support for small island developing States with a view to enhancing the overall effectiveness of such support and the respective roles in supporting the sustainable development of small island developing States, and we invite the General Assembly, at its sixty-ninth session, to determine the parameters of the review. We request the Secretary-General, building on previous reports, to provide to the Assembly at its seventieth session the findings of the review and his recommendations thereon in his regular report entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States".

120. We request the Secretary-General to ensure that the Small Island Developing States Unit of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat continues, pursuant to its support and advisory services mandate, its analysis and reporting on the situation of small island developing States, including in the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the Samoa Pathway, and that the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, pursuant to its advocacy mandate, en-

sure the mainstreaming of the Samoa Pathway and issues related to small island developing States in the work of the United Nations system and enhance the coherence of the issues of those States in United Nations processes, including at the national, regional and global levels, and continue to mobilize international support and resources to support the implementation of the Samoa Pathway by small island developing States.

**Priorities of the small island developing States for the post-2015 development agenda**

121. Recalling that the small island developing States have identified their priorities for the post-2015 development agenda in the outcome document of the interregional preparatory meeting for the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, as further refined in the present outcome document, we recognize the need to give due consideration to those priorities in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda.

**Monitoring and accountability**

122. To ensure the realization of a transformational strategy for the sustainable development of small island developing States, we call upon the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and their subsidiary bodies to monitor the full implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the Samoa Pathway, including through the monitoring frameworks of the regional commissions.

123. We recall that the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under their auspices, will devote adequate time to the discussion of the sustainable development challenges facing small island developing States in order to enhance engagement and implement commitments.

124. In this regard, we are committed to supporting the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To request the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly and to the Economic and Social Council on the progress achieved in implementing the priorities, commitments, partnerships and other activities of the small island developing States;

(b) To request the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to continue to maintain a partnerships platform focused on the small island developing States and to regularly convene the inter-agency consultative group to report on the full implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the Samoa Pathway, with adequate and timely analysis based on relevant targets and indicators relevant to the small island developing States in order to ensure accountability at all levels.

**Preparatory process.** In accordance with Assembly resolution 68/238 [YUN 2013, p. 828], the Preparatory Committee for the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States held its first (24–26 February) and second (23–27 June and 11 July) meetings; and a special meeting on 21 March [A/CONF.223/PC/8]. The Committee approved the draft outcome document [A/CONF.223/3], which it recommended to the Conference for adoption, and approved the Committee's draft report. The Committee

adopted a draft decision on arrangements for accreditation and participation of relevant non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other major groups in the preparatory process and in the Conference; approved requests for accreditation and participation of intergovernmental organizations; and endorsed the recommendations of the secretariat on the accreditation of NGOs and other groups in the Conference.

### Mauritius Strategy

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/238, the Secretary-General provided an August report [A/69/319] on the follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and on the preparations for the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States. The sustainable development of SIDS remained an important consideration for the international community and the UN system. With regard to the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy, the majority of activities at the international level over the preceding year had been focused on the third International Conference. Nevertheless, there were other activities of Member States from among SIDS that were geared towards the implementation of the Mauritius strategy, including the development of national sustainable development plans and strategies, and the strengthening of institutions to address priority areas; and activities from development partners, the UN system and intergovernmental organizations.

In accordance with Assembly resolution 67/206 [YUN 2012, p. 851], the International Year of Small Island Developing States was launched in February. Many events and activities occurred during the International Year on the international, national, regional and local levels.

The Secretary-General concluded that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development [YUN 2012, p. 780] reaffirmed the special case of SIDS, and the preparatory process for the third International Conference had highlighted many of the challenges faced by those countries; however, those States also had the opportunity to address those challenges and pursue sustainable development in the post-2015 development agenda. The deliberations at the Assembly's sixty-ninth session and those on the post-2015 development agenda had the potential to become important opportunities for addressing SIDS priorities, as they transitioned towards a more sustainable future.

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/69/468/Add.2], adopted **resolution 69/217** without vote [agenda item 19 (b)].

### Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* the Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (Samoa Pathway) and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation), including chapter VII, on the sustainable development of small island developing States,

*Recalling* the outcome document of the high-level review meeting on the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in New York on 24 and 25 September 2010,

*Reaffirming* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want", including the call for the convening in 2014 of a third international conference on small island developing States,

*Recalling* its resolutions 67/206 of 21 December 2012, 67/207 of 21 December 2012, 67/290 of 9 July 2013, 68/1 of 20 September 2013, 68/6 of 9 October 2013 and 68/238 of 27 December 2013, and its decision 67/558 of 17 May 2013,

*Taking note* of the Leaders' Declarations of 2012 and 2014, adopted at the meetings of the Heads of State and Government of the Alliance of Small Island States, held in New York on 27 September 2012 and in Apia on 1 September 2014,

*Welcoming* the holding of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in Apia from 1 to 4 September 2014, and the adoption of the Samoa Pathway,

*Expressing its satisfaction* that the International Conference and its preparatory process provided for the active participation of all States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies, observers and various intergovernmental organizations, including the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, as well as civil society, the private sector and the major groups representing all the regions of the world,

*Welcoming* the partnerships announced at the International Conference by Governments, international and regional organizations, the private sector, civil society and major groups, and in this regard recognizing that international cooperation and partnerships of various kinds and across a wide variety of stakeholders are critical for the implementation of the sustainable development of small island developing States,

*Welcoming also* the meetings of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, and looking forward to the future meetings of the forum, at which adequate time shall be devoted to the discussion of the sustainable development challenges facing small island developing States,

*Recognizing* that it is crucial to mobilize resources from all sources for the effective implementation of the Samoa Pathway,

*Expressing its profound gratitude* to the Government and the people of Samoa for the excellent facilities, staff and services provided and the arrangements made in hosting the Conference, and for the hospitality extended to the participants,

*Expressing its appreciation* to partners for their contributions in kind and to the Trust Fund for Small Island Developing States, to the members of the Bureau, to the Secretariat of the United Nations, including the Secretary-General of the Conference, the specialized agencies, the United Nations regional commissions and the United Nations funds and programmes, for their contributions to the success of the Conference,

*Reaffirming* that small island developing States remain a special case for sustainable development, in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities, and that they remain constrained in meeting their goals in all three dimensions of sustainable development, and recognizing the ownership and leadership of small island developing States in overcoming some of these challenges, while stressing that, in the absence of international cooperation, achieving success will remain difficult,

*Recognizing* that, in spite of the considerable efforts of small island developing States and the mobilization of their limited resources, their progress in the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and in implementing the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy has been uneven, that some have regressed economically and that a number of significant challenges remain,

*Reaffirming* the need to mainstream sustainable development at all levels, integrating economic, social and environmental aspects, and recognizing their interlinkages, so as to enable small island developing States to achieve sustainable development in all its dimensions,

*Taking note* of the report of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Reaffirms* the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (Samoa Pathway), and urges its speedy implementation;
3. *Welcomes* the renewed commitment of the international community to taking urgent and concrete action to address the vulnerabilities of small island developing States and to continuing to seek solutions, including additional ones, to the major challenges facing them in a concerted manner to support the implementation of the Samoa Pathway;
4. *Recalls* the sustainable development priorities for small island developing States identified in the Samoa Pathway, namely sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth with decent work for all (development models in small island developing States for the implementation of sustainable development and poverty eradication and sustainable tourism), climate change, sustainable energy, disaster risk reduction, oceans and seas, food security and nutrition, water and sanitation, sustainable transportation, sustainable consumption and

production, management of chemicals and waste, including hazardous waste, health and non-communicable diseases, gender equality and women's empowerment, social development (culture and sport, promoting peaceful societies and safe communities, and education), biodiversity (desertification, land degradation and drought, and forests), invasive alien species, means of implementation, including partnerships (partnerships, financing, trade, capacity-building, technology, data and statistics, and institutional support for small island developing States), the priorities of the small island developing States for the post-2015 development agenda and monitoring and accountability;

5. *Stresses* the need to ensure the effective implementation, monitoring of and follow-up to the Samoa Pathway;

6. *Acknowledges* in this regard that small island developing States are committed to the implementation of the Samoa Pathway and to that effect are mobilizing resources at the national and regional levels, despite their limited resource base, and calls upon the international community to assist and support small island developing States in the implementation of the Samoa Pathway, including by integrating its provisions into their national and regional policies and development frameworks;

7. *Urges* all partners to integrate the Samoa Pathway into their respective cooperation frameworks, programmes and activities, as appropriate, to ensure the effective follow-up to and implementation of the Samoa Pathway;

8. *Calls upon* the United Nations system, international and regional financial institutions and other multilateral development partners to continue to support small island developing States in their efforts to implement national sustainable development strategies and programmes by incorporating the priorities and activities of small island developing States into their relevant strategic and programmatic frameworks, including through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework process, at both the national and regional levels, in line with their mandates and overall priorities;

9. *Urges* the full and effective implementation of the commitments and partnerships announced at the Conference and the fulfilment of the provisions on all means of implementation, as contained in the Samoa Pathway;

10. *Recalls* the need to fully mainstream a gender perspective into all United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions and their follow-up processes;

11. *Reaffirms* paragraph 101 of the Samoa Pathway, and emphasizes that the partnership framework to monitor and ensure the full implementation of pledges and commitments through partnerships for small island developing States should be open and adaptable to the priorities and realities of small island developing States and consistent with other relevant processes and mechanisms in order to promote efficient and effective follow-up to the existing partnerships, in particular the new ones launched in Samoa, and to encourage new, genuine and durable partnerships for the sustainable development of small island developing States based on the principles of national ownership, mutual trust, transparency and accountability and focused on concrete action-oriented programmes addressing the priorities of small island developing States;

12. *Recalls* paragraphs 116 to 120 of the Samoa Pathway, and in this regard requests the Joint Inspection Unit to make recommendations in order to facilitate the work

of the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session in determining, as soon as possible, and by no later than March 2015, the parameters of a comprehensive review of United Nations system support for small island developing States, with a view to enhancing the overall effectiveness of such support and respective roles in supporting the sustainable development of small island developing States in order to ensure a coherent and coordinated approach by the United Nations system to further improve and strengthen its overall effectiveness and delivery with respect to small island developing States and the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Samoa Pathway;

13. *Also recalls* that the initial findings of the review and the recommendations thereon should be included in the regular report of the Secretary-General to be submitted to the General Assembly at its seventieth session and to be entitled “Follow-up to and implementation of the *SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway* and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States”, notes that the complete results should be included as an addendum to the report before the end of the seventieth session, and emphasizes that the review should be undertaken by the appropriate independent entity within the United Nations system in the most efficient and cost-effective manner;

14. *Further recalls* paragraph 121 of the Samoa Pathway and the need to give due consideration to the priorities of small island developing States in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

15. *Underlines* the need to give due consideration to the issues and concerns of small island developing States in all relevant major United Nations conferences and processes;

16. *Recalls* paragraph 123 of the Samoa Pathway and the need for the high-level political forum on sustainable development to devote adequate time at the 2015 meeting and at future meetings to address the sustainable development challenges facing small island developing States and the follow-up to and implementation of the Samoa Pathway;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

18. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled “Sustainable development”, a sub-item entitled “Follow-up to and implementation of the *SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway* and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States”.

Also on the same date, the Assembly adopted **resolution 69/216** entitled “Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations” (see p. 1191); and **decision 69/546**, by which it took note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations” (see p. 1191).

## Landlocked developing countries

### Preparations for 10-year Review Conference of the Almaty Programme of Action

The General Assembly, in resolutions 66/214 [YUN 2011, p. 834] and 67/222 [YUN 2012, p. 852], had decided to hold, in 2014, a comprehensive 10-year Review Conference of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework [YUN 2003, p. 875]. Responding to General Assembly resolution 68/225 [YUN 2013, p. 832], the Secretary-General, in January, submitted a note [A/68/708] outlining the proposed organizational aspects of the 10-year Review Conference on the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action (second United Nations conference on landlocked developing countries). He indicated that Austria had agreed to host the conference scheduled to be held from 3 to 5 November.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 23 April [meeting 84], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 68/270** [draft: A/68/L.38/Rev.1 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 22 (b)].

#### Second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* the Almaty Declaration and the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries,

*Recalling also* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled “The future we want”,

*Recalling further* its resolutions 66/214 of 22 December 2011, 67/222 of 21 December 2012 and 68/225 of 20 December 2013,

1. *Welcomes and accepts with appreciation* the generous offer of the Government of Austria to host the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries in Vienna;

2. *Decides* to convene the Conference from 3 to 5 November 2014;

3. *Also decides* that two sessions of the intergovernmental Preparatory Committee shall be held in New York on 12 and 13 June and on 2 and 3 October 2014;

4. *Further decides* that the Preparatory Committee shall have a Bureau consisting of two members of each regional group, that the Bureau shall elect its own co-Chairs and that Austria and the Chair of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries shall serve as ex officio members of the Bureau;

5. *Decides* that the Bureau shall be co-chaired by two Member States, comprising one developed State and one developing State;

6. *Invites* regional groups to nominate their candidates for the 10-member Bureau of the Preparatory Committee



no later than 5 May 2014, so that they can be involved in the preparations for the first meeting of the Committee;

7. *Invites* the Bureau to convene further meetings on an informal basis in New York, as required and in the most efficient and effective manner to discuss the draft outcome document of the Conference;

8. *Decides* that the Conference and the meetings of its Preparatory Committee shall provide for the full and effective participation of all States Members of the United Nations and members of specialized agencies, that the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, as well as the supplementary arrangements established for the Commission on Sustainable Development by the Council in its decisions 1993/215 of 12 February 1993 and 1995/201 of 8 February 1995, shall apply to the meetings of the Committee, as applicable, and that the Committee shall consider and adopt the provisional rules of procedure of the Conference, taking into consideration the established practice of the General Assembly, except as otherwise provided in the present resolution;

9. *Encourages* the active participation of all States Members of the United Nations, in particular landlocked and transit developing countries and donor countries, as well as of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations, in the Conference at the highest level possible;

10. *Stresses*, while recognizing the intergovernmental nature of the Conference, the importance of the effective participation of all relevant stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, in the Conference and its preparatory processes as well as in the interactive thematic round tables and side events during the Conference;

11. *Decides* that the major groups and the non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, as well as those that were accredited to the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation and to the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action, must register in order to participate;

12. *Also decides* that non-governmental organizations not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council wishing to attend and contribute to the Conference, and whose work is relevant to the subject of the Conference, may participate as observers in the Conference as well as in the preparatory meetings, in accordance with the provisions contained in part VII of Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, and subject to the approval of the Preparatory Committee in plenary meeting, and that, while respecting fully the provisions contained in rule 57 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, such a decision should be made by consensus;

13. *Further decides* that, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, the secretariat of the Conference shall be responsible for the receipt and preliminary evaluation of requests for accreditation to the Conference and its preparatory process and that, in the discharge of its functions, the secretariat of the Conference shall work in close cooperation and coordination with the Non-Governmental Organizations Branch of the Secretariat and shall review the relevance of the work of

the applicants on the basis of their background and involvement in all issues relevant to the Conference;

14. *Decides* that the Secretariat shall publish the list of applications received and disseminate the list in advance to members of the Preparatory Committee, at least one month before the first meeting of the second session of the Committee, at which time a decision on such applications will be taken;

15. *Requests* the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, as the United Nations system-wide focal point for the preparations for the 10-year Review Conference, pursuant to its resolution 66/214, and invites the Secretary-General, to take the measures necessary, within existing resources, to ensure effective, efficient and timely preparations for the Conference and to further mobilize and coordinate the active involvement of the organizations of the United Nations system;

16. *Reiterates its invitation* to Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and other donors to contribute to the trust fund established by the Secretary-General to support the activities related to the follow-up to the implementation of the outcome of the Almaty International Ministerial Conference and the participation of representatives of the landlocked developing countries in both the preparatory process and the Conference itself;

17. *Decides* that the Conference shall be organized in accordance with the organization of work set forth in the annex to the present resolution.

#### ANNEX

##### **Proposed organization of work of the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries**

##### **Vienna, 3 to 5 November 2014**

1. The arrangements set out below have been formulated pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 66/214 of 22 December 2011, 67/222 of 21 December 2012 and 68/225 of 20 December 2013.

2. The second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries will be held in Vienna from 3 to 5 November 2014.

##### **Plenary meetings**

3. The Conference will consist of an opening meeting, a closing meeting and four plenary meetings.

##### **Committee of the Whole**

4. A Committee of the Whole, established in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference, will meet if necessary in parallel with plenary meetings, except during the opening and closing meetings. The Committee of the Whole will be responsible for finalizing any outstanding matters.

**Report of Secretary-General.** Pursuant to Assembly resolution 68/225, the Secretary-General, in July, submitted a report [A/69/170] on the ten-year review of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action. The report was based on the national and regional reports on the implementation of the

Almaty Programme of Action; reports of the regional review meetings in Africa, Asia and Europe and Latin America (see below); outcomes of 17 pre-conference events; and substantive reports. The Secretary-General stated that since its adoption, tangible progress had been registered in the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, which had contributed to creating awareness about the challenges faced by landlocked developing countries globally. In the preceding 10 years, landlocked developing countries had registered faster economic growth and increased trade; however, progress was uneven. Landlocked developing countries remained fragile because of their vulnerability to external shocks, given their limited productive capacities, lack of export competitiveness and high transport and transit costs. Furthermore, those countries' value addition from manufacturing and agriculture had declined and their export concentration ratios had increased dramatically. The report concluded that the Almaty Programme of Action was designed largely as a sectoral programme, with a strong emphasis on infrastructure and transit, but did not address other growth and trade-determining factors, such as value addition, economic diversification, industrialization, job creation and resilience-building measures to deal with external shocks and climate change challenges. The coming development decade would need to address the special needs of landlocked developing countries in a holistic manner to ensure they could structurally transform their economies and achieve sustainable development and thus overcome the negative effects that their geographic constraints had on the livelihoods of people.

**Review meetings.** Regional-level preparatory review meetings were held for Europe and Asia (Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic, 5–7 March 2013) [A/CONF.225/PC/4], Africa (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 16–18 July 2013) [A/CONF.225/PC/2] and Latin America (Asunción, Paraguay, 19 November 2013) [A/CONF.225/PC/3].

**Preparatory Committee.** In accordance with Assembly resolution 68/270 (see above), the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee for the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries held its first (New York, 12–13 June) [A/CONF.225/PC/5] and second (2–3 and 22 October) [A/CONF.225/5] sessions. On 13 June, the Preparatory Committee recommended to the Conference the adoption of the draft provisional rules of procedure and the provisional agenda [A/CONF.225/PC/L.3]. On 3 October, the Preparatory Committee heard a statement by the representative of Azerbaijan [A/CONF.225/PC/8]. On 22 October, the Preparatory Committee approved the list of private sector and civil society organizations, as contained in a note by the Secretariat [A/CONF.225/PC/7 & Add.1], to participate as observers at the Conference. Also, on 22 October, the Committee decided to annex the draft Programme of Action for Landlocked

Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 to the report of the session, with the understanding that delegations would continue to meet informally before the Conference to reach consensus on the text for finalization by the Conference.

**Communication.** On 4 September [A/68/986], Azerbaijan transmitted to the Secretary-General the full text of the statement made by its delegate at the first meeting of the intergovernmental Preparatory Committee, stating that the report on that session (see above) did not contain a complete and precise reflection of its statement.

### *Second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries*

The second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries was held (Vienna, Austria, 3–5 November) [A/CONF.225/7], pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/270 (see p. 1012). It was attended by high-level officials from 129 States Members of the United Nations, including Heads of State and Government, and representatives of the private sector, academia, civil society, the UN system and other international organizations. The Conference adopted its agenda [A/CONF.225/1] and organization of work. On 3 November, the Conference established a Committee of the Whole, and allocated the consideration of the agenda item “Adoption of the final outcomes of the Conference” to the Committee. On 4 November, the representative of Azerbaijan made a statement [A/CONF.225/8] in exercise of the right of reply. The Conference held six plenary meetings; and four high-level thematic round tables on structural transformation; regional integration and transit cooperation; priorities of landlocked developing countries in the post-2015 development framework (see p. 960); and harnessing international trade and investment for the development of landlocked developing countries. The Conference adopted draft resolutions [A/CONF.225/L.1] entitled “Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024” (see below); and the “Vienna Declaration” [A/CONF.225/L.2] (see below). In addition to 18 side events, a business and investment forum was organized on the margins of the Conference.

### **GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 12 December [meeting 71], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/137** [draft: A/69/L.28] without vote [agenda item 22 (b)].

### **Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024**

#### *The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 66/214 of 22 December 2011, in which it decided to convene the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries in 2014,

as well as its resolutions 67/222 of 21 December 2012, 68/225 of 20 December 2013 and 68/270 of 23 April 2014,

1. *Expresses its profound gratitude* to the Government and the people of Austria for hosting the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries in Vienna, from 3 to 5 November 2014, and for providing all the necessary support;

2. *Endorses* the Vienna Declaration and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 adopted by the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, which are contained in annexes I and II, respectively, to the present resolution.

## ANNEX I

### Vienna Declaration

We, the Heads of State and Government and representatives of the States gathered here in Vienna from 3 to 5 November 2014 to participate in the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries,

*Having adopted* the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024,  
*Declare* that:

1. We are strongly committed to the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 to address in a holistic manner the special development needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries arising from their landlockedness, remoteness and geographical constraints;

2. We express our sincere appreciation for the constant efforts undertaken by the Government of Zambia in its capacity as Chair of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries;

3. We express our profound appreciation to the Government of Austria as well as the City of Vienna and the people of Austria for hosting the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries.

## ANNEX II

### Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024

#### I. Introduction

1. Thirty-two landlocked developing countries situated in Africa, Asia, Europe and South America, with a population of about 440 million, face special challenges that are associated with their lack of direct territorial access to the sea and their remoteness and isolation from world markets. Their international trade depends on transit through other countries. Additional border crossings and long distances from major markets, coupled with cumbersome transit procedures and inadequate infrastructure, substantially increase the total expenses for transport and other transaction costs, which erodes the competitive edge of landlocked developing countries, reduces economic growth and subsequently negatively affects their capacity to promote sustained economic development, human and social progress and environmental sustainability. Landlockedness is a major contributor to the relatively high incidence of extreme poverty and structural constraints in landlocked developing countries. Landlocked developing countries, as a group, are among the poorest of developing countries, and

many of them are also least developed countries, with limited capacities and dependence on a very limited number of commodities for their export earnings.

2. In most cases, the transit neighbours of landlocked developing countries are themselves developing countries, often with broadly similar economic structures and beset by similar scarcities of resources. The least developed transit countries are in an especially difficult situation. Furthermore, transit developing countries bear additional burdens, deriving from transit transport and its financial, infrastructural and social impacts. Transit developing countries are themselves in need of improvement of the technical and administrative arrangements of their transport and customs and administrative systems, to which their landlocked neighbours are expected to link.

3. The Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries, adopted in 2003, reflected the strong commitment of all actors to address the special development needs and challenges faced by landlocked developing countries and to promote their full and more effective integration into the global economy through the implementation of specific actions in the priority areas of fundamental transit policy issues, infrastructure development and maintenance, international trade and trade facilitation, international support measures and implementation and review.

4. There has been increased visibility and recognition of landlocked developing countries and their special needs at the international level, including at the United Nations. The international community has recognized the need to address the special challenges of landlocked developing countries in the outcomes of the 2005 World Summit and other high-level meetings on the Millennium Development Goals, as well as in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2012, entitled “The future we want”. Although there has been some progress in the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action during the review period, there is a need for further global support for landlocked developing countries, including in the areas of financial and technical assistance, as they have a long way to go to fully benefit from globalization and to achieve sustained and inclusive economic growth, sustainable development, poverty eradication, employment generation and structural transformation.

5. There is therefore an urgent need for an innovative, holistic and results-oriented 10-year programme of action, based on renewed and strengthened partnerships to accompany landlocked developing countries in harnessing benefits from international trade, structurally transforming their economies and achieving more inclusive and sustainable growth. The special challenges and needs of landlocked developing countries are recognized, and there is a need to give appropriate consideration to landlocked developing countries in the formulation of the post-2015 development agenda.

#### II. Review and assessment of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action

6. Economic growth has been somewhat accelerated in landlocked developing countries: since the adoption of the Almaty Programme of Action, landlocked developing countries have achieved moderate economic growth.

The gross domestic product growth rate for landlocked developing countries is estimated to have increased from 4.5 per cent in 2003 to 6.3 per cent in 2013. However, there are wide disparities among landlocked developing countries, with many of them showing high vulnerability to external shocks. High economic growth has not translated into a speedy reduction of extreme poverty. Per capita gross domestic product in two thirds of landlocked developing countries is still well below \$1,000. Despite some progress in social development, half of the landlocked developing countries are still in the lowest ranks of the human development index, and there is still widespread poverty, high levels of food insecurity, high levels of child and maternal mortality and poor sanitation in many landlocked developing countries.

7. Landlocked developing countries and transit countries have initiated important policy reforms to address physical and non-physical aspects of transit transport. Landlocked developing countries have increased the harmonization of transport and transit policies, laws, procedures and practices with transit countries. A number of regional and subregional transit facilitation agreements have been concluded and adopted for implementation. Some landlocked developing countries and transit countries, through regional trade agreements, free trade areas and customs unions, have developed supportive institutional frameworks, such as transport and trade facilitation bodies or coordination committees, and road funds. Border facilities and procedures have been streamlined and harmonized, leading to increased efficiency and fewer delays. Yet there is a need to deepen the reforms, enhance efficiency and effectiveness and ensure that the achievements reached are sustained.

8. High transport and trade transaction costs remain a major stumbling block in the pursuit of landlocked developing countries to achieve their trade potential. Although the estimated time that landlocked developing countries take to import goods has decreased from 57 days in 2006 to 47 days in 2014 and to export from 49 to 42 days, that is still almost twice the time taken by transit countries. The average cost of exporting a container for landlocked developing countries is estimated at \$3,204, compared with \$1,268 for transit countries, and \$3,884 compared with \$1,434 for importing a container. The establishment of a secure, reliable and efficient transit transport system remains critical for landlocked developing countries to enable them to reduce transport costs and enhance the competitiveness of their exports to regional and global markets. Landlockedness, thus, has an enormous negative impact on the overall development of landlocked developing countries. It is estimated that the level of development in landlocked developing countries is, on average, 20 per cent lower than what it would be were they not landlocked.

9. There have been progressive efforts to develop and upgrade road and rail infrastructure and to provide maintenance for the existing infrastructure at the national, sub-regional and regional levels. Dry ports and one-stop border crossings are being established in all regions. Despite such progress, the development of physical infrastructure is still inadequate, posing a major obstacle to the ability of landlocked developing countries to utilize their full trade potential. With regard to air transport, cargo airfreight has increased in some landlocked developing countries, and the number of registered flight carrier departures in landlocked

developing countries as a group increased from an estimated 200,000 in 2003 to about 362,800 in 2013. The major challenges faced by landlocked developing countries with regard to the air transport industry include the enormous resources required for infrastructure investment and the maintenance, rehabilitation and replacement of aged fleets. This limits the shipment by air of goods of high unit value or of a time-sensitive nature, such as documents, pharmaceuticals, fashion garments, electronic consumer goods and perishable agricultural and seafood products.

10. Despite some progress, landlocked developing countries lag behind other developing countries in terms of their telecommunications infrastructure, including broadband Internet access, which can play a crucial role in increasing connectivity, boosting the competitiveness of enterprises and facilitating international trade.

11. Owing, in large part, to an increase in world commodity prices, total merchandise exports from landlocked developing countries grew from an estimated \$44 billion in 2003 to \$228 billion in 2013. Imports have also increased to some extent. Although the global share of merchandise exports from landlocked developing countries has doubled in the last decade, they still account for a very low proportion, about 1.2 per cent, of such exports.

12. Furthermore, many landlocked developing countries rely heavily on a few mineral resources and low-value agricultural products for their exports to a limited number of markets, making them highly vulnerable to commodity price and demand volatility. The problem is further exacerbated by their low productive capacities and structural weaknesses, which limit the adding of meaningful value to their exports and the diversification of their exports and markets.

13. Official development assistance disbursements to landlocked developing countries more than doubled between 2003 and 2012, from an estimated \$12.2 billion to \$25.9 billion. Official development assistance accounts for more than 20 per cent of central Government expenditure in 16 landlocked developing countries. Aid-for-trade disbursements to landlocked developing countries grew from an estimated \$3.5 billion in 2006 to over \$5.9 billion in 2012. Aid for trade has helped to improve trade facilitation and trade-related infrastructure development.

14. While there has been some integration of the Almaty Programme of Action into the national development strategies of landlocked developing countries, there is a need for its better integration into development strategies at the national, regional and global levels.

15. While climate change was not part of the review of the Almaty Programme of Action, it remains true that landlocked developing countries are also vulnerable to climate change, which is exacerbating desertification and land degradation. Landlocked developing countries remain disproportionately affected by, inter alia, desertification, land degradation and drought as an estimated 54 per cent of their land is classified as dryland. Of the 29 countries in which at least 20 per cent of the population is estimated to live on degraded land, 14 are landlocked developing countries. Some landlocked developing countries are also affected by flooding, including glacial lake outburst floods. Landlocked developing countries also remain highly vulnerable to external economic shocks and to the multiple other challenges faced by the international community.

### III. Renewed and strengthened partnerships for development

16. The present Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 is based on renewed and strengthened partnerships between landlocked developing countries and the transit countries and their development partners. Strengthened partnerships within the context of South-South and triangular cooperation, as well as strengthened partnerships with the relevant international and regional organizations and between public and private sector actors, are also essential.

17. Partnerships between landlocked developing countries and transit countries is mutually beneficial for the improvement and constant maintenance of their infrastructure connectivity and of technical and administrative arrangements in their transport, customs and logistic systems. Efficient transit transport systems, strong collaborative efforts in multimodal transport infrastructure development and interlinkage, the promotion of an enabling legal environment and institutional arrangements and strong national leadership on cooperative arrangements between landlocked developing countries and transit countries are also crucial for achieving structural transformation and sustainable economic growth and development. Transparency, good governance and efficient institutional arrangements in landlocked developing countries and transit countries should also play a very important role in promoting such partnerships. Collaboration must be promoted on the basis of the mutual interests of both landlocked and transit countries.

18. Renewed and strengthened partnerships with development partners will be crucial for the full and successful implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, given the immensity of the challenges faced by landlocked developing countries. The international community, including financial and development institutions, multilateral organizations and agencies and donor countries, is encouraged to provide financial and technical support, as appropriate, to advance the specific objectives listed herein. Regional and subregional cooperation or integration should also play an important role in successfully addressing the specific problems of landlocked developing countries.

19. Support from developing countries should take into full consideration the nature of South-South cooperation, in accordance with the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation. Guided by the spirit of solidarity with landlocked developing countries, developing countries, consistent with their capabilities, will provide financial and technical support for the effective implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in mutually agreed areas of cooperation within the framework of South-South cooperation, which is a complement to, but not a substitute for, North-South cooperation.

20. The private sector and civil society are important stakeholders, whose contribution will be critical to the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, including through transparent, effective and accountable public-private partnerships.

### IV. Objectives

21. The overarching goal of the Vienna Programme of Action is to address the special development needs and

challenges of landlocked developing countries arising from landlockedness, remoteness and geographical constraints in a more coherent manner and thus to contribute to an enhanced rate of sustainable and inclusive growth, which can contribute to the eradication of poverty by moving towards the goal of ending extreme poverty. Particular attention should therefore be given in the period until 2024 to the development and expansion of efficient transit systems and transport development, enhancement of competitiveness, expansion of trade, structural transformation, regional cooperation and the promotion of inclusive economic growth and sustainable development to reduce poverty, build resilience, bridge economic and social gaps and ultimately help to transform landlocked countries into land-linked countries.

22. The specific goals and objectives are:

(a) To promote unfettered, efficient and cost-effective access to and from the sea by all means of transport, on the basis of the freedom of transit, and other related measures, in accordance with applicable rules of international law;

(b) To reduce trade transaction costs and transport costs and improve international trade services through simplification and standardization of rules and regulations, so as to increase the competitiveness of exports of landlocked developing countries and reduce the costs of imports, thereby contributing to the promotion of rapid and inclusive economic development;

(c) To develop adequate transit transport infrastructure networks and complete missing links connecting landlocked developing countries;

(d) To effectively implement bilateral, regional and international legal instruments and strengthen regional integration;

(e) To promote growth and increased participation in global trade, through structural transformation related to enhanced productive capacity development, value addition, diversification and reduction of dependency on commodities;

(f) To enhance and strengthen international support for landlocked developing countries to address the needs and challenges arising from landlockedness in order to eradicate poverty and promote sustainable development.

### V. Priorities for action

Priority 1: Fundamental transit policy issues.

Priority 2: Infrastructure development and maintenance:

(a) Transport infrastructure;

(b) Energy and information and communications technology infrastructure.

Priority 3: International trade and trade facilitation:

(a) International trade;

(b) Trade facilitation.

Priority 4: Regional integration and cooperation.

Priority 5: Structural economic transformation.

Priority 6: Means of implementation.

#### Priority 1: Fundamental transit policy issues

23. Freedom of transit and transit facilities play a key role in the overall development of landlocked developing countries. It is important for those countries to have access to and from the sea, in accordance with applicable

international law, in order to fully integrate into the global trading system.

24. Harmonization, simplification and standardization of rules and documentation should be promoted, including the full and effective implementation of international conventions on transport and transit and bilateral, subregional and regional agreements. Bilateral provisions should be no less favourable than what is provided for in the international conventions standards and best practices. The Agreement on Trade Facilitation adopted by consensus at the Ninth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2013, should further guide the work in this area. Cooperation on fundamental transit policies, laws and regulations between landlocked developing countries and their transit neighbours is crucial for the effective and integrated solution to cross-border trade and transit transport problems. This cooperation should be promoted on the basis of the mutual interests of both landlocked and transit developing countries. Effective participation of key stakeholders, both public and private, is important to improve transit facilitation. It is important to promote free movement of people between landlocked developing countries and their transit neighbours through the development and implementation of simplified and harmonized visa systems for drivers involved in international transport (freight and passengers).

25. Specific objectives are:

(a) To reduce travel time along corridors, with the aim of allowing transit cargo to move a distance of 300 to 400 kilometres every 24 hours;

(b) To significantly reduce the time spent at land borders;

(c) To significantly improve intermodal connectivity, with the aim of ensuring efficient transfers from rail to road and vice versa and from port to rail and/or road and vice versa.

26. Actions by the landlocked developing countries and transit countries are:

(a) To endeavour to accede to and ratify in a timely fashion relevant international, regional and subregional conventions and other legal instruments related to transit transport and trade facilitation;

(b) To ensure effective implementation of international and regional conventions and bilateral agreements on transit transport and trade facilitation, as applicable, also with a view to reducing transport prices and time;

(c) To enhance coordination and cooperation of national agencies responsible for border and customs controls and procedures between them and with the respective agencies in transit countries. In this regard, transit countries are encouraged to share information with landlocked developing countries regarding any change in regulations and procedures governing transit policies as early as possible before their entry into force, in order to enable traders and other interested parties to become acquainted with them;

(d) To create an effective bilateral or regional mechanism, as appropriate, to address challenges and bottlenecks in the implementation of bilateral, regional or multilateral agreements and to avoid maintaining, seeking or adopting bilateral or regional arrangements establishing quotas or other quantitative restrictions to international transit;

(e) To promote the simplification, transparency and harmonization of legal and administrative regulations and

requirements related to transit systems by all modes of transit transport, including border crossings, consular services, customs procedures and removal of internal checkpoints;

(f) To develop effective logistics systems by aligning incentives for efficient transport and transit operations, promoting competition and phasing out anti-competitive practices such as cartels and queuing systems wherever possible;

(g) To promote the involvement of road, rail and inland waterway transport business associations in public-private partnership projects, exchange knowledge and implement transit cooperation initiatives and practices that have worked well in various regions around the world;

(h) To collaborate on exchanging trade and transport data with a view to conducting cross-border transactions faster and more efficiently;

(i) All landlocked developing countries should formulate national transit policies and establish appropriate national mechanisms with the participation of all relevant stakeholders.

27. Actions by development partners are:

(a) To support landlocked and transit developing countries in the implementation of international conventions and agreements relating to transit facilitation and initiatives that promote transit cooperation, reduce transit costs and establish smooth logistic arrangements;

(b) To assist landlocked and transit developing countries to establish multilateral sustainable and efficient transit transport regimes involving public and private stakeholders and to encourage and support the sharing of best practices related to experiences, policies and initiatives;

(c) To encourage regional and subregional organizations to assist with technical and financial support to the landlocked developing countries and transit countries to implement initiatives that promote transit cooperation.

## **Priority 2: Infrastructure development and maintenance**

28. Infrastructure development plays a key role in reducing the cost of development for landlocked developing countries. The development and maintenance of transit transport infrastructure, information and communications technology and energy infrastructure are crucial for landlocked developing countries in order to reduce high trading costs, improve their competitiveness and become fully integrated in the global market.

### **(a) Transport infrastructure**

29. Despite improvement in transport infrastructure in landlocked developing countries, poor quality and gaps in physical infrastructure are still major obstacles to developing viable and predictable transit transport systems. There is inadequate physical infrastructure in rail transport, road transport, dry ports, inland waterways, pipelines and air transport in many landlocked developing countries, as well as few harmonized rules and procedures and limited cross-border investment and private-sector participation. The physical links of landlocked developing countries to regional transport infrastructure networks fall well short of expectations. Landlocked developing countries have a lower logistics performance than other countries in the area of transport-related infrastructure. Missing links need to be addressed urgently, and roads, railways and inland waterways need to

be upgraded to a level that can establish seamless and efficient transport infrastructure networks within the countries and across their borders. The improvement and maintenance of existing facilities is crucial. With regard to multi-modal transport, railways are important for the landlocked developing countries whose exports are usually bulky primary commodities. Railway transport should be promoted where its use is viable and rail networks already exist.

30. The magnitude of the required resources to invest in infrastructure development and maintenance remains a major challenge. It requires forging international, regional, subregional and bilateral cooperation on infrastructure projects, allocating more from national budgets, effectively deploying international development assistance and multilateral financing in the development and maintenance of infrastructure and strengthening the role of the private sector. At the same time, it also requires a substantial investment in capacity-building and legal, regulatory and policy reform to create an environment supportive of greater public and private investments in infrastructure. It is important to help landlocked developing countries to develop the capacity to prepare bankable, large-scale infrastructure projects and to explore innovative financing mechanisms for those projects, including public-private partnerships, where appropriate.

31. Specific objectives are:

(a) To significantly increase the quality of roads, including increasing the share of paved roads, by nationally appropriate standards;

(b) To expand and upgrade the railway infrastructure in landlocked developing countries, where applicable;

(c) To complete missing links in the regional road and railway transit transport networks.

32. Actions by landlocked developing countries and transit developing countries are:

(a) To develop and implement comprehensive national policies for infrastructure development and maintenance, encompassing all modes of transportation, and to ensure that they are well coordinated with the transit countries in the areas where transit infrastructures intersect;

(b) To collaborate to promote sustainable and resilient transit systems through, inter alia, regular upgrading and maintenance, development of corridors along transit highways, developing border-crossing mechanisms, including one-stop border crossings, as appropriate, and promoting economies of scale for transport systems through inter-modal transport development, dry ports or inland container depots, trans-shipment facilities and similar logistic hubs;

(c) To work towards the harmonization of gauges to facilitate regional connectivity, where feasible, the development of reloading capacities, the expansion of training programmes and inter-railway staff exchange programmes;

(d) To promote multilateral and regional permit systems for road transport and to endeavour to implement permit-free bilateral and transit road transport and the expansion of a multilateral quota system among landlocked developing countries and transit countries;

(e) To endeavour, at the bilateral, subregional and regional levels, to gradually liberalize road transport services, taking into account specific circumstances in landlocked and transit developing countries;

(f) To encourage the development of international logistic hubs;

(g) To develop the necessary policies and regulatory frameworks to promote private sector involvement in infrastructure development and promote an enabling environment to attract foreign direct investment;

(h) To promote public-private partnerships for the development and maintenance of transport infrastructure and their sustainability;

(i) To develop inland transport networks, including ancillary infrastructure, such as all-weather road, rail and riverside support infrastructures that ensure road and rail safety and involve local businesses in those services along highways and railway networks, thereby creating development corridors along transit highways and railroads.

33. Actions by development partners are:

(a) To support efforts by landlocked developing countries in the field of infrastructure development and maintenance and support landlocked developing countries and transit developing countries in sharing experiences on transit transport development;

(b) To encourage multilateral and regional development banks to provide more support to landlocked developing countries and transit developing countries for investment in transport development, in accordance with their respective mandates;

(c) To continue assisting landlocked developing countries in the completion of missing links in railroads and road systems, as appropriate.

#### **(b) Energy and information and communications technology infrastructure**

34. Energy infrastructure and access to affordable, reliable and renewable energy and related technologies, on mutually agreed terms, are critically important for modernizing information and communications technology and transit systems, reducing delays and enhancing productive capacity to achieve sustained economic growth and sustainable development. The importance of the Secretary-General's Sustainable Energy for All initiative is stressed. In this context, regional efforts, including the creation of networks of regional renewable energy and energy efficiency centres, will be important and need support.

35. Information and communications technology can contribute to sustainable and inclusive growth by: increasing productivity across all sectors; facilitating market expansion beyond borders to take advantage of economies of scale; and lowering costs and facilitating access to services, including access to broadband infrastructure and information via global media such as the Internet, thus contributing to increased participation in governance, accountability and transparency. However, many landlocked developing countries face severe challenges in keeping up with the necessary infrastructure deployment and concomitant evolution of policy frameworks. Broadband costs, as a share of gross national income, are much higher in landlocked developing countries than in coastal countries that are located close to submarine communications cables. Because of their small market sizes, the lack of a regionally harmonized regulatory environment is also a serious hindrance to cheaper information and communications technology services and greater geographical coverage.

36. Specific objectives are:

(a) To expand and upgrade, as appropriate, infrastructure for supply, transmission and distribution of

modern and renewable energy services in rural and urban areas;

(b) All landlocked developing countries should make broadband policy universal;

(c) To promote open and affordable access to the Internet for all;

(d) Landlocked developing countries should actively engage to address the digital divide.

37. Actions by landlocked developing countries and transit developing countries are:

(a) To enhance their collaboration in promoting cross-border energy trade and energy transit through transmission lines to third countries;

(b) Landlocked developing countries should develop national energy policies to promote modern, reliable and renewable energy, with a view to significantly enhancing capacities in production, trade and distribution, with the aim of ensuring access to energy for all and the transformation of their economies;

(c) To work together to modernize transit and transport facilities and customs and other border facilities by fully utilizing the capabilities of information and communications technologies;

(d) To further improve and harmonize legal and regulatory frameworks;

(e) Landlocked developing countries should develop a national broadband policy with a view to improving access to international high-capacity fibre-optic cables and high-bandwidth backbone networks;

(f) Landlocked developing countries should strive to develop their service sectors through the development of information and communications technology infrastructures and their integration into all relevant areas to promote competitiveness, innovation and inclusion and in order to reduce transit time and cost and modernize their transit and customs facilities;

(g) To promote digital bridges to interconnect national backbones so that countries far from the sea cables also have access to affordable broadband and are able to expand the telecommunications and related services sector in order to facilitate affordable, accessible and high-quality telecommunications services.

38. Actions by development partners are:

(a) To support efforts by landlocked developing countries to develop their energy and information and communications technology sectors;

(b) To promote energy-efficient investment in landlocked developing countries and facilitate the green economic transformation;

(c) To support landlocked developing countries in promoting their national broadband policy and developing necessary broadband infrastructure;

(d) To provide capacity-building to landlocked developing countries for the use of modern and affordable communications technology;

(e) To continue to support efforts of landlocked developing countries with the respective transit developing countries to facilitate access to information and communications technologies and the transfer of relevant skills, knowledge and technology, on mutually agreed terms, for the development, maintenance and sustainability of infrastructure.

### **Priority 3: International trade and trade facilitation**

#### **(a) International trade**

39. Greater integration of landlocked developing countries into world trade and global value chains is vital for increasing their competitiveness and ensuring their economic development. Exporting goods produced in landlocked developing countries incurs additional transport costs, which may decrease competitiveness and reduce revenue for producers from those countries. The export structure of many landlocked developing countries continues to be increasingly characterized by a reliance on the export of a limited number of products, in particular agricultural products and mineral resources. Priority should be given to policies and measures, with the support of development partners, to diversify the production and export structures of landlocked developing countries and to enhance their productivity and competitiveness in order to take full advantage of the multilateral trading system.

40. With the growing interlinkages between world trade, investment and production, global value chains account for a rising share of international trade. Landlocked developing countries have not been able to fully participate in regional or global value chains. Linking into global value chains presents an opportunity for landlocked developing countries to achieve greater integration within world markets, increase their competitiveness and become important links in production and distribution chains.

41. Services are important enablers of trade in goods and effective participation in international trade and global value chains. Efficient services enhance productivity, reduce the cost of doing business and promote job creation. Landlocked developing countries should be supported so as to increase the share of services in their economies and exports, including through enabling policies.

42. One of the main causes of marginalization of landlocked developing countries in the international trading system is high trade transaction costs. The importance of enhanced and predictable access to all markets for the exports of developing countries, including landlocked developing countries, was recognized in the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development. In accordance with the commitments contained in the Ministerial Declaration of the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization and the rules of the World Trade Organization, full attention should be given in the Doha Development Round of trade negotiations to the needs and interests of developing countries, including landlocked and transit developing countries. Given the increasing growth in South-South trade, other developing countries could be important export destinations for the products of landlocked developing countries and sources of critical foreign direct investment.

43. Trade ministers at the Ninth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2013, agreed by consensus on a package of declarations and instruments, including the Agreement on Trade Facilitation, which clarifies and improves articles V, VIII and X of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade of 1994, with a view to further expediting the movement, release and clearance of goods, including goods in transit. The Agreement on Trade Facilitation and its timely implementation in the context of the Bali package are important for the facilitation of trade for landlocked



developing countries. The Agreement includes important provisions on technical assistance and capacity-building to help landlocked developing countries to implement it effectively.

44. Specific objectives are:

(a) To significantly increase the participation of landlocked developing countries in global trade, with a focus on substantially increasing exports;

(b) To significantly increase the value added and manufactured component, as appropriate, of the exports of landlocked developing countries, with the objective of substantially diversifying their markets and products;

(c) To further strengthen economic and financial ties between landlocked developing countries and other countries in the same region so as to gradually and consistently increase the landlocked developing countries' share in intraregional trade;

(d) To invite Member States to consider the specific needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries in all international trade negotiations.

45. Actions by landlocked developing countries include:

(a) To develop a national trade strategy based on comparative advantages and regional and global opportunities;

(b) To integrate trade policies into national development strategies;

(c) To promote a better business environment so as to assist national firms to integrate into regional and global value chains;

(d) To promote policies to help national firms, especially small and medium-sized enterprises, to participate more fully in international trade;

(e) To fully leverage bilateral and regional preferential trading arrangements with a view to broadening regional and global integration;

(f) To implement policies and measures that will significantly increase economic and export diversification and value added.

46. Actions by transit developing countries include:

(a) To promote investment in landlocked developing countries, with the aim of promoting their productive and trading capacity and supporting their participation in regional trade arrangements;

(b) To improve market access for products originating from landlocked developing countries, without arbitrary or unjustified non-tariff barriers that are not in conformity with the rules of the World Trade Organization;

(c) Transit countries and landlocked developing countries should carry out studies on logistical competitiveness and logistical costs based on internationally recognized methodologies.

47. Actions by development partners include:

(a) To support efforts by landlocked developing countries to diversify exports, integrate into global and regional value chains and effectively participate in multilateral trade negotiations;

(b) To address non-tariff measures and reduce or eliminate arbitrary or unjustified non-tariff barriers, that is, those that are not in conformity with the rules of the World Trade Organization;

(c) Landlocked developing countries and development partners should promote better integration of small and medium-sized enterprises within international trade by,

when appropriate, strengthening institutions that support trade, fostering trade competitiveness, building spaces for private-public dialogue, fostering technical and vocational education and training and capacity-building and creating market linkages through business-to-business platforms;

(d) To promote the diffusion and uptake of appropriate and environmentally sound technologies on mutually agreed terms and conditions, including through investment or cooperation projects to promote economic diversification and sustainable development, as appropriate;

(e) To offer appropriate technical assistance and capacity-building to landlocked developing countries to complete the process of their accession to the World Trade Organization, fulfil their commitments and integrate into the multilateral trading system;

(f) To continue to provide aid for trade to landlocked developing countries, consistent with World Trade Organization guidelines.

### (b) Trade facilitation

48. Non-physical barriers, delays and inefficiencies associated with border crossings and ports, including customs procedures and documentation requirements, uncertainty in logistical services, weak institutions and widespread lack of human and productive capacities, continue to make transport costs high. They are at the core of the continued marginalization of many landlocked developing countries. Further streamlining and harmonization of customs and transit procedures and formalities and transparent and efficient border management and coordination of agencies involved in border clearance should have a concrete and direct impact on reducing the cost of doing trade and stimulating faster and competitive trade for landlocked developing countries. Such improved trade facilitation would help landlocked developing countries to enhance the competitiveness of their export products and services.

49. In many landlocked developing countries, human and institutional capacities are not adequate in a number of areas, including in customs and border entities, transit transport agencies, the trade negotiation process and the implementation of transit and trade facilitation agreements, including the Agreement on Trade Facilitation of the World Trade Organization, leading to a lack of effective implementation. Technical assistance and the improvement of trade- and transit-related logistics are crucial in enabling landlocked developing countries to fully participate in and benefit from multilateral trade negotiations, effectively implement policies and regulations aimed at facilitating transport and trade and diversify their export base.

50. Specific objectives are:

(a) To significantly simplify and streamline border crossing procedures with the aim of reducing port and border delays;

(b) To improve transit facilities and their efficiency with the aim of reducing transaction costs;

(c) To ensure that all transit regulations, formalities and procedures for traffic in transit are published and updated in accordance with the Agreement on Trade Facilitation of the World Trade Organization.

51. Actions by landlocked developing countries include:

(a) To establish or strengthen, as appropriate, national committees on trade facilitation, with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders, including the private sector;

(b) To scale up and implement trade facilitation initiatives such as single-stop inspections, single windows for documentation, electronic payment and transparency and modernization of border posts and customs services, among others;

(c) To effectively implement integrated border management systems and strive to establish one-stop border posts, where appropriate, with neighbouring landlocked or transit developing countries to allow for the joint processing of legal and regulatory requirements, with a view to reducing clearance times at borders, while fully utilizing the tools for trade facilitation developed by international organizations to build national capacity;

(d) To ensure full and inclusive representation of the private sector, including public-private partnerships and transport business associations, in trade facilitation initiatives and policy, and to develop the necessary policies and regulatory framework to promote private sector involvement.

52. Actions by transit developing countries include:

(a) To ensure that trade facilitation initiatives, including the Agreement on Trade Facilitation of the World Trade Organization, are developed and implemented together with landlocked developing countries in all relevant areas;

(b) To undertake further harmonization, simplification and standardization of rules, documentation requirements and border crossing and customs procedures; to enhance collaboration and cooperation among various customs and border-crossing agencies across borders; to promote the use of electronic (e-transaction) processes, the pre-arrival submission of customs declarations, risk management inspection systems and authorized economic operator systems; to improve transparency, predictability and consistency in customs activities; and to establish one-stop border posts, as appropriate, joint customs controls and inspection at border sites and other forms of integrated border management at borders with landlocked developing countries;

(c) Sharing best practices in customs, border and corridor management and in the implementation of trade facilitation policies should be encouraged at the global, regional, subregional and South-South levels, including in the private sector;

(d) To fully utilize the tools for trade facilitation developed by international organizations to build national capacity and ensure secure and reliable transport across borders by, inter alia, effectively implementing existing international standards and best practices for customs transit and safety and security of transport chains;

(e) To ensure transparency in border crossings, customs and transit transport rules, regulations, fees and charges and to accord non-discriminatory treatment so that the freedom of transit of goods is guaranteed to landlocked developing countries.

53. Actions by development partners include:

(a) To support landlocked and transit developing countries in the area of trade facilitation, in accordance with the Agreement on Trade Facilitation, which was agreed upon by consensus in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2013, at the Ninth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, and to encourage international organizations to help landlocked developing countries to assess their needs in implementing that Agreement and relevant trade facilitation measures;

(b) To support activities, including trade facilitation, aimed at simplifying, streamlining, standardizing and harmonizing import, export and customs procedures;

(c) To encourage the sharing of information on experiences and best practices related to trade facilitation with a view to creating an environment that allows for the implementation of multi-country customs transit guarantee regimes through the implementation of either international transit agreements or functional regional agreements;

(d) To support capacity-building, including training programmes, in the areas of customs, border clearance and transport;

(e) To encourage regional aid for trade so as to promote trade integration among landlocked developing countries and transit countries.

#### **Priority 4: Regional integration and cooperation**

54. Close cooperation with transit countries is a *sine qua non* for improved connectivity in transport, energy and information and communications technology. Infrastructure, trade and regulatory policies, together with political stability of neighbouring countries, have significant repercussions for the external trade of landlocked developing countries. The costs of reaching international markets for landlocked developing countries do not depend only on their geography, policies, infrastructure and administration procedures, but also on those of neighbouring countries. Thus, regional integration and coherent and harmonized regional policies provide an opportunity to improve transit transport connectivity and ensure greater intraregional trade, common regulatory policies, border agency cooperation and harmonized customs procedures to expand regional markets.

55. There is a need to promote meaningful regional integration to encompass cooperation among countries in a broader range of areas than just trade and trade facilitation, including investment, research and development and policies aimed at accelerating regional industrial development and regional connectivity. This approach is aimed at fostering structural change and economic growth in landlocked developing countries as a goal, and also as a means of collectively linking regions to global markets. This would enhance competitiveness and help to maximize benefits from globalization. Documentation and the sharing and dissemination of best practices is important to allow cooperating partners to benefit from each other's experience.

56. Actions by landlocked developing countries include:

(a) To promote regional integration by strengthening regional trade, transport, communications and energy networks;

(b) To promote harmonization of regional policies so as to strengthen regional synergy, competitiveness and regional value chains;

(c) To strengthen participation of landlocked developing countries in bilateral and regional integration frameworks.

57. Actions by transit developing countries include their contribution to deepening regional integration through the coherent development of regional infrastructure, trade facilitation measures and regional trade agreements, including the establishment of effective

and efficient customs guarantee systems to help landlocked developing countries to overcome constraints resulting from their landlockedness.

58. Actions by development partners include:

(a) To support efforts made by landlocked developing countries and their transit partners to deepen regional integration through the development and implementation of key regional transport projects and regional transport agreements for facilitating the cross-border movement of goods and passengers;

(b) To support ongoing regional integration processes involving landlocked developing countries;

(c) To share best practices in promoting regional integration.

#### **Priority 5: Structural economic transformation**

59. Many landlocked developing countries remain reliant on a few export commodities, which often have low value addition. In order for landlocked developing countries to fully utilize their export and trade potential, it is important to undertake measures that could promote structural economic transformation capable of reducing the negative impact of their geographical disadvantages and external shocks, creating jobs and ultimately leading to poverty eradication and inclusive and sustainable growth and development. Increased value addition and economic diversification are key to such structural economic transformation. Institutional capacity-building and human resources development are equally important for landlocked developing countries.

60. Improving the manufacturing capacity of landlocked developing countries, including their contribution to regional and global value chains, can achieve the triple objective of creating better-paying jobs, increasing revenue and reducing the bulk of their primary exports. Higher-value and low-bulk exports are particularly crucial for landlocked developing countries. In this context, it is important to place proper emphasis on the development of manufacturing, agriculture and the services sector, including finance, information and communications technologies and tourism, as appropriate to national circumstances. Tourism can play an important role in building the economic sector, providing employment and generating foreign exchange.

61. Science, technology and innovation play a critical role in achieving structural economic transformation, productive capacity development and value addition. Conducive national policies, international support and foreign direct investment are necessary to facilitate access to science, technology and innovation, and landlocked developing countries should promote investment in science, technology and innovation for sustainable development.

62. The private sector contributes to economic growth and poverty eradication through the building of productive capacity, creation of decent jobs, promotion of innovation, economic diversification and competition. In landlocked developing countries, the private sector is actively involved in activities related to transit and trade facilitation, including as traders, freight forwarders, insurance providers and transporters, and the sector is a source of tax revenue and domestic investment and a partner for foreign direct investment. Public-private partnerships can play an important role in infrastructure development.

63. Specific objectives are:

(a) To increase value addition in the manufacturing and agricultural sectors, with the aim of achieving inclusive growth and sustainable development;

(b) To increase economic and export diversification;

(c) To promote service-based growth, including from tourism, with a view to increasing its contribution to the national economy;

(d) To encourage the inflow of foreign direct investment in high-value added sectors.

64. Actions by landlocked developing countries include:

(a) To develop a structural transformation strategy aimed at improving science, technology and innovation, export diversification, productivity, efficiency and competitiveness in the agriculture, manufacturing and service sectors, including tourism;

(b) To encourage innovative solutions, entrepreneurship and the use of modern, cost-effective and locally adapted technologies, with an emphasis on sectors such as agriculture, transport, information and communications, finance, energy, health, water and sanitation and education, as well as the development of effective public and private partnerships;

(c) To build a critical mass of viable and competitive productive capacity in manufacturing, agriculture and services;

(d) To promote the attraction of more diversified foreign direct investment through the creation of a conducive environment, with the aim of enhancing value addition, productive capacity, transit transport infrastructure and completion of missing links connecting landlocked developing countries within the regional network;

(e) To undertake measures to modernize the services sector by strengthening links between and among financial intermediaries, creative industries and business and legal and technical services;

(f) To create industrial clusters, such as export-processing zones and regional centres of excellence, with the aim of fostering knowledge networks and connectedness among companies;

(g) To prioritize private sector development, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises;

(h) To develop an industrial policy that takes into account the need for improved access to financial resources, development of appropriate human capacity and investment in supportive economic infrastructure as a way to further strengthen the private sector;

(i) To strengthen, as appropriate, an effective competition policy that supports business activity and further consolidates a supportive legal and regulatory framework, and to create macroeconomic conditions and systems that can facilitate the development of the private sector;

(j) To utilize the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries for sharing experiences, know-how, research and other resources on issues related to trade, transit, transport and capacity-building among landlocked developing countries. Landlocked developing countries that have not yet done so should ratify the Multilateral Agreement for the Establishment of an International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries.

65. Actions by development partners include:

(a) To support the efforts of landlocked developing countries to improve their productive capacities and create economic diversification;

(b) To contribute to the efforts of landlocked developing countries to share innovative technologies, scientific knowledge and technical know-how and best practices;

(c) To support the efforts of landlocked developing countries to increase the value addition of their agricultural and industrial output;

(d) To support landlocked developing countries in building institutional and human capacities aimed at improving their ability to attract foreign direct investment in high-value added sectors and to enhance negotiation skills for bringing in responsible investment;

(e) To support landlocked developing countries to enable them to pursue the effective partnerships necessary for capacity-building, sustainability and quality enhancement, as well as for sectoral development, including the development of tourism;

(f) To support landlocked developing countries in building resilience, developing capacity to respond effectively to external shocks and addressing their specific supply-side constraints.

#### **Priority 6: Means of implementation**

66. The development and progress of any country is the primary responsibility of that country itself. Landlocked developing countries have made efforts to mobilize domestic resources for the development of infrastructure and transit facilities, as well as for overall socioeconomic development. However, lack of adequate financial resources and capacity constraints are some of the biggest challenges facing landlocked developing countries in their efforts to achieve sustained growth and sustainable development. Landlocked developing countries and their transit neighbours need to effectively mobilize adequate domestic and external resources for the effective implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action.

67. The support of development partners is needed to complement the efforts of landlocked developing countries to establish and maintain effective transit transport systems, integration into the world economy, structural transformation of their economies and enhancement of their productive capacities. Development partners are therefore encouraged to provide targeted technical and financial support, as appropriate, towards the implementation of the specific actions listed in the Vienna Programme of Action. Development partners should also encourage private sector investment in landlocked developing countries that are implementing the Programme of Action.

68. Official development assistance flows remain a major source of external financing for many landlocked developing countries. It is important to urgently fulfil existing official development assistance commitments, and such assistance to landlocked developing countries should fully take into account the specific situation of each country. Development partners and multilateral organizations have a crucial role to play in supporting the efforts of landlocked developing countries to achieve sustainable development and the eradication of poverty.

69. Aid for trade plays a key role in assisting capacity-building for landlocked developing countries on the for-

mulation of trade policies, the implementation of trade facilitation measures and the development of trade-related infrastructure, with a view to increasing the competitiveness of their products in export markets. Aid for trade, in combination with complementary policies, has contributed to lower trade costs, with additional infrastructure, better border institutions and regulatory procedures and enhanced capacities. Aid for trade, along with the commitment of landlocked developing countries to necessary reforms, is also important in linking to or advancing the position of landlocked developing countries in the global and regional value chains.

70. South-South cooperation is not a substitute for but rather a complement to North-South cooperation. South-South and triangular cooperation also have a role to play in increasing the growth and development of landlocked developing countries, as well as transit developing countries, through their contribution, as appropriate, to the sharing of best practices, human and productive capacity-building, financial and technical assistance and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms.

71. The implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action would also require individual and concerted efforts by the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, relevant international organizations, such as the World Bank, the regional development banks, the World Trade Organization, the World Customs Organization, the common funds for commodities, regional economic integration organizations and other relevant regional and subregional organizations. These organizations are invited to give priority to requests for technical assistance and capacity-building support from landlocked developing countries in the implementation of the Programme of Action in a well-coordinated and coherent manner, within their respective mandates.

72. The private sector, including through foreign direct investment, also has a critical role to play in the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, for example through building and strengthening productive capacity, export growth, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, diffusion of productive know-how, managerial skill and capital, creation of wealth, the opening up of new markets for high-value added products and services and employment generation. Foreign direct investment can also play a key role in building the infrastructure that underpins economic activities.

#### **VI. Implementation, follow-up and review**

73. Implementation, follow-up and review should be undertaken at the national, subregional, regional and global levels. Follow-up and review should be a continuous process aimed at reinforcing partnerships and mutual accountability at all levels and by all actors.

74. At the national level, Governments are invited to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action into their national and sectoral development strategies for its effective implementation. Landlocked developing countries and transit developing countries are encouraged to establish national coordination mechanisms, where appropriate. Monitoring and review should involve all relevant stakeholders, as appropriate.

75. At the subregional and regional levels, monitoring and review should be undertaken through existing intergovernmental processes. Regional and subregional

organizations, including regional economic communities and regional development banks, are invited to mainstream the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action into their relevant programmes, in coordination with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, within their existing mandates, and the regional commissions. The regional commissions are encouraged to submit analytical reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action. The relevant regional and subregional organizations and the private sector should be actively involved in the sessions of the regional commissions in that regard.

76. At the global level, the General Assembly should continue to undertake reviews of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action through reports of the Secretary-General. The governing bodies of organizations in the United Nations system are invited to mainstream the implementation of the Programme of Action into their programme of work and to conduct sectoral and thematic reviews of the Programme of Action, as appropriate. The private sector should be involved in the reviews at the global level.

77. In accordance with the mandate given by the General Assembly, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States will ensure coordinated follow-up to and effective monitoring of and reporting on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, and will undertake advocacy efforts at the national, regional and global levels. The Office of the High Representative, in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders, should work on developing relevant indicators for measuring the progress on implementing the Programme of Action in landlocked developing countries, within their existing mandates.

78. The General Assembly is invited to consider conducting a comprehensive high-level midterm review on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024. The Assembly, towards the end of the decade, is also invited to consider holding a third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries in order to undertake a comprehensive appraisal of the implementation of the present Programme of Action and to decide on subsequent action.

### *Follow-up to the Second UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries*

**Report of Secretary-General.** In response to General Assembly resolution 68/225, the Secretary-General, submitted a December report [A/69/708] on the outcome of the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries. The report contained an assessment of the main elements of the Conference's outcome document and suggestions for implementing the Vienna Programme of Action (see p. 1014). The Secretary-General noted that the Vienna Programme of Action succeeded the Almaty Programme of Action [YUN 2003, p. 875] as a development blueprint for landlocked developing countries for the period 2014–2024. While the principal focus

of the Almaty Programme of Action was on transit transport cooperation between landlocked and transit developing countries, the Vienna Programme of Action was a holistic and results-oriented programme with an overarching goal, specific goals and time-bound, specific, results-oriented objectives. The six specific goals were to promote unfettered, efficient and cost-effective access to and from the sea by all means of transport; reduce trade transaction costs and transport costs and improve international trade services through the simplification and standardization of rules and regulations; develop adequate transit transport infrastructure networks and complete missing links connecting landlocked developing countries; effectively implement bilateral, regional and international legal instruments and strengthen regional integration; promote growth and increased participation in global trade through structural transformation; and enhance and strengthen international support for landlocked developing countries. The Vienna Programme of Action had six priority areas for action, which included the three priorities previously found in the Almaty Programme of Action—fundamental transit policy issues, infrastructural development and maintenance, and international trade and trade facilitation; and three new priorities: regional integration and cooperation, structural economic transformation, and means of implementation.

The Vienna Programme of Action reflected a deeper understanding of the challenges that landlocked developing countries faced, and contained a call for enhancing international trade performance, trade facilitation, productive capacities, economic diversification, value addition in manufacturing and agriculture, increased connectivity to regional and global value chains, regional integration and collaboration with a vibrant private sector based on expanded partnerships. The Programme of Action demonstrated also the renewed and strengthened partnerships between landlocked developing countries, their transit neighbours and their development partners. One of the notable improvements in the Vienna Programme of Action related to regional integration and cooperation, which, for the first time, was a stand-alone priority.

The Secretary-General concluded that the full and effective implementation of the goals and specific objectives and actions in the six priority areas, agreed upon in the Vienna Programme of Action, would not only facilitate the establishment of efficient transit transport systems in landlocked and transit developing countries, but would also help them build their productive capacities, diversify their exports, structurally transform their economies, integrate into the global and regional value chains and achieve more sustained economic growth. He said that it was important that the UN system support Member States in mainstreaming the Vienna Programme of Action

into their development strategies, and invited regional and subregional organizations to mainstream the implementation of the Programme of Action into their respective programmes, in coordination with OHRLLS and the regional commissions. The Secretary-General urged OHRLLS to ensure coordinated follow-up to and effective monitoring of and reporting on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action; to undertake advocacy efforts at the national, regional and global levels; and to work on developing relevant indicators for measuring progress in implementing the Programme of Action in landlocked developing countries. Clear reflection of the interests of the landlocked developing countries in the post-2015 development agenda was also crucial for the successful implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and coherence with the global process.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/69/471/Add.2], adopted **resolution 69/232** without vote [agenda item 22 (b)].

#### **Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* the Vienna Declaration and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, adopted at the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Vienna from 3 to 5 November 2014, at which all relevant stakeholders expressed their commitment to the implementation of the Programme of Action,

*Reaffirming* the overarching goal of the Vienna Programme of Action of addressing the special development needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries arising from their landlockedness, remoteness and geographical constraints in a more coherent manner and thus contributing to an enhanced rate of sustainable and inclusive growth, which can contribute to the eradication of poverty by moving towards the goal of ending extreme poverty,

*Recalling* the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document and the outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, held on 25 September 2013,

*Recalling also* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in 2012, entitled “The future we want”,

*Recalling further* the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002, and the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008,

*Recalling* the Almaty Declaration and the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs

of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries,

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

*Acknowledging* the need to promote meaningful regional integration to encompass cooperation among countries and the importance of enhancing existing transport infrastructure facilities for the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action,

*Recognizing* that the Vienna Programme of Action is based on renewed and strengthened partnerships to accompany landlocked developing countries in harnessing benefits from international trade, structurally transforming their economies and achieving more inclusive and sustainable growth,

*Taking note* of the communiqué of the Thirteenth Annual Ministerial Meeting of Landlocked Developing Countries, held at United Nations Headquarters on 25 September 2014,

*Taking note also* of the report of the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Ten-year review of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action: addressing the special needs of landlocked developing countries within a new global framework for transit transport cooperation for landlocked and transit developing countries”;

2. *Invites* the landlocked developing countries, transit countries, their development partners, the United Nations system and all other actors to implement the actions that have been agreed upon in the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 in its six priority areas, namely, fundamental transit policy issues, infrastructure development and maintenance, international trade and trade facilitation, regional integration and cooperation, structural economic transformation and means of implementation at all levels, in a coordinated, coherent and expeditious manner;

3. *Invites* Member States to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action into their national and sectoral development strategies in order to ensure its effective implementation;

4. *Invites* the development partners to provide targeted technical and financial support, as appropriate, towards the implementation of the specific actions listed in the Vienna Programme of Action;

5. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and invites international organizations, such as the World Bank, the regional development banks, the World Trade Organization, the World Customs Organization, the common funds for commodities, regional economic integration organizations and other relevant regional and subregional organizations, to integrate the Vienna Programme of Action into their programme of work, as appropriate, within their respective mandates, and to support landlocked and transit developing countries in the implementation of the

Programme of Action in a well-coordinated and coherent manner;

6. *Invites* the developing countries, guided by the spirit of solidarity and consistent with their capabilities, to provide support for the effective implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in mutually agreed areas of cooperation within the framework of South-South cooperation, which is a complement to, but not a substitute for, North-South cooperation;

7. *Invites* the private sector to contribute to the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in the respective areas of competence and in line with the national priorities of the landlocked developing countries;

8. *Reaffirms* the need to give appropriate consideration to the specific needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries in the formulation of the post-2015 development agenda;

9. *Underlines* the importance of the successful implementation, follow-up and review of the Vienna Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels;

10. *Stresses* that, in accordance with the mandate given by the General Assembly, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States will ensure the coordinated follow-up to, effective monitoring of and reporting on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and will undertake advocacy efforts at the national, regional and global levels, and also stresses that the Office, in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders, should work on developing relevant indicators for measuring the progress on implementing the Programme of Action in landlocked developing countries, within their existing mandates;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled "Groups of countries in special situations", the sub-item entitled "Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries".