

Social policy, cultural development and human resources development

In 2014, the United Nations continued to promote social, cultural and human resources development, and to implement related programmes of action including on the situation of ageing persons, persons with disabilities, youth, the family and literacy.

The Commission for Social Development held its fifty-second regular session in February under the priority theme “Promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all”. The General Assembly considered follow-up to the 1995 World Summit for Social Development and to the Assembly’s twenty-fourth (2000) special session.

The Open-ended Working Group on Ageing continued to monitor progress in the implementation and follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing, focusing on implementation of existing international framework on the human rights of older persons and identification of existing gaps at the international level.

In the area of disability, in December, the General Assembly adopted a resolution calling for urgent action by all stakeholders towards the adoption and implementation of more ambitious disability-inclusive national development strategies with disability-targeted actions, backed by increased international cooperation and support.

The General Assembly, in December, designated 15 July as World Youth Skills Day, highlighting the importance of the acquisition of skills by youth in enhancing their ability to make informed choices in life and work. During the year, the United Nations observed the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family.

Regarding cultural development, in June, the General Assembly established the United Nations Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Prize as a tribute to the achievements and contributions of individuals to the purpose and principles of the United Nations. In August, the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations held its sixth Global Forum in Bali, Indonesia and adopted the Bali Declaration, by which Member States reaffirmed the importance of common and shared values as a unifying factor in a world facing multiple challenges to coexistence.

In the field of human resources development, the United Nations University (UNU) established the UNU Centre for Policy Research at the UNU Centre in Tokyo to enhance UNU policy relevance in the fields of peace, security and global development. In

addition, the United Nations System Staff College reached a record number of beneficiaries in 2014, exceeding 16,000.

Social policy

Social development

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

On 18 July [A/69/157], pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/135 [YUN 2013, p. 1036], the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly a report on the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development [YUN 1995, p. 1113] and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly [YUN 2000, p. 1012]. He provided an overview of discussions held by the Commission for Social Development at its fifty-second session (see p. 1226), with a focus on the priority theme “Promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all”.

In the first part of the report, the Secretary-General reviewed policies and strategies for the promotion of people empowerment. He also addressed the special needs of Africa and the least developed countries, as well as progress made in the implementation of programmes related to social groups and social integration, highlighting the situations of young people, older persons, persons with disabilities, families and indigenous peoples. In the second part, he focused on the social dimension of sustainable development and examined policies and strategies that could influence the social conditions and factors that shape processes of change across social, economic and environmental domains.

The Secretary-General’s recommendations to the General Assembly included the need for Governments to invest in social protection and essential social services; improve access to decent work and to information and productive resources; eliminate discriminatory laws, policies and practices and other barriers to participation; enhance institutional transparency and accountability mechanisms in order to facilitate broad-based civic participation through periodic consultations, public hearings, town hall meetings and social dialogue; strengthen capacities for

gathering, and analysing and making widely available, high-quality, timely and reliable data; enhance policy coherence and coordination across the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, with poverty eradication and the promotion of decent work as central objectives; and give priority to employment creation and the expansion of social protection in national policymaking.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee [A/69/480], adopted **resolution 69/143** without vote [agenda item 26 (a)].

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

The General Assembly,

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

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

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the development goals contained therein, as well as the commitments made at major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions, including the commitments made at the 2005 World Summit and at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, and the outcome of the 2013 special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals,

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

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

Welcoming the decision of the Economic and Social Council that the priority theme for the 2015–2016 review and policy cycle of the Commission for Social Development shall be “Rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world”,

Recalling 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”,

Recalling also the ministerial declaration adopted at the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2013 of the Economic and Social Council, entitled “Science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals”,

Recalling further the ministerial declaration adopted at the high-level segment of the 2014 session of the Economic and Social Council on the theme “Addressing ongoing and emerging challenges for meeting the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 and for sustaining development gains in the future”,

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

Emphasizing the need to enhance the role of the Commission for Social Development in the follow-up to and review of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, welcoming the views of the Commission, as discussed at its fifty-first and fifty-second sessions, in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda, and looking forward to the views of the Commission on the ongoing discussions on the post-2015 development agenda,

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,

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

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

Expressing deep concern that attainment of the social development objectives is being hindered by the ongoing adverse impact of the world financial and economic crisis, volatile energy and food prices and the challenges posed by climate change,

Recognizing the complex character of the ongoing food insecurity situation, including food price volatility, as a combination of several major factors, both structural and conjunctural, which is also negatively affected by, inter alia, environmental degradation, drought and desertification, global climate change, natural disasters and the lack of the necessary technology, and recognizing also that a strong commitment from national Governments and the international community as a whole is required to confront the major threats to food security and to ensure that policies

in the area of agriculture do not distort trade and worsen food insecurity,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Welcomes* the reaffirmation by Governments of their will and commitment to continue implementing the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, in particular to eradicate poverty, promote full and productive employment and decent work for all and foster social integration to achieve stable, safe and just societies for all;
3. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the Copenhagen commitments and the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, are mutually reinforcing and that the Copenhagen commitments are crucial to a coherent people-centred approach to development;

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

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

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

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

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

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

10. *Emphasizes* that the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Summit, the 2005 World Summit, the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, the 2013 special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, the International Conference on Financing for Development, in its Monterrey Consensus, and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, have reinforced the priority and urgency of poverty eradication within the United Nations development agenda;

11. *Also emphasizes* that poverty eradication policies should tackle poverty by addressing its root and structural causes and manifestations and that equity, inclusivity, the

reduction of inequalities and the empowerment of the poor need to be incorporated into those policies;

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

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

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

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

16. *Stresses* the importance of economic, social and cultural rights and the importance of the principles of non-discrimination, inclusivity and meaningful participation for the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development;

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

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

19. *Reaffirms* the commitment to the promotion of opportunities for full, freely chosen and productive employment, including for the most disadvantaged, as well as decent work for all, including respect for fundamental

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

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

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

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

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

skills development and vocational training, lifelong learning and retraining and long-distance education, inter alia, in information and communications technology and entrepreneurial skills, particularly in developing countries, including with a view to supporting the economic empowerment of women in the different stages of their lives;

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

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

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

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

28. *Recognizes* the responsibility of Governments to urgently and significantly scale up efforts to accelerate the transition towards universal access to affordable and quality health-care services;

29. *Acknowledges* that universal health coverage implies that all people have access, without discrimination, to nationally determined sets of needed promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative basic health services and essential, safe, affordable, effective and quality medicines, while ensuring that the use of these services does not expose the users to financial hardship;

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

31. *Stresses* that the benefits of economic growth should be inclusive and distributed more equitably and that, in order to close the gap of inequality and avoid any further deepening of inequality, comprehensive social policies and

programmes, including appropriate social transfer and job creation programmes and social protection systems, are needed;

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

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

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

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

36. *Urges* Governments, with the cooperation of relevant entities, to develop systems of social protection that support labour market participation and address and reduce inequality and social exclusion and to extend or broaden, as appropriate, their effectiveness and coverage, including for workers in the informal economy, invites the International Labour Organization to strengthen its social protection strategies and policies on extending social security coverage, urges Governments, while taking account of national circumstances, to focus on the needs of those living in, or vulnerable to, poverty and to give particular consideration to universal access to basic social security systems, including the implementation of social protection floors, which can provide a systemic base upon which to address poverty and vulnerability, and in this regard takes note of the International Labour Organization recommendation on social protection floors;

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

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

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

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

41. *Also acknowledges* the vital role that the private sector can play in generating new investments, employment and financing for development and in advancing efforts towards full employment and decent work for all, and encourages the private sector, including small and medium-sized enterprises and cooperatives, to contribute to decent work for all and job creation for both women and men, and particularly for young people, including through partnerships with Governments, the United Nations system, civil society and academia;

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

43. *Stresses* that more concerted efforts are required to boost smallholder productivity in a sustainable manner, including scaling up public investments in agriculture, attracting responsible private investment in agriculture, improving the quality and quantity of rural extension services and ensuring that smallholder farmers, in particular women, have access to the necessary resources, assets and markets;

44. *Recognizes* the need to pay necessary attention to the social development of people in urban areas, especially the urban poor;

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

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

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

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

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

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

51. *Underlines* the fact that the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments is crucial, including the commitments by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries by 2015 and the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to the least developed countries, and urges developed countries that have not yet done so to fulfil their commitments for official development assistance to developing countries;

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

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

54. *Encourages* Member States to reflect in their development strategies current trends in global growth, including nascent recoveries in some economies that offer new opportunities for trade, investment and growth;

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

56. *Reaffirms* that social development requires the active involvement of all actors in the development process, including civil society organizations, corporations and small businesses, and that partnerships among all relevant actors are increasingly becoming part of national and international cooperation for social development, also reaffirms that, within countries, partnerships among the Government, civil society and the private sector can contribute effectively to

the achievement of social development goals, and acknowledges the importance of efforts to promote the exchange of information and knowledge on decent work for all and job creation, including green jobs initiatives and related skills, and to facilitate the integration of relevant data into national economic and employment policies;

57. *Underlines* the responsibility of the private sector, at both the national and the international levels, including small and large companies and transnational corporations, regarding not only the economic and financial implications but also the development, social, gender and environmental implications of their activities, their obligations towards their workers and their contributions to achieving sustainable development, including social development, emphasizes the responsibility of transnational corporations to respect all applicable laws and international principles, including the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework, to operate transparently, in a socially and environmentally responsible manner and to refrain from affecting the well-being of peoples, and also emphasizes the need to take further concrete actions on corporate responsibility and accountability, including through the participation of all relevant stakeholders, inter alia, for the prevention or prosecution of corruption, and to prevent human rights abuses;

58. *Stresses* the importance of promoting corporate social responsibility and accountability, encourages responsible business practices, such as those promoted by the Global Compact and the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, invites the private sector to take into account not only the economic and financial implications but also the development, social, human rights, gender and environmental implications of its undertakings, and underlines the importance of the International Labour Organization Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy;

59. *Acknowledges* the inclusion in the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals of a goal to end poverty in all its forms everywhere and a goal to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all, and reiterates the continued importance of giving due consideration to poverty eradication, social integration, full employment and decent work for all in the ongoing discussion on the post-2015 development agenda;

60. *Reaffirms* the importance of rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world by, inter alia, appraising progress made, identifying gaps and challenges in achieving the internationally agreed social development goals and realizing opportunities for social development;

61. *Stresses* the importance of the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and invites all Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations development system and the specialized agencies, regional commissions and other international organizations, as well as civil society and private sector organizations, to actively promote and undertake activities during 2015 to support an appropriate celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the World Summit;

62. *Decides* to devote one high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly, within existing resources, at its

seventieth session, in 2015, to the commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the World Summit, in order to celebrate the progress made so far and to further strengthen the role of social development beyond 2015, and requests the President of the General Assembly to conduct consultations with Member States in order to determine the modalities for that meeting;

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

64. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council and the Commission for Social Development to give appropriate consideration to the commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the World Summit by organizing a meeting during the regular programme of work of the substantive session of the Council and a half-day meeting during the fifty-third session of the Commission, in 2015, taking into account the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda and the fact that a summit at the level of Heads of State and Government for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda will be held in September 2015;

65. *Invites* the Commission for Social Development to emphasize, in its review of the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action, the increased exchange of national, regional and international experiences, the focused and interactive dialogues among experts and practitioners and the sharing of best practices and lessons learned and to remain actively engaged in the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda;

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

Commission for Social Development

The Commission for Social Development, at its fifty-second regular session (New York, 11–21 February 2014) [E/2014/26-E/CN.5/2014/10], discussed the priority theme “Promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all”, and reviewed UN programmes of action on the situation of social groups and the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) (see p. 1085). It also convened three high-level panel discussions on: the priority theme; the emerging issue of social drivers of sustainable development; and the observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family [YUN 1989, p. 612]. The high-level panel on the priority theme highlighted

the importance of empowerment in accelerating the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) [YUN 2000, p. 49] and ensuring that the post-2015 development agenda would be people-centred. To that end, the panel stressed the need to create synergies between empowerment policies and the social pillar of sustainable development as highlighted in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the post-2015 development agenda, as well as the need to integrate social, economic and environmental aspects of development. The high-level panel on social drivers of sustainable development emphasized the importance of viewing sustainable development through a social lens as a means to formulating an inclusive post-2015 development framework. In that vein, focusing on social drivers would enable policymakers to understand social factors that drive or sustain development outcomes. Moreover, it stressed that broadening the scope of social policy and initiatives would allow multidimensional challenges such as climate change, water and food security, energy, land use and natural or man-made disasters to be tackled, allowing for more effective, durable, equitable and just solutions to be found. The high-level panel on the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family affirmed the important role of families in development and proposed the inclusion of a family focus in the post-2015 development agenda.

The Commission also highlighted the need for increased participation by youth in decision-making processes, including in the post-2015 agenda. Member States shared ideas on how to tackle the challenge of youth employment, in particular mismatches between young people's qualifications and the skills required for the labour market.

The Commission welcomed the Five-Year Action Agenda of the Secretary-General and acknowledged the increased focus on youth in the works of the UN system. The Commission recommended that the Social and Economic Council adopt six draft resolutions on the following topics: the future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development; social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development; promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all; promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and mainstreaming disability in the post-2015 development agenda; further implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002; and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond. It also recommended for adoption by the Council two draft decisions: the first on the Commission's report on its fifty-second session, and the second on the provisional agenda and documentation for its fifty-third session. The Council was also notified of the Com-

mission's adoption of a resolution on visual health as a tool for achievement of the empowerment of people.

On 12 June, the Economic and Social Council at its twenty-third plenary meeting took note of the report of the Commission on its fifty-second session (**decision 2014/218**).

Other Commission reports. The Commission issued a number of other reports for consideration during its fifty-third session. The reports addressed the social dimensions of NEPAD [E/CN.5/2015/2]; initiatives and activities by Member States and other relevant stakeholders in observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family [A/70/61-E/2015/3]; rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world [E/CN.5/2015/3]; further implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002 [E/CN.5/2015/4]; monitoring of the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities [E/CN.5/2015/5]; contributions of social development to the transition from the MDGs to the sustainable development goals [E/CN.5/2015/6]; the report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development [E/CN.5/2015/7]; and the nomination of members of that Board [E/CN.5/2015/8].

On 12 June, by **decision 2014/217**, the Economic and Social Council approved the provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-third session of the Commission for Social Development.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 12 June [meeting 23], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission for Social Development [E/2014/26], adopted **resolution 2014/3** without vote [agenda item 17 (b)].

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

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2005/11 of 21 July 2005, 2006/18 of 26 July 2006, 2008/19 of 24 July 2008 and 2010/10 of 22 July 2010 on the future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development,

Recalling also its resolution 2012/7 of 26 July 2012, in which it decided that the Commission shall keep its methods of work under review, and taking note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Review of methods of work of the Commission for Social Development" requested therein,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 68/1 of 20 September 2013 entitled "Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council", in which the Assembly 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,

Recalling the commitment to and emphasizing the need to strengthen the Council, within its mandate under the Charter as a principal organ of the United Nations, 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 recognizing the key role of the Council in achieving a balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development,

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

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

2. *Decides* that the Commission will report on social aspects related to the agreed main theme of the Economic and Social Council in order to contribute to its work;

3. *Also decides* to maintain the two-year review and policy cycle for the 2015 and 2016 sessions;

4. *Reaffirms* that the officers elected to the Bureau of the Commission should continue to be elected for a term of office of two years, in parallel with the review and policy cycle of 2015–2016;

5. *Also reaffirms* that the Commission, in fulfilling its mandate, shall assist the Council in monitoring, reviewing and appraising the progress achieved and problems encountered in the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, and shall advise the Council thereon;

6. *Decides* that the priority theme for the 2015–2016 review and policy cycle shall allow the Commission to contribute to the work of the Council and shall be “Rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world”;

7. *Also decides* that the Commission should utilize, as appropriate, its agenda item on emerging issues to promote consideration of relevant issues on the agenda of the Council, in particular the annual main theme of the Council and the integration segment linked thereto, which will bring together the key messages from the Council system on the main theme and develop action-oriented recommendations for follow-up;

8. *Further decides* to consider the biennialization of the resolutions of the Commission with a view to eliminating duplication and overlap and promoting complementarity in the consideration and negotiation of similar or related issues between the Council and the General Assembly;

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

10. *Decides* that the Commission shall keep its methods of work, including the functioning of the two-year review and policy cycle, under review also in order to adjust, as appropriate, to the work and cycle of the Council.

Social integration

Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/7 [YUN 2012, p. 1045], the Secretary-General submitted a report [E/CN.5/2014/3] on the promotion of people empowerment for achieving poverty

eradication, social integration and decent work for all. In the report, the Secretary-General reviewed policies, strategies and programmes that had effectively enabled people empowerment, and stressed the importance of building inclusive institutions and eliminating discrimination. He emphasized the role of empowerment as an engine of social development and its role in breaking the cycle of poverty and exclusion. He further stressed that Governments were best positioned to remove the formal and informal institutional barriers which prevented some individuals and groups from taking action to improve their well-being and expand their choices. In that vein, he added that Governments remained essential to people’s empowerment, because only they could establish inclusive and secure legal, political, social, administrative and regulatory environments, and also possessed the mandate and resources necessary for providing services and infrastructure on the scale needed.

The Secretary-General highlighted the importance of empowerment policies that promoted human capital and productive skills; fostering access to information and communications technology; investments in social services and social protection; improving access to decent work and other productive assets; and harnessing the contributions of social movements. He also emphasized the importance of promoting civic engagement and inclusive governance processes that promoted transparency, responsiveness, and accountability on the part of public institutions. He further highlighted that certain social groups faced greater challenges than others in empowering themselves to overcome poverty or find a decent job, stressing that in order to achieve equality and non-discrimination, attention should be given to power differentials—and the barriers to participation of disadvantaged social groups must be identified and addressed.

He concluded by recommending that Governments prioritize people empowerment in the post-2015 global development agenda; allocate adequate funding to ensure universal access to social services, including quality education and health; strengthen access to productive resources by individuals belonging to socially excluded or marginalized groups, including by securing land-tenure rights; promote the use of information and communications technology and bridge the digital divide by further developing necessary infrastructure; foster broad-based participation in policymaking and governance processes and enhance the capacity of public administration entities to be transparent, accountable and responsive to the needs and aspirations of all people; take all necessary measures to eliminate discrimination against all persons, including people living in poverty, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, older persons, young persons and women; and build inclusive monitoring frameworks and social impact assessments into all rel-

evant policies and use existing monitoring frameworks to measure progress in advancing empowerment.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 12 June [meeting 23], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission for Social Development [E/2014/26], adopted **resolution 2014/5** without vote [agenda item 17 (b)].

Promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2012/7 of 26 July 2012, in which the Council decided that the priority theme for the 2013–2014 review and policy cycle of the Commission for Social Development would be “Promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all”,

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

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the development goals contained therein, as well as the commitments made at major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions, including the commitments made at the 2005 World Summit and at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, and the outcome of the 2013 special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals,

Expressing concern about the crippling effects of poverty, inequality and disparity all over the globe,

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

Recognizing also that policies aimed at eradicating poverty, reducing inequality and promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all as well as social integration, and policies intended to foster the empowerment of people, are mutually reinforcing,

Recognizing further that a people-centred approach must be at the centre of social and economic development, and that people should be the key focus of plans, programmes and policies at all levels so that the results of development fairly benefit all people,

Reaffirming that empowerment and participation are important for social development and that sustainable development requires the meaningful involvement and active participation of all, including children, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples and other disadvantaged and vulnerable persons and groups, with due regard to the need for the full and equal participation of women,

Recalling the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities: the

way forward, a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond, in which Governments reaffirmed their resolve to work together through a participatory approach involving the public sector and representatives of civil society associations and organizations of persons with disabilities for disability-inclusive development and the commitment of the international community to the advancement of the rights of all persons with disabilities, which is deeply rooted in the goals of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as to the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities towards 2015 and beyond,

Reaffirming that the empowerment of all people, in particular women and girls as well as youth, older persons, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples and other disadvantaged and vulnerable persons and groups, to strengthen their own capacity to make informed decisions in exercising the right and responsibility to take an active part in the affairs of the community in which they live is a main objective of development and its principal resource, and in this regard that empowerment requires the full participation of people in the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of decisions, as appropriate, determining the functioning and well-being of our societies,

Recalling the outcome document of the third Global Conference on Child Labour, held in Brasilia from 8 to 10 October 2013, and further recalling our understanding that investments in children and the realization of their rights are among the most effective ways to eradicate poverty, our vow to break the cycle of poverty within the framework of the internationally agreed goals, and the need for measures to improve access to free, compulsory and quality education and health care for all children, as well as to the progressive universalization of social protection,

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, entitled “The future we want”, in which Governments reaffirmed the importance of supporting developing countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty and promote the empowerment of the poor and other disadvantaged and vulnerable persons and groups, including by removing barriers to opportunity, enhancing productive capacity, developing sustainable agriculture and promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all, complemented by effective social policies, including social protection floors,

Recognizing that providing universal access to social services, including quality education, adequate and affordable water and sanitation and health care and other social care services, promoting employment and decent work for all and providing social protection floors consistent with national priorities and circumstances are important instruments for empowering people, and recognizing also the need to mobilize political commitment to full and equal access to and achievement in education of good quality for all, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and people living in rural areas,

Stressing the importance of increasing efforts by the international community, Member States and all relevant groups of society, including social partners, to reduce inequalities and eliminate social exclusion and discrimination,

Acknowledging that good governance and the rule of law at the national and international levels are essential for sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty,

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

Stressing the importance of the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and recalling the decision of the General Assembly to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session the consideration of an appropriate celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the World Summit, in 2015, in the context of coordinated and integrated follow-up to the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields,

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

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Reaffirms* that the ultimate goal of social development is to improve and enhance the quality of life of all people and that empowerment and participation are essential for democracy, harmony and social development;
3. *Also reaffirms* the commitment made by Member States in the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development to ensure substantial public investment and promote private investment in human resource development and in capacity-building, including in health and education and social protection, as well as in empowerment and participation, especially for people living in poverty or suffering from social exclusion;
4. *Stresses* that Member States should prioritize the creation of a “society for all” with respect for the human rights of all individuals and based on equality, mutual responsibility and cooperation, access to essential services, including health care and social care services, and the promotion of the active participation of every member of society, without discrimination, in civic, social, economic, cultural and political activities, as well as participation in decision-making processes;
5. *Reaffirms* the commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women, as well as to the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into all development efforts, recognizing that these are critical for achieving sustainable development and for efforts to combat hunger, poverty and disease and to strengthen policies and programmes that improve, ensure and broaden the full participation of women in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life, as equal partners, and to improve their access to all resources needed for the full exercise of all their human rights and fundamental freedoms by removing persistent barriers, including ensuring equal access to full and productive employment and decent work, as well as strengthening their economic independence, and also emphasizes that the education of women and girls is essential for poverty eradication and for their empowerment;
6. *Stresses* that special efforts should be made to foster the participation of all people, including women, people

living in poverty and those belonging to disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, including children, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples, in all aspects of political, economic, social, civic and cultural life, in particular the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, as appropriate, of policies that affect them;

7. *Calls upon* Member States to continue their 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, employment, water and sanitation, health care and social protection;

8. *Encourages* Governments, with the cooperation of relevant entities, including social partners, as appropriate, to continue to develop, improve and implement inclusive, effective and sustainable social protection systems and social protection floors based on national priorities for all members of society, including women as well as disadvantaged and vulnerable persons and groups, and in this regard takes note of Recommendation No. 202 concerning national floors of social protection, adopted by the General Conference of the International Labour Organization on 14 June 2012;

9. *Also encourages* Governments to continue to develop and strengthen policies, strategies and programmes to enhance, in particular, the employability of women and youth as well as older persons, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and members of other disadvantaged groups and to ensure their access to full and productive employment and decent work;

10. *Urges* Member States and, as appropriate, the relevant entities of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, as well as all relevant actors, to continue to develop and strengthen policies, strategies and programmes to enhance the employability of all members of society and to ensure their access to full and productive employment and decent work, including by improving access to formal and non-formal education, skills development and vocational training, lifelong learning and retraining, and long-distance education, including in information and communications technology and entrepreneurial skills, particularly in developing countries, including with a view to supporting the economic empowerment of all members of society in the different stages of their lives;

11. *Recognizes* that the creation of full and productive employment and decent work should be a central objective of national policies and that macroeconomic policy should contribute to creating more and better job opportunities and an environment that supports investment, growth and entrepreneurship, which is essential to the creation of new jobs;

12. *Also recognizes* that access to employment and decent work for all and social dialogue are essential for people’s empowerment and participation, and calls for Member States to respect, promote and realize fundamental principles and rights at work, in accordance with the International Labour Organization Declaration of Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work;

13. *Stresses* the relevance of the World Programme of Action for Youth, including its priority areas regarding poverty, employment, participation and education, for the empowerment and development of youth, and in this

regard recognizes the need to improve opportunities for young people to gain access to productive employment and decent work through increased investment in youth employment, active labour market support and public-private partnerships, as well as through the creation of enabling environments to facilitate the participation of young people in labour markets, in accordance with international rules and commitments;

14. *Reaffirms* the need to enhance the welfare of women, children, youth, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, older persons and smallholder and subsistence farmers and to improve the livelihoods and empowerment of the poor and other disadvantaged and vulnerable persons and groups, in particular in developing countries;

15. *Stresses* the importance of implementing the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002 in order to, inter alia, help societies to balance the needs of different generations in their policies, promote economic empowerment and avoid age-based discrimination against older persons;

16. *Encourages* Governments to strengthen access to productive resources for disadvantaged and vulnerable persons, including by securing land tenure rights and other rights related to the use of natural resources in accordance with national legislation, priorities and policies and by improving access to a broad range of appropriate financial services;

17. *Encourages* 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 also 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;

18. *Stresses* the potential of information and communications technology to improve the quality of life of all people in order to enable them to better participate in sustainable development and the global economy, and in this regard calls upon Member States, with the support of the United Nations system, donors, the private sector and civil society, to promote universal, non-discriminatory, equitable, safe and affordable access to information and communications technology, especially in schools and public places, and to remove the barriers to bridging the digital divide;

19. *Invites* Governments to enhance the capacity of the public administration to be transparent, accountable and responsive to the needs and aspirations of all people, without discrimination of any kind, and to foster broad-based participation in governance and development processes;

20. *Recognizes* that supportive institutional structures and participatory mechanisms, including consultative democratic institutions and processes, are necessary for the empowerment of people and that special efforts should be made to promote participation in policymaking and governance processes in all aspects of political, economic, social and cultural life and to enhance the capacity of national institutions to be responsive to the needs and aspirations of all members of society;

21. *Encourages* Member States to take all measures necessary to eliminate discrimination of any kind against all persons, without distinction of any kind, in particular

those living in poverty, in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to refrain from adopting any laws, regulations or practices denying or limiting the enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including economic, social and cultural as well as civil and political rights, and to ensure that people, in particular those living in poverty and women, have equal access to justice;

22. *Encourages* the international community to support developing countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty and promote empowerment of the poor and disadvantaged and vulnerable persons and groups, 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 comprehensive social policy systems, including social protection floors, and in this regard takes note of International Labour Organization Recommendation No. 202 concerning national floors of social protection;

23. *Recognizes* that there is a need for all donors to maintain and deliver on their existing bilateral and multilateral official development assistance commitments and targets and that the full implementation of those commitments will substantially support the efforts of developing countries to achieve the social development objectives by promoting the empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all;

24. *Invites* Member States to give due consideration to promoting the empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda, and encourages Member States, in cooperation with civil society, the private sector, academia and social organizations, to make every possible effort to support good governance at the national and international levels and address the needs of the most vulnerable as well as promote their participation in decision-making processes;

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include, in his report entitled “Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly”, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, policy recommendations on the empowerment of people, taking into account the discussions held at the fifty-second session of the Commission for Social Development under the priority theme.

UN Research Institute for Social Development

The United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) continued to conduct research based on its 2010–2014 agenda [YUN 2010, p. 1076], whose main theme was social development in a context of crisis and uncertainty. Research focused on three areas: social policy for inclusive development; gender; and social dimensions of sustainable development. Within that framework, the work of UNRISD ad-

dressed UN system-wide concerns related to the post-2015 sustainable development goals, including poverty reduction, inequality, social protection, the empowerment of women and social drivers of sustainability. In November [E/CN.5/2015/7], the UNRISD Board submitted a report to the Commission for Social Development in which it summarized UNRISD activities during 2013 and 2014.

UNRISD also embarked on a number of new research projects. One of those projects examined the emergence, nature and effectiveness of social policy innovations from the global South, in order to ascertain whether they were better suited to the risks facing developing countries. Another project involved research on the feminization of non-traditional agriculture and its impacts on women by a joint team comprised of UNRISD, the University of Berne (Switzerland) and entities in Bolivia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal and Rwanda. The ultimate aim was to investigate the gender implications of agriculture commercialization and rise of non-traditional agricultural exports in those four countries.

Other UNRISD projects focused on how countries were moving towards universal social policy, including health and social protection; the mobilization of domestic resources for financing social development; the ways in which gender egalitarian policy change occurred; and the potential and limits of social and solidarity economy as a pathway towards inclusive and sustainable development. UNRISD also worked to strengthen its communications and outreach, results-based management and impact. An evaluation undertaken by UNRISD donors acknowledged significant achievements in those areas, including higher visibility, excellent value for money and the expanding influence of the Institute. As at 30 November 2014, a total of 10 staff members were under contract at UNRISD in Geneva, including the director, four research coordinators, three communications and outreach staff and two administrative and support staff.

Ageing persons

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

In February [E/CN.5/2014/4], pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/29 [YUN 2013, p. 1048], the Secretary-General submitted to the Economic and Social Council a report on the implementation of the 2002 Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing [YUN 2002, p. 1194]. In the report, the Secretary-General summarized the evolution of policy analysis and approach to ageing at the UN since the Madrid Plan of Action. He highlighted four thematic clusters that were at the forefront of discussions on ageing: income security; emerging

challenges in the provision of health care; abuse and violence; and age discrimination.

The Secretary-General also discussed impediments to the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, including lack of financial and human resources in developing countries to fund and implement policies and programmes for older persons; inadequate mainstreaming of ageing into national and global development agendas; and divergent national and regional perceptions of old age issues. On emerging views and approaches, the Secretary-General stated that discussions in the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing had begun to slowly generate a better understanding of the social, economic, cultural and legal barriers to the economic and social integration of older persons and offered insights into how to better implement the Madrid Plan of Action. He recommended greater outreach and capacity-building at all levels in order to better inform deliberations and policy development in the field of ageing.

Commission action. At its February session [E/2014/26-E/CN.5/2014/10], the Commission for Social Development recommended a draft resolution for adoption by the Economic and Social Council on the further implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002 (see below).

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 12 June [meeting 23], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission for Social Development [E/2014/26], adopted **resolution 2014/7** without vote [agenda item 17 (b)].

Further implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling that, in the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, adopted by the Second World Assembly on Ageing, held in Madrid from 8 to 12 April 2002, the systematic review of its implementation by Member States was requested as being essential for its success in improving the quality of life of older persons,

Bearing in mind that, in its resolution 42/1 of 13 February 2004, the Commission for Social Development decided to undertake the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action every five years,

Recalling its resolution 2013/29 of 25 July 2013 on the second review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 68/134 of 18 December 2013 and previous Assembly resolutions on ageing, as well as Human Rights Council resolution 24/20 of 27 September 2013 and its previous resolutions on ageing,

Noting that the third review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action will take place in 2017,

Noting also the work of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, established by the General Assembly in paragraph 28 of its resolution 65/182 of 21 December 2010,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,

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

Bearing in mind that the second review and appraisal highlighted several major challenges faced by older persons in most regions that undermined the social, economic and cultural participation of the aged, namely, income security, access to age-appropriate health-care services, access to labour markets and social protection, protection from abuse and violence, and age discrimination,

Affirming the importance of national capacity-building as a prerequisite for successful implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action and an important component in promoting and protecting the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons,

Stressing the need to continue international cooperation, including through technical assistance for countries, aimed at strengthening the promotion and protection of the rights of older persons, including the development of relevant national strategies, according to national development plans,

Recognizing the importance of integrating ageing into existing processes and work programmes of the United Nations system and its development activities and of including older persons in policy implementation and evaluation on a regular basis,

Recognizing also the essential contribution that older men and women can make to the development of their societies and communities and to the well-being of the family, which can be enhanced by supportive policies, and stressing that older persons must be full participants in national development processes and share in the benefits of development,

Emphasizing the particular risks faced by older persons of neglect, physical and psychological abuse and violence, including in emergency situations,

Recognizing that population ageing is among the contributing factors to the rising incidence and prevalence of non-communicable diseases,

Recognizing also the vulnerability of older women to disability owing, inter alia, to gender differences in life expectancy and disease susceptibility and gender inequalities over the life course, and calling for the elimination of gender- and age-based social and economic inequalities in the provision of health-care services,

1. *Expresses concern* that when ageing has not received adequate attention it has led to older persons being overlooked by and omitted from national development plans, poverty-reduction strategies and national employment priorities;

2. *Encourages* Member States to continue their efforts to mainstream the rights and concerns of older persons into their policy agendas in order to adequately address the social, economic, cultural, political and other factors that make older persons vulnerable to poverty, unemployment, inequality, humanitarian emergencies, natural disasters, violence, gender discrimination, social exclusion and marginalization;

3. *Also encourages* Member States to narrow gaps between policy and practice in the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, and to consider the elaboration of national implementation strategies, which include efforts to enhance national capacity-

building on ageing, inter alia, by building institutional infrastructures, investing in human resources and mobilizing financial resources;

4. *Calls upon* Member States to continue to participate effectively in the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action through, inter alia, improving data collection and sharing ideas, information and good practices;

5. *Reiterates its invitation* to Member States to set time-bound benchmarks for action at the national level based on the shortcomings and priorities identified at the national and regional levels of review and appraisal, in order to enhance implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action;

6. *Recognizes* that ageism is a widely prevalent and prejudicial attitude that may rest on the assumption that neglect of and discrimination against older persons is acceptable and that ageism is the common source of, the justification for and the driving force behind age discrimination;

7. *Encourages* Member States to promote social integration and the realization of all human rights for older persons and to prevent age discrimination;

8. *Calls upon* Member States to adopt appropriate measures, including, if necessary, legislative measures at the national level to promote and protect the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons and to promote their full social, economic, cultural and political participation;

9. *Encourages* Member States to consider including in their national strategies, inter alia, policy implementation approaches, such as empowerment and participation, gender equality, awareness-raising and capacity development, and such essential policy implementation tools as evidence-based policymaking, mainstreaming, participatory approaches and indicators;

10. *Also encourages* Member States to strengthen efforts to develop their national capacity to set priorities and address the national implementation priorities identified during the review and appraisal exercise, bearing in mind the specific needs of older persons in natural disasters and emergencies, including through the strengthening of institutional mechanisms, research, data collection and analysis and the training of necessary personnel in the field of ageing;

11. *Further encourages* Member States to establish or strengthen strategic approaches and policy options in relation to the physical and mental health of older persons in the light of new and emerging disease patterns, notably non-communicable diseases, and increased life expectancy, with particular attention to addressing health needs across a care continuum, including prevention, detection and diagnosis, management and rehabilitation, treatment and palliative care, with the aim of achieving comprehensive health-care coverage for older persons;

12. *Calls upon* Member States to continue their efforts to promote the participation of older persons in the decision-making process affecting their lives and ageing with dignity;

13. *Recognizes* the crucial importance of family intergenerational interdependence, solidarity and reciprocity for sustainable social development, and encourages Member States to reinforce the intergenerational transmission of knowledge and positive values, including by acknowledging the instructive role of grandparents;

14. *Encourages* Member States to provide services and support to older persons, including grandparents, who have assumed responsibility for children who were abandoned or

whose parents are deceased, have migrated or are otherwise unable to care for their dependants;

15. *Also encourages* Member States to support the national and international research community in developing studies on the impact of the Madrid Plan of Action on older persons and national social policies;

16. *Encourages* the international community and the relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other regional and subregional mechanisms, within their respective mandates, to support national efforts and to provide funding for research and data-collection initiatives on ageing in order to better understand the challenges and opportunities presented by population ageing and to provide policymakers with more accurate, practical and specific information and analysis on ageing, gender and disability, such as for policy planning, monitoring and evaluation;

17. *Invites* Member States to establish and/or strengthen partnerships with civil society organizations and organizations of older persons in order to improve their national capacity for policy formulation, implementation and monitoring in the area of ageing;

18. *Stresses* the need for additional capacity-building at the national level guided by each country's needs in order to promote and facilitate the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, and in this connection encourages Member States to support the United Nations Trust Fund for Ageing in order to enable the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to provide expanded assistance to countries, upon their request;

19. *Encourages* the international community to enhance international cooperation to support national efforts to eradicate poverty, in keeping with internationally agreed goals, in order to achieve sustainable social and economic support for older persons, including to build capacity on ageing through stronger partnerships with civil society, such as organizations of older persons, academia, research foundations and community- and faith-based organizations, and with the private sector;

20. *Invites* Member States and all other major national and international stakeholders to continue their cooperation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, as the United Nations global focal point on ageing, in further implementing the Madrid Plan of Action;

21. *Acknowledges* the essential contributions of the United Nations regional commissions to the implementation, review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action, including the organization of regional review and appraisal meetings and the preparation of their outcome documents, and calls upon the Secretary-General to strengthen the work of the regional commissions, including their focal points on ageing, to enable them to continue their regional implementation activities;

22. *Invites* all relevant United Nations entities that can contribute to advancing the situation of older persons to, within their respective mandates, give greater priority to addressing the needs and concerns of older persons, while maximizing synergies;

23. *Recommends* that the situation of older persons, including the issues of poverty eradication, social integration, non-discrimination and empowerment, be taken into account in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and be given due consideration in the elaboration of the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States and other relevant stakeholders on:

(a) A possible theme or themes for the third review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action, to be held in 2017;

(b) How the review and appraisal process could better contribute to advancing the social integration and broad-based participation of older persons in development;

(c) How the mainstreaming of issues of ageing and older persons into the work of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council could be achieved;

25. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission for Social Development at its fifty-third session, in 2015, a report on the modalities of the third review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action.

Open-ended Working Group on Ageing

The Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, established by General Assembly resolution 65/182 [YUN 2010, p. 1194], held its fourth working session (New York, 30 July–1 August) [A/AC.278/2014/2] during which it elected new officers, adopted its provisional agenda and granted accreditation to 13 NGOs from 13 countries. The session included three expert panel discussions entitled “Human rights and the care of older persons”; “Violence and abuse against older persons”; and “Planning for end of life care: legal and financial issues”. The session also featured presentations by the independent expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons; the Chair and Rapporteur of the 2014 Social Forum of the Human Rights Council; an interactive dialogue on “How to strengthen the rights of older persons through enhanced implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing; and the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Post-2015 Development Planning. The Working Group also held a general discussion featuring statements from the representatives of 16 countries, eight NGOs and the European Union.

During the discussion session, a number of delegations observed that the goal of greater protection for older persons would be reached only through a specific international legal instrument encompassing the particular human rights of that population group, as called for in General Assembly resolution 65/182 [YUN 2010, p. 1194]. The Working Group was urged to reflect on how to implement, in its entirety, its General Assembly mandate on formulating the main elements of such a legal instrument. The session formulated specific proposals for recommendation to the General Assembly, focusing on measures to address the gaps in implementation, data and monitoring on the issue of ageing. The proposals, inter alia, included the need for treaty bodies to incorporate in their respective mandates and procedures the issue of human rights of older persons; UN system funds, programmes and specialized agencies to include indicators related to older persons; Member States to include language

content related to the rights of older persons in resolutions and documents of various intergovernmental bodies; and for the rights of older persons and related issues to be highlighted in the post-2015 development agenda.

Implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action

In July [A/69/180], pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/134 [YUN 2013, p. 1050], the Secretary-General submitted a report to the General Assembly on the follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing [YUN 2002, p. 1193]. In the report, he focused on efforts to address age-based discrimination and neglect, and abuse and violence. Both these issues had been singled out as critical to the well-being and human rights of older persons within the framework of both the second review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the working sessions of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing. The Secretary-General detailed the discussion of the issue of age-based discrimination at the first four working sessions of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing held during the period 2011–2013. He also summarized the findings of the second review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action.

The Secretary-General detailed the problem of neglect, abuse and violence against older women, and identified the following as key contributing factors: care settings; fragmented approaches, gender, and cultural and societal contexts; lack of data on older women's experiences of neglect, violence and abuse; underreporting and patterns of reporting; and risk factors. While some Member States had begun to address the lack of nationally uniform response systems, the report stated that a more harmonized approach to the prevention of abuse and protection of older women at the national and local levels was needed, as well as throughout the UN system. In that context, there was a critical need to broaden the prevailing knowledge base and take steps towards drafting global definitions and guidelines.

The Secretary-General also provided an update on major policy developments in the regions, civil society initiatives and publications from 2014 that were aimed at addressing the well-being and human rights of older persons. Regional policy developments included the Council of Europe's February adoption of a non-binding recommendation on the rights of older persons, which was grounded in pre-existing provisions, such as the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, and the European Social Charter; and the adoption by the African Union Conference of Ministers of Social Development of a draft Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights concerning the rights of older persons in Africa, which would be

forwarded to the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government for adoption and signature. The Protocol would see States parties include in national law the United Nations Principles on Older Persons which dealt with independence, participation, care, self-fulfilment and dignity, and ensure that they would become legally binding as the basis for protecting the rights of older persons.

He also reported that the World Social Protection Report 2014/15, published by the International Labour Organization in June, contained a chapter on social protection for older persons which emphasized that social protection had played an increasing role in ensuring income security in old age in many countries. The findings of the report suggested that without addressing the issue of expanded and adequate old-age income security and related social and health services for older persons, the post-2015 sustainable development goals aimed at reducing or eliminating poverty would remain elusive and there could in fact be a rise in poverty rates among the growing numbers of older persons across the world. In addition, the sixty-seventh World Health Assembly on 24 May adopted resolution WHA67.19, entitled "Strengthening of Palliative Care as a Component of Comprehensive Care throughout the Life Course". The lack of age-disaggregated data had long been considered a primary reason as to why the national development strategies of many developing countries lacked attention to and knowledge of the life circumstances of older persons. Against that background, the Secretary-General reported that the Global Age Watch Index—launched on the International Day of Older Persons in 2013, created by HelpAge International, with the financial support of the United Nations Population Fund, and with the aim of providing policymakers and other stakeholders with policy-oriented research and analysis tools—had been able to compile data for 91 countries to date and planned to monitor progress and expand the Index.

The Secretary-General noted that while Member States had begun to address neglect, violence and abuse against older persons, and in particular older women, a more harmonized and universal approach to abuse prevention and protection of older women was needed. The lack of explicit references to age in anti-discrimination instruments and legislation, be it at the international or national level, was identified as undermining the protection and promotion of the rights of older persons. In that vein, the Secretary-General proposed that the General Assembly consider recommending that Member States develop an explicit reference and policy framework for addressing neglect, violence and abuse against older persons; make violence against older women an integral part of the global campaign on violence against women; and make explicit reference to age in their national anti-discrimination legislation and take effective measures

to prevent forms of multiple discrimination against older persons.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/480], adopted **resolution 69/146** without vote [agenda item 26 (c)].

Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 57/167 of 18 December 2002, in which it endorsed the Political Declaration and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, its resolution 58/134 of 22 December 2003, in which it took note, inter alia, of the road map for the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, and its resolutions 60/135 of 16 December 2005, 61/142 of 19 December 2006, 62/130 of 18 December 2007, 63/151 of 18 December 2008, 64/132 of 18 December 2009, 65/182 of 21 December 2010, 66/127 of 19 December 2011, 67/139 and 67/143 of 20 December 2012 and 68/134 of 18 December 2013,

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

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,

Welcoming the important opportunity provided by the ongoing dialogue on the issues of ageing, inter alia, in the context of the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda,

Acknowledging the reference to older persons contained in the proposal of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, which 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, as decided by the Assembly in its resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014,

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

Recalling World Health Assembly resolution 58.16 of 25 May 2005 on strengthening active and healthy ageing, which stressed the important role of public health policies and programmes in enabling the rapidly growing number of older persons in both developed and developing countries to remain in good health and maintain their many vital contributions to the well-being of their families, communities and societies,

Recalling also World Health Assembly resolution 65.3 of 25 May 2012 on strengthening non-communicable disease policies to promote active ageing, which recognized that population ageing is among the major factors contributing to the rising incidence and prevalence of non-communicable diseases,

Concerned that many health systems are not sufficiently prepared to respond to the needs of the rapidly ageing population, including the need for preventative, curative, palliative and specialized care,

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

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

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

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

2. *Recognizes* that the major challenges faced by older persons undermine their social, economic and cultural participation;

3. *Takes note with appreciation* of the appointment by the Human Rights Council of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, and invites Member States to cooperate with the Independent Expert in carrying out the mandate set out in Human Rights Council resolution 24/20 of 27 September 2013;

4. *Invites* Member States to continue to share their national experiences in developing and implementing policies and programmes aimed at strengthening the promotion and protection of the human rights of older persons, including within the framework of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing established by the General Assembly in paragraph 28 of its resolution 65/182;

5. *Stresses* the importance of the Independent Expert and the Working Group working in close coordination, while avoiding unnecessary duplication of each other's mandates and those of other special procedures and subsidiary organs of the Human Rights Council, relevant United Nations bodies and treaties;

6. *Encourages* all Member States to be mindful of the reports of the Independent Expert, including the comprehensive report to be brought to the attention of the Working Group;

7. *Encourages* Governments to actively address issues that affect older persons and to ensure that the social integration of older persons and the promotion and protection of their rights form an integral part of development policies at all levels;

8. *Invites* Member States to adopt and implement non-discriminatory policies and to systematically review and amend, where appropriate, existing practices and regulations that discriminate against older persons, in order to promote an enabling environment for older persons;

9. *Encourages* Member States to address the issue of discrimination on the basis of age in relevant national legislation and to take appropriate measures to prevent discrimination against older persons;

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

11. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen their efforts to develop national capacity to address their national

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

18. *Recommends* that Member States enhance their capacity to more effectively collect data, statistics and qualitative information, disaggregated when necessary by relevant factors, including sex and disability, in order to better assess the situation of older persons and to set adequate monitoring mechanisms for programmes and policies geared towards protecting the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by older persons;

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

20. *Encourages* Governments to continue their efforts to implement the Madrid Plan of Action and to mainstream the concerns of older persons into their policy agendas,

bearing in mind the crucial importance of intergenerational family interdependence, solidarity and reciprocity for social development and the realization of all human rights for older persons, and to prevent age discrimination and provide social integration;

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

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

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

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

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

26. *Acknowledges* that universal health coverage implies that all people, including older persons, have access, without discrimination, to nationally determined sets of needed promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative basic health services and essential, safe, affordable, effective and quality medicines, while ensuring that the use of such services does not expose older persons to financial hardship, with a special emphasis on the poor, vulnerable and marginalized;

27. *Urges* Member States to develop, implement and evaluate policies and programmes that promote healthy and active ageing and the highest attainable standard of health and well-being for older persons and to develop health care for older persons as part of primary care in the existing national health systems;

28. *Recognizes* the importance of training, education and capacity-building of the health workforce, including for home-based care;

29. *Urges* Member States to strengthen intersectoral policy frameworks and institutional mechanisms, as appropriate, for the integrated management of the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, including health promotion, health care and social welfare services, in order to address the needs of older persons;

30. *Calls upon* Member States to address the issue of the well-being and adequate health care of older persons, as

well as any cases of neglect, abuse and violence against older persons, by designing and implementing more effective prevention strategies and stronger laws and by developing coherent and comprehensive policy frameworks to address these problems and their underlying factors;

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

32. *Stresses* that, in complementing national development efforts, enhanced international cooperation is essential to support developing countries in implementing the Madrid Plan of Action, while recognizing the importance of such assistance as well as the provision of financial assistance;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

40. *Recommends* that Member States reaffirm the role of United Nations focal points on ageing, increase technical cooperation efforts, expand the role of the regional commis-

sions on ageing issues and continue to provide resources for those efforts, facilitate the coordination of national and international non-governmental organizations on ageing and enhance cooperation with academia on a research agenda on ageing;

41. *Reiterates* the need for additional capacity-building at the national level in order to promote and facilitate further implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, as well as the results of its review and appraisal cycle, and in this regard encourages Governments to support the United Nations Trust Fund for Ageing so as to enable the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to provide expanded assistance to countries, upon their request;

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

43. *Requests* relevant entities of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), to ensure that the situation of older women is mainstreamed and incorporated across their work;

44. *Recommends* that the situation of older persons be taken into account in the ongoing efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;

45. *Recognizes* the continuing need to give due consideration to the situation of older persons in the ongoing discussion on the post-2015 development agenda;

46. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Working Group, and recognizes the positive contributions of Member States, as well as relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and relevant non-governmental organizations, national human rights institutions and invited panellists, during the first five working sessions of the Working Group;

47. *Calls upon* Member States to continue to contribute to the work of the Working Group, in particular by presenting concrete proposals, practical measures, best practices and lessons learned that will contribute to promoting and protecting the rights and dignity of older persons, in order to enable it to fulfil its mandate;

48. *Requests* the Working Group to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a compilation of the above-mentioned proposals and measures;

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

50. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide all necessary support to the Working Group, within existing resources, for the organization of a sixth working session, in 2015;

51. *Invites* the Independent Expert to address and engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly at its seventieth session under the item entitled "Social development";

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

Persons with disabilities

World Programme of Action

In July [A/69/187], pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/140 [YUN 2012, p. 1055], the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly a report on progress made in mainstreaming disability in the development agenda, which reviewed the extent to which the proposed post-2015 development framework had addressed the rights, well-being and perspectives of persons with disabilities. It also discussed the role of the United Nations in promoting better coordination for disability-inclusive development, as well as the efforts of Member States and UN system entities to institute measures that addressed disability in development policies and programmes. The report concluded with proposals to address continuing gaps between policy and practice and recommended steps towards a disability-inclusive global development agenda.

The Secretary-General highlighted efforts undertaken by Member States to mainstream disability in development process, among them, the inclusion of disability as a national priority in development plans, programmes and policies; mainstreaming disability in their development cooperation initiatives beyond 2015; legislative and policy measures that supported national implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; obstacles to the implementation of inclusive development strategies and the inclusion of persons with disabilities; increased support to strengthen the role of organizations of persons with disabilities in decision-making processes, including policy development; and strengthening of regional frameworks for disability-inclusive development and the advancement of the rights of persons with disabilities.

Lastly, the Secretary-General provided recommendations for better integrating persons with disabilities into development strategies. Those included, *inter alia*, the review by the General Assembly President at the Assembly's seventieth session, of the status of and progress made towards the realization of the development goals for persons with disabilities; strengthening and applying the international normative framework on disability for an inclusive society at all levels; improving disability data and statistics to support the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of evidence-based disability policies; enhancing international cooperation and mobilization of resources on a sustainable basis; and rethinking and adapting the UN system to improve responsiveness to the needs of Member States in implementing a disability-inclusive development agenda. He also recommended that the General Assembly consider promoting the realization of the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all economic, social, cultural and envi-

ronmental spheres; encourage Member States to take immediate steps to support the goal of mainstreaming disability data into official statistics and to submit the information to the United Nations; encourage all Member States to consider taking measures to build or improve the social protection system; and call for a systematic review to evaluate and monitor progress in the mainstreaming efforts of Member States, the UN system, civil society and other stakeholders.

Equalization of opportunities

In November [E/CN.5/2015/5], pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/6 (see p. 1240), the Secretary-General submitted to the Commission for Social Development a note transmitting the fifth and final report of the Commission's Special Rapporteur on disability Shuaib Chalklen (South Africa). The report described the Special Rapporteur's activities in the period from November 2013 to October 2014, covering topics including the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities [YUN 1993, p. 977]; synergy between the Standard Rules and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities [YUN 2006, p. 785]; mainstreaming disability in development; fostering disability-inclusive international development; and promoting awareness-raising and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Standard Rules and other international instruments; and collaborating with civil society.

The Special Rapporteur observed that the political will of Member States to achieve equalization of opportunities was fairly strong, as demonstrated by the rapid ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by States, but noted that existing gaps between commitments and practices on the ground illustrated remaining challenges. Lack of resources and capacity was a persistent barrier in many developing countries, particularly in the least developed countries. In that vein, there was a need to advance international cooperation in the field of disability in order to accelerate the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Standard Rules; international cooperation should also include the exchange of expertise and technical cooperation and support. The Special Rapporteur further stressed the importance of granting organizations of persons with disabilities a greater role in policymaking. He also provided recommendations for Member States to improve the collection and reporting of disability statistics so as to facilitate international comparability and disaggregation of all available data by disability; called for the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to include disability, poverty and development in annual sessions in line

with the Convention; for the Commission for Social Development to consider establishing a standing mechanism to systematically review and monitor progress in realizing agreed disability goals towards and beyond 2015; for the post-2015 development agenda to give due consideration to the conditions of extreme poverty and social exclusion that existed disproportionately among persons with disabilities and include specific targets and indicators to measure progress; and for accessibility to be an integral part of the work of the UN and be promoted progressively in all aspects, including its premises, communication and human resource management, as well as in conference documentation and services.

As at 2 November 2014, there were 159 signatories and 151 ratifications to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and 92 signatories and 85 ratifications to the Optional Protocol.

Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda

Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/28 [YUN 2013, p. 1055], the Secretary-General submitted to the Commission for Social Development a report [E/CN.5/2014/6] on progress made in mainstreaming disability into the development agenda towards 2015 and beyond, in which he highlighted the urgency of including disability in the environmental, economic and social pillars of sustainable development. He analysed prevailing trends and challenges to the mainstreaming of disability and proposed steps in four areas: national policies; plans and strategies to advance the inclusion of persons with disabilities; promotion of accessibility for all; disability data and statistics, monitoring and evaluation; and international cooperation and mobilization of resources.

The Secretary-General noted that the more than 1 billion persons living with disabilities worldwide constituted an untapped human resource that could make significant contributions to global sustainable development. Despite strong commitment to disability inclusion in the global development agenda, however, progress had been limited. He recommended that Governments promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities in policies and programmes relating to poverty eradication; support the development of internationally comparable disability statistics disaggregated by sex and age, and report such data through appropriate mechanisms of the UN system; address accessibility in all relevant policies; urge Governments and other stakeholders to promote international cooperation, including through multi-stakeholder partnerships and networks of experts and practitioners on specific issues in development; and include the disability perspective in all areas of development cooperation in coordination with development agencies, international organizations

and other stakeholders. He further recommended that disability perspectives be integrated into UN country programming processes such as the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, and that consultative processes towards a post-2015 development framework, as well as future UN development conferences and summits include disability perspectives and the participation of persons with disabilities.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 12 June [meeting 23], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission for Social Development [E/2014/26], adopted **resolution 2014/6** without vote [agenda item 17 (b)].

Promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and mainstreaming disability in the post-2015 development agenda

The Economic and Social Council,

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

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

Recalling earlier operational frameworks, such as the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities,

Welcoming the adoption of the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities: the way forward, a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond, held on 23 September 2013, in which the Assembly reaffirmed the need for the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities towards 2015 and beyond, recognizing persons with disabilities as agents and beneficiaries of development and acknowledging the value of their contributions to the general well-being, progress and diversity of society,

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

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

Welcoming the efforts of the United Nations to improve accessibility, in particular the opening of the Accessibility Centre at United Nations Headquarters in New York, which contributes to a disability-inclusive United Nations by facilitating the participation of persons with disabilities in the meetings of the United Nations and their access to the documentation of the United Nations,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on mainstreaming disability in the development agenda towards 2015 and beyond;

2. *Welcomes* the work of the Special Rapporteur on disability of the Commission for Social Development, and takes note of his report on monitoring of the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities;

3. *Also welcomes* the appointment of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility, bearing in mind the need to create synergies with the existing United Nations mechanisms;

4. *Notes* the expiry of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on disability on 31 December 2014, and in this regard decides that the Commission shall consider at its fifty-third session the possibility of another monitoring mechanism, with a view to strengthening the mainstreaming of disability in social development;

5. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to promote the implementation of the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, including by supporting the relevant efforts of Member States and other stakeholders, and to further contribute to the development of a disability-inclusive, equitable and sustainable post-2015 development framework;

6. *Calls upon* Member States, relevant regional organizations and United Nations bodies and agencies to ensure that all development policies and programmes, including those regarding poverty eradication, social protection, full and productive employment and decent work, and appropriate measures for financial inclusion as well as accessible community and housing development, take into account the needs, rights and potentials of and benefit all persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others;

7. *Encourages* Member States, relevant regional organizations and United Nations bodies and agencies to achieve the full application and implementation of the international normative framework on disability and development by encouraging the ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and by considering the ratification of the Optional Protocol thereto, as both human rights and development instruments;

8. *Emphasizes* the need for measures to ensure that persons with disabilities, in particular women, children, youth, indigenous peoples and older persons, are not subject to multiple or aggravated forms of discrimination or excluded from participation on an equal basis with others in the implementation of the international development goals;

9. *Decides* to continue to give due consideration to the issue of disability and development, including within the framework of United Nations operational activities, in accordance with relevant mandates, in order to enhance awareness and cooperation at all levels, including the participation, where appropriate, of United Nations agencies, multilateral development banks and institutions and other relevant stakeholders, while ensuring coordination and avoiding any possible overlapping;

10. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations agencies and bodies, development agencies and international organizations and encourages the private sector to regard accessibility as both a means and a goal of inclusive and sustainable development and therefore an essential investment that benefits all members of society; hence accessibility should be an integral part of programmes and projects relating to the built environment, transportation and information and communications technologies;

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

12. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations system and all relevant stakeholders to improve disability data collection, analysis and monitoring for development policy planning, implementation and evaluation, taking fully into account regional contexts, to share, where appropriate, relevant data and statistics with relevant agencies and bodies within the United Nations system, including the Statistical Commission, through appropriate mechanisms, and to underline the need for internationally comparable data and statistics disaggregated by sex and age, including information on disability;

13. *Underlines* the importance of closely consulting with and actively involving persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the elaboration of the emerging post-2015 United Nations development agenda;

14. *Calls upon* all Governments to continue to cooperate and engage in direct dialogue with the Special Rapporteur and to provide him or her with all the relevant information needed to fulfil his or her mandate effectively;

15. *Expresses concern* at the insufficiency of resources for the Special Rapporteur, and recognizes the importance of providing adequate resources for the implementation of the mandate by the Special Rapporteur;

16. *Encourages* Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to continue to contribute to the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability;

17. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to submit to the Commission for Social Development at its fifty-third session an annual report on his or her activities in implementing the present resolution.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/480], adopted **resolution 69/142** without vote [agenda item 26 (b)].

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

The General Assembly,

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

Reaffirming the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which it adopted on 13 December 2006 and which entered into force on 3 May 2008, a landmark convention affirming the human rights and fundamental freedoms of persons with disabilities, recognizing that it is both a human rights and a development instrument, and taking note of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,

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

Recalling also its previous resolutions on the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in which it recognized the collective responsibility of Governments to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity at the global level, and in this sense stressing the duty of Member States to achieve the full application and implementation of the international normative framework on persons with disabilities and development, including by encouraging the ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,

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

Recognizing that persons with disabilities make up an estimated 15 per cent of the world’s population, or 1 billion people, of whom an estimated 80 per cent live in developing countries, and acknowledging the value of their contribution to the general well-being, progress and diversity of society,

Gravely concerned that persons with disabilities, in particular women, children, youth, indigenous peoples and older persons, continue to be subject to multiple and aggravated forms of discrimination and are still largely invisible in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Millennium Development Goals and the internationally agreed development goals, and noting that, while progress has already been made by Governments, the international community and the United Nations system in

mainstreaming disability, in particular the rights of persons with disabilities, as an integral part of the development agenda, major challenges remain,

Underlining the need for urgent action by all stakeholders towards the adoption and implementation of more ambitious disability-inclusive national development strategies and efforts with disability-targeted actions, backed by increased international cooperation and support,

Stressing the need for capacity development efforts aimed at empowering persons with disabilities and their representative organizations to ensure equal access to full and productive employment and decent work on an equal basis and without discrimination to persons with disabilities, including by promoting access to inclusive education systems, skills development, volunteering opportunities and vocational and entrepreneurial training in order to enable persons with disabilities to attain and maintain maximum independence,

Concerned that persons with disabilities are disproportionately affected in disaster, emergency and conflict situations, as well as by poverty,

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

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

1. *Reaffirms* the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities, held on 23 September 2013, at the level of Heads of State and Government, with the overarching theme “The way forward: a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond”, and also reaffirms the commitments contained therein;

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

3. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General entitled “A life of dignity for all: accelerating progress towards and advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015”, in which the consideration of the inclusion of disability as a cross-cutting issue across the successor set of goals and targets of the post-2015 development agenda was recommended;

4. *Recalls* 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, and acknowledges that the report of the Open Working Group integrates a disability perspective;

5. *Recognizes* the continued need to give appropriate consideration to the issue of the rights of persons with disabilities in relation to the post-2015 development agenda;

6. *Expresses appreciation* to Member States and United Nations entities that have submitted information on progress made towards the realization of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, including on specific priorities for action, and data and analysis on persons with disabilities, and urges Member States and relevant United Nations entities that have not already done so to submit the requested information;

7. *Invites* the Chair of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the rights of persons with disabilities to address and engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly at its seventieth session, under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights", as a way to enhance communication between the Assembly and the Committee;

8. *Welcomes* Human Rights Council resolution 26/20 of 27 June 2014, in which the Council established the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, which included making concrete recommendations on how to better promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities, including how to contribute to the realization of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, for persons with disabilities, how to promote development that is inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities and how to promote their role as both agents for and beneficiaries of development;

9. *Urges* Member States, United Nations agencies, international and regional organizations, regional integration organizations and financial institutions to make a concerted effort to include persons with disabilities and to integrate the principles of accessibility and inclusion into the monitoring and evaluation of the development goals;

10. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations system and other stakeholders to further improve coordination among existing international processes and instruments in order to advance a disability-inclusive global agenda;

11. *Emphasizes* the importance of mainstreaming the perspectives of persons with disabilities in disaster risk reduction, and recognizes the need for their inclusive participation in and contribution to disaster preparedness, emergency response, recovery and the transition from relief to development, as well as the implementation of policies and programmes that are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities;

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

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

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

15. *Welcomes* the opening of the Accessibility Centre at United Nations Headquarters in New York, and requests the Secretary-General to continue the progressive implementation of relevant standards and guidelines with respect to the accessibility of facilities and services in the United Nations system, taking into account relevant provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in particular when undertaking renovations, including interim arrangements;

16. *Encourages* Member States, United Nations organizations and mechanisms, including the newly appointed Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, and the regional commissions to make all efforts to engage with and ensure accessibility for the full and effective participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities, in cooperation with organizations of persons with disabilities and, as appropriate, national human rights institutions, in development processes and decision-making at the local, national, regional and international levels;

17. *Encourages* Member States that have not yet done so to adopt a national disability strategy that can be operationalized, including through measurable and appropriate targets and indicators, and that assigns responsibility to and incorporates the views of a broad range of stakeholders, including persons with disabilities and their representative organizations;

18. *Requests* the United Nations system, in particular the Statistical Commission, in consultation with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, within the scope of her mandate, within existing resources, to update existing methodologies for the collection and analysis of data on persons with disabilities, to obtain internationally comparable data on the situation of persons with disabilities and to regularly include relevant data on disability or relevant qualitative facts, as appropriate, in relevant United Nations publications in the field of economic and social development;

19. *Encourages* Member States to take appropriate steps to expedite the mainstreaming of data on disability into official statistics;

20. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to organize, during the seventieth session of the Assembly, a panel discussion to follow up on the status of and progress made towards the realization of the development goals for persons with disabilities in relation to the follow-up to the outcome of the high-level meeting on disability and

development and to the principles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in coordination with all relevant United Nations entities:

(a) To submit information to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session on the implementation of the present resolution and of the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities, and to make appropriate recommendations to further strengthen implementation;

(b) To compile and analyse national policies, programmes, best practices and available statistics regarding persons with disabilities, reflecting progress made in addressing the relevant internationally agreed development goals and the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, to be submitted to the General Assembly in a flagship report during 2018.

Youth

World Programme of Action for Youth

Report of Secretary-General. Pursuant to resolution 51/1 of the Commission for Social Development, the Secretary-General submitted to the Economic and Social Council a progress report [E/CN.5/2014/5] on national programmes and policies related to young people, in accordance with his Five-Year Action Agenda [YUN 2012, p. 3]. He described the efforts of Member States and UN entities in implementing the World Programme of Action for Youth, and based the report on responses obtained through a note verbale sent to Member States and a request to the members of the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development. He observed that the challenges facing young people were directly related to the 15 priority areas of the World Programme of Action for Youth, namely, education, employment, hunger and poverty, health, environment, drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, leisure-time activities, girls and young women, full and effective participation of youth in the life of society and in decision-making, globalization, information and communications technology, HIV/AIDS, armed conflict and intergenerational issues. Member States and UN entities reported on a variety of initiatives geared towards addressing the priority areas as laid out in the Programme of Action.

The Secretary-General reported that many Member States were working to ensure the full participation of youth in society by establishing new youth structures and programmes to bring the voices of young people to government representatives and strengthening their national strategies and laws. Examples included Switzerland, where a new federal law on children and youth encouraged the political participation of young people, with a particular focus on those from disadvantaged backgrounds; and Lithuania, where the national youth policy 2012–2013 outlined steps

to create favourable conditions for the inclusion of young people in all societal processes. Many Governments also instituted programmes to improve the employability of young people, promote youth entrepreneurship, ensure greater access to information and communications technology, ensure greater awareness of HIV/AIDS, and promote the involvement of young people in maintaining peace and security.

The Secretary-General also reported on the efforts of UN entities in promoting young people. The Democratic Governance Thematic Trust Fund of UNDP supported 35 projects worldwide with a total value of almost \$8 million during its 2012–2014 cycle, with a focus on ensuring youth participation in governance processes and adequate representation of young people in policymaking. With regard to girls and young women, the Secretary-General's UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign prioritized youth engagement in violence prevention, while UN-Women worked globally to enhance young women's influence in decision-making processes at the national, regional and global levels. UN entities also provided technical assistance to governments in youth policy design and implementation; supported youth development projects through the United Nations Development Account; provided a range of services to youth refugees, encompassing health, education and skills development; and undertook communication, awareness-raising and advocacy campaigns to place a spotlight on issues related to youth. The Secretary-General further reported that the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) had endorsed the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Youth as a framework to guide youth programming for the UN system. A majority of activities to implement the commitments and measures contained in the Action Plan would take place at the country level—but also at the regional and global levels.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/480], adopted **resolution 69/145** without vote [agenda item 26 (b)].

World Youth Skills Day

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/81 of 14 December 1995 and 62/126 of 18 December 2007, in which it adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth, its resolution 65/312 of 26 July 2011, by which it adopted the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on youth: dialogue and mutual understanding, including the actions recommended therein on youth, and its resolution 68/130 of 18 December 2013 on policies and programmes involving youth,

Recalling also its resolution 54/120 of 17 December 1999, in which it endorsed the recommendation that 12 August be declared International Youth Day, and its resolution

64/134 of 18 December 2009, by which it proclaimed the year commencing on 12 August 2010 the International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding,

Reaffirming its resolutions 53/199 of 15 December 1998 and 61/185 of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years, and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries, particularly paragraphs 1 to 10 of the annex thereto on the agreed criteria for the proclamation, as well as paragraphs 13 and 14, stating that an international day or year should not be proclaimed before the basic arrangements for its organization and financing have been made,

Expressing concern at the high number of unemployed youth, estimated globally at 74.5 million in 2013, the majority of whom live in developing countries,

Noting that Member States have an important role in meeting the needs and aspirations of youth, particularly in developing countries,

Recognizing that fostering the acquisition of skills by youth would enhance their ability to make informed choices with regard to life and work and empower them to gain access to changing labour markets,

1. *Decides* to designate 15 July as World Youth Skills Day;
2. *Invites* all Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, as well as civil society, including youth-led organizations, to commemorate World Youth Skills Day in an appropriate manner, in accordance with national priorities, including through education, campaigns, volunteering and public awareness-raising activities;
3. *Stresses* that the cost of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution should be met from voluntary contributions;
4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member and observer States and all organizations of the United Nations system.

Family

Twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family, 2014

Report of Secretary-General. In November [A/70/61-E/2015/3], pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/136 [YUN 2013, p. 1063], the Secretary-General submitted a report to the General Assembly and to the Economic and Social Council on the activities of Member States and other stakeholders in observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family, related policy developments; and activities related to celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family at all levels. The report focused on poverty reduction, work-family balance, intergenerational issues and the prevention of violence within the family.

The Secretary-General stated that despite efforts made by Member States, social protection remained a right unfulfilled for most children and families. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), although specific provisions for child and family benefits existed in 108 countries, they mostly covered

a limited segment of the population. A further 75 countries had no specific policy or programme for child and family benefits. It was highlighted that countries spent on average 0.4 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) on child and family benefits, with the amount ranging from 0.2 per cent in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, to 2.2 per cent in Western Europe. Social protection schemes such as family and child allowances and cash transfers were not meeting the income security needs of children and families, especially in middle- and low-income countries with large child populations.

The Secretary-General also highlighted the events that took place in observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family: a high-level panel discussion held from 11 to 21 February by the Commission for Social Development; a panel discussion by the Human Rights Council at its twenty-seventh session; research and expert meetings and awareness-raising events conducted by the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs; a civil society declaration sponsored by 27 international entities and signed by over 542 civil society representatives from 285 national organizations, as well as by elected officials, academics and individuals; regional expert group meetings and capacity development workshops held in Europe, Africa, North and South America, the Middle East and North Africa; national initiatives in Argentina, Australia, Brazil, South Korea, Portugal and United Kingdom; and research by entities such as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the European Union aimed at improving family policies.

The Secretary-General observed that as family issues were multisectoral in nature and could not be addressed by a single ministry or governmental agency, more attention needed to be paid to integrated and coordinated approaches, including engagement with civil society organizations, the private sector and families themselves. He recommended that Governments advance family-centred policies and programmes as part of a comprehensive approach to development; Member States invest in family-oriented anti-poverty programmes; Governments, in partnership with relevant stakeholders, support data collection and research on family issues and the impact of public policy on families and invest in family-oriented policy and programme design, implementation and evaluation; and for the Commission for Social Development to consider requesting that future reports of the Secretary-General focus thematically on issues affecting families.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 12 June [meeting 23], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission

for Social Development [E/2014/26], adopted **resolution 2014/8** without vote [agenda item 17 (b)].

Observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 44/82 of 8 December 1989, 47/237 of 20 September 1993, 50/142 of 21 December 1995, 52/81 of 12 December 1997, 54/124 of 17 December 1999, 56/113 of 19 December 2001, 57/164 of 18 December 2002, 58/15 of 3 December 2003, 59/111 of 6 December 2004, 59/147 of 20 December 2004, 60/133 of 16 December 2005, 62/129 of 18 December 2007, 64/133 of 18 December 2009, 66/126 of 19 December 2011, 67/142 of 20 December 2012 and 68/136 of 18 December 2013 concerning the proclamation of, preparations for and observance of the International Year of the Family and its tenth and twentieth anniversaries,

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

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

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

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

Convinced that equality between men and women, women's equal participation in employment and shared parental responsibility are essential elements of policy on the family,

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

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

Recognizing that the family can contribute to eradicating poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality and empowering women, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health and combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases,

Noting that single-headed households, child-headed households, intergenerational and intragenerational households are particularly vulnerable to poverty and social exclusion,

Acknowledging that the family plays a key role in social development and as such should be strengthened, with attention to the rights, capabilities and responsibilities of its members,

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

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

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

Recalling that the twentieth anniversary of the International Year will be observed during the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly,

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

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

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

4. *Urges* Member States to give due consideration to advancing family policy development in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

5. *Invites* Member States and the organizations of the United Nations system as well as other relevant stakeholders to take into account the role of the family as a contributor to sustainable development and the need to strengthen family policy development in their ongoing efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, the Millennium Development Goals and future United Nations development goals;

6. *Encourages* Member States to take into consideration the panel discussion held in observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year at the fifty-second session of the Commission for Social Development in order to guide its future deliberations on family issues, with the aim of establishing appropriate follow-up processes to guide national policy development;

7. *Also encourages* Member States to strengthen or, if necessary, establish relevant national agencies or governmental bodies responsible for the implementation and monitoring of family policies and to research the impact of social policies on the family and its members;

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

9. *Encourages* Governments, the United Nations and regional entities, civil society organizations, the private sector and academic institutions to promote and advance family empowerment through appropriate family-centred policies and programmes;

10. *Encourages* Member States to adopt effective means to reduce family poverty and prevent the intergenerational transfer of poverty through family-centred benefits and social protection measures, such as old-age pensions, cash transfers, housing assistance, child benefits and tax breaks;

11. *Also encourages* Member States to promote family policies in support of work-family balance and to strengthen flexible provisions for parental leave, extend flexible working arrangements for employees with family responsibilities, including flexible part-time job opportunities and arrangements, promote gender equality and empowerment of women, including by eliminating workplace discrimination against women and men with family responsibilities, and enhance paternal involvement and shouldering of responsibilities and support a wide range of quality childcare arrangements, noting the importance of reconciliation of work and family life and recognizing the principle that both parents have common responsibilities for the upbringing and development of the child;

12. *Further encourages* Member States to invest in intergenerational programmes for helping families in their caregiving responsibilities, including care for family members of all ages, and facilitating intergenerational exchanges and support through, inter alia, the provision of social protection schemes, including pensions, and investment in cross-generational facilities, volunteering programmes aimed at youth, older persons and persons with disabilities, mentoring and job-sharing programmes;

13. *Encourages* Member States to develop and implement policies and national strategies to prevent violence within the family as a whole, including child abuse, elder abuse and domestic violence, and thereby enhance the well-being of all of its members;

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

15. *Encourages* Member States to consider establishing partnerships with civil society organizations, the private sector and academic institutions, as appropriate, in support of family-oriented policy and programme design;

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

17. *Encourages* the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, within existing resources, to continue to cooperate with Governments, the United Nations system and civil society in strengthening national capacities through the implementation of the objectives of the International Year and its follow-up processes;

18. *Invites* Member States, United Nations agencies and bodies, civil society organizations and academic institutions to continue providing information on their

activities in support of the objectives of the International Year and its follow-up processes and to share good practices and data on family policy development to be included in the relevant reports of the Secretary-General.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/480], adopted **resolution 69/144** without vote [agenda item 26 (b)].

Celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/82 of 8 December 1989, 50/142 of 21 December 1995, 52/81 of 12 December 1997, 54/124 of 17 December 1999, 56/113 of 19 December 2001, 57/164 of 18 December 2002, 58/15 of 3 December 2003, 59/111 of 6 December 2004, 59/147 of 20 December 2004, 60/133 of 16 December 2005, 62/129 of 18 December 2007, 64/133 of 18 December 2009, 66/126 of 19 December 2011, 67/142 of 20 December 2012 and 68/136 of 18 December 2013 concerning the proclamation of, preparations for and observance of the International Year of the Family and its tenth and twentieth anniversaries,

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

Recognizing also the efforts made by Governments, the United Nations system and civil society to fulfil the objectives guiding the preparations for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year at the national, regional and international levels,

Recalling that 2014 marks the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family, as observed during the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly,

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

2. *Welcomes* the holding of a plenary meeting during the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, in December 2014, on the observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family, in order to discuss the role of family-oriented policies in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

3. *Encourages* Governments to continue to make every possible effort to realize the objectives of the International Year and its follow-up processes and to develop strategies and programmes aimed at strengthening national capacities to address national priorities relating to family issues;

4. *Recognizes* the continued importance of giving due consideration to advancing the development of family policy in the ongoing discussions on the post-2015 development agenda;

5. *Encourages* Governments to support the United Nations Trust Fund on Family Activities;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session, through the Commission for Social Development and the Economic

and Social Council, on the implementation of the objectives of the International Year and its follow-up processes by Member States and by agencies and bodies of the United Nations system;

7. *Calls upon* Member States, agencies and bodies of the United Nations, civil society organizations and academic institutions to take into account the role the family plays as a contributor to sustainable development, and encourages Member States to continue providing information on their activities, including on good practices, in support of the objectives of the International Year and its follow-up processes, to be included in the report of the Secretary-General;

8. *Decides* to consider the topic “Follow-up to the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond” at its seventieth session under the sub-item entitled “Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family” of the item entitled “Social development”.

Cultural development

Culture of peace

Culture of Peace and interreligious and intercultural understanding

In October [A/69/413], pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 68/125 [YUN 2013, p. 1066], the Secretary-General submitted a report to the General Assembly on the promotion of a culture of peace and interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace, which outlined the main activities carried out by the UN system in support of peace and dialogue.

The Secretary-General highlighted the work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), in particular its programme of action for a culture of peace and non-violence and Action Plan for the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures. In that vein, he described the use of education to promote peace and mutual understanding by UNESCO; developing new policies and tools for addressing social inclusion, intercultural dialogue and peaceful coexistence; use of media and information literacy as a catalyst for intercultural dialogue; promotion of intercultural and interreligious dialogue for mutual understanding and peace; and plans for its International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013–2022).

In pursuance of Assembly resolutions 67/106 [YUN 2012, p. 1064] and 68/125 [YUN 2013, p. 1066], the General Assembly President convened a one-day High-level Forum on the Culture of Peace in September. The United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office, through its Peacebuilding Commission, continued to advance a culture of peace and non-violence in post-conflict peacebuilding efforts by advancing an

integrated and coherent approach to peacebuilding activities in the six countries on its agenda. United Nations Volunteers worked to define innovative projects in the context of the post-2015 development agenda and partnered with other UN entities in projects aimed at promoting access to justice and civic education, engaging adolescents in peacebuilding activities and promoting youth education on the culture of peace in several African countries emerging from conflict or in a delicate political transition. UN-Women, together with the Peacebuilding Support Office, hosted an event in September that enabled women from across the world to share their peacebuilding stories, which would be compiled in a joint publication entitled “Women: everyday peacebuilders”. The United Nations University promoted intercultural dialogue through its Institute on Globalization, Culture and Mobility. On 21 September in New York, the United Nations Department of Public Information led celebrations for the International Day of Peace, in which several United Nations Messengers of Peace were involved. In addition, some 500 students from the United States and the Democratic Republic of the Congo participated in a conference with the Secretary-General and Messengers of Peace. The Congolese students participated through a video link facilitated by the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO).

The Secretary-General also detailed UN system efforts to promote interreligious dialogue through advocacy and policy engagement activities with faith-based organizations. Such activities brought together peoples of different faiths to enable them to find solutions to common issues, such as those related to maternal health, violence against women and HIV/AIDS. In May, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), in its capacity as convener of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Engaging Faith-based Organizations for the Millennium Development Goals [YUN 2000, p. 49], hosted a policy round table for donors, on “Religion and development post-2015”. Discussions were focused on partnerships around the Millennium Development Goals and the policy implications of religion for the post-2015 sustainable development goals. UNFPA continued its of partnership with faith-based organizations through advocacy, capacity-building, knowledge management and strengthened South-South cooperation on population issues, including a multimillion-dollar investment, in partnership with UNICEF, to reduce female genital mutilation in 17 countries and end child marriage. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) intensified its efforts to scale up service provision by faith-based organizations activities in five key areas: leadership and advocacy; support aimed at scaling up service provision by faith-based organizations

and integrating it into national responses; addressing human rights challenges; combating stigma and discrimination; and addressing sensitive issues such as sexuality and gender-based violence in the context of HIV. The approaches of the partnership included convening consultations of religious leaders and technical partners at the national level; addressing gatherings of high-level religious leaders and inviting them to engage in dialogue with UNAIDS staff; writing joint opinion pieces; and leveraging high-level events on critical issues. For example, following a UNAIDS-organized national consultation, religious leaders in Ethiopia issued a call for the inclusion of equitable access to HIV/AIDS treatment for all in the post-2015 development framework (see p. 960). The Secretary-General also detailed the efforts of the UN human rights machinery, including the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in promoting a culture of peace and dialogue.

High-level Forum

On 9 September, the General Assembly convened a High-level Forum on “Culture of Peace”, which focused on “the role and contributions of women and youth to the culture of peace” and “global citizenship as a pathway to the culture of peace”. Speaking before the Assembly, the Secretary-General called for a new commitment to respect the right to be different and to make the most of diversity as a strength to share among all people.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 15 December [meeting 72], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/139** [draft: A/69/L.34 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 14].

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

The General Assembly,

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

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

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

Recalling its previous resolutions on a culture of peace, in particular resolution 52/15 of 20 November 1997 proclaiming 2000 the International Year for the Culture of Peace, resolution 53/25 of 10 November 1998 proclaiming the period 2001–2010 the International Decade for a

Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, and resolutions 56/5 of 5 November 2001, 57/6 of 4 November 2002, 58/11 of 10 November 2003, 59/143 of 15 December 2004, 60/3 of 20 October 2005, 61/45 of 4 December 2006, 62/89 of 17 December 2007, 63/113 of 5 December 2008, 64/80 of 7 December 2009, 65/11 of 23 November 2010, 66/116 of 12 December 2011, 67/106 of 17 December 2012 and 68/125 of 18 December 2013, adopted under its agenda item entitled “Culture of peace”,

Recalling also its resolution 68/127 of 18 December 2013 on a world against violence and violent extremism,

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

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

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

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

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

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General, which provides an overview of the activities that have been carried out by the main United Nations entities working in the areas of a culture of peace and interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace since the adoption by the General Assembly of its resolutions 68/125 and 68/126 of 18 December 2013,

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

Recalling also the proclamation by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization of 30 April as International Jazz Day, which aims to develop and increase intercultural exchanges and understanding between cultures for the purpose of mutual comprehension, tolerance and the promotion of a culture of peace,

Welcoming the efforts of the international community to enhance understanding through constructive dialogue among civilizations,

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

Welcoming the successful holding on 9 September 2014 of the General Assembly High-level Forum on the Culture of Peace, convened by the President of the Assembly, and the high-level participation, wide-ranging partnership and inclusive collaboration among Member States, international organizations and civil society, as evidenced at the Forum, and welcoming also with appreciation the observance by the Forum of the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration and Programme of Action,

Recognizing the role of women and young people in advancing the culture of peace and, in particular, the importance of greater involvement of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in activities promoting a culture of peace, including in post-conflict situations,

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

Recalling the Yamoussoukro Declaration on Peace in the Minds of Men, and acknowledging the observance in 2014 of the twenty-fifth anniversary of its adoption,

Noting the initiatives of civil society, in collaboration with Governments, to strengthen civilian capacities to enhance the physical safety of vulnerable populations under threat of violence and to promote the peaceful settlement of disputes,

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

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

2. *Notes* the importance of giving due consideration to a culture of peace in the context of the post-2015 development agenda;

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

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

5. *Commends* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for strengthening efforts to mobilize all relevant stakeholders within and outside the United Nations system in support of a culture of peace, and invites the Organization to continue to enhance communication and outreach, including through the culture of peace website and in the context of the celebration of its seventieth anniversary;

6. *Commends* the practical initiatives and actions by relevant United Nations bodies, including the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Entity for Gender

Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the University for Peace, as well as their activities in further promoting a culture of peace and non-violence, including the promotion of peace education and activities related to specific areas identified in the Programme of Action, and encourages them to continue and further strengthen and expand their efforts;

7. *Encourages* the United Nations peacebuilding architecture to continue to promote peacebuilding activities and to advance a culture of peace and non-violence in post-conflict peacebuilding efforts at the country level;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report, within existing resources, on actions taken by Member States, on the basis of information provided by them, and those taken system-wide by all concerned entities of the United Nations to implement the present resolution and on heightened activities by the Organization and its affiliated agencies to implement the Programme of Action and to promote the culture of peace and non-violence;

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled "Culture of peace".

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 15 December [meeting 72], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/140** [draft: A/69/L.41 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 14].

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

The General Assembly,

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

Recalling its resolution 68/126 of 18 December 2013 on the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace and its other related resolutions,

Recalling also that in its resolution 67/104 the General Assembly proclaimed the period 2013–2022 as the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures,

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

Recalling its resolution 64/14 of 10 November 2009 on the Alliance of Civilizations, in which it welcomed and expressed continuing support for the efforts made by the Secretary-General and his High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations to promote greater understanding and respect among civilizations, cultures and religions,

Recalling also its resolution 68/127 of 18 December 2013 on a world against violence and violent extremism,

Recalling further its resolution 53/22 of 4 November 1998, by which it declared 2001 the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations and expressed its firm determination to facilitate and promote dialogue among civilizations,

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

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

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

Recalling its resolution 36/55 of 25 November 1981, by which it proclaimed the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief,

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

Emphasizing the importance of culture for development and its contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and recognizing the importance of giving due consideration to culture in the ongoing discussions on the post-2015 development agenda, and in this regard noting the close links between cultural diversity, dialogue and development,

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

Welcoming the leading role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as well as the work of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, in promoting intercultural dialogue,

Welcoming also the declaration of the High-level Conference on Intercultural and Interfaith Dialogue adopted by the Asia-Europe Meeting, with the theme “Harmony between civilizations as a prerequisite for sustainable development”, held in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, on 3 and 4 July 2014,

Welcoming further the work of the Anna Lindh Foundation and the ongoing work of the King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue in Vienna,

Taking note of the initiative for education for peace through interreligious and intercultural dialogue in Africa, and the offer of the Government of Benin to host an international symposium on the initiative in Cotonou, Benin, during the first half of 2015,

Acknowledging the positive contribution of individuals and of relevant civil society organizations to the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and the culture of peace,

Recognizing the contributions of the media and of new information and communications technology to promoting peoples’ understanding of different cultures and religions, including through the promotion of dialogue,

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

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

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

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on promotion of a culture of peace and interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace;

3. *Recognizes* the importance of interreligious dialogue and its valuable contribution to promoting social cohesion, peace and development, and calls upon Member States to consider, as appropriate and where applicable, interreligious and intercultural dialogue as an important tool in efforts aimed at achieving peace and social stability and the full

realization of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and to give due consideration to culture in the ongoing discussions on the post-2015 development agenda;

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

5. *Further recognizes* the leading role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on intercultural dialogue and its contribution to interreligious dialogue, as well as its activities related to the culture of peace and non-violence and its focus on concrete actions at the global, regional and subregional levels;

6. *Welcomes* the adoption of the Action Plan for the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013–2022), by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in consultation with Member States and the relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, which provides a framework to enhance interreligious and intercultural dialogue and to promote tolerance and mutual understanding, while placing emphasis on the involvement of women and youth in such dialogue;

7. *Encourages* Member States and the relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to carry out activities in support of the Action Plan for the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013–2022);

8. *Condemns* any advocacy of religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, whether it involves the use of print, audiovisual or electronic media or any other means;

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

10. *Welcomes* the Bali Declaration adopted at the Sixth Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, with the theme “Unity in diversity: celebrating diversity for common and shared values”, held in Bali, Indonesia, on 29 and 30 August 2014, encourages relevant stakeholders to continue their efforts to promote mutual understanding among different civilizations, cultures, religions and beliefs, and in this regard looks forward to the next meeting of the Global Forum, in Azerbaijan in 2016;

11. *Underlines* the importance of moderation as a value within societies for countering extremism in all its aspects and for further contributing to the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, tolerance, understanding and cooperation, and encourages efforts, as appropriate, to enable voices of moderation to be heard;

12. *Welcomes* the efforts by the media to promote interreligious and intercultural dialogue, encourages the further promotion of dialogue among the media from all cultures and civilizations, emphasizes that everyone has the right to freedom of expression, and reaffirms that the exercise of this right carries with it special duties and responsi-

bilities and may therefore be subject to certain restrictions, but that these shall be only such as are provided by law and necessary for respect of the rights or reputations of others, protection of national security or of public order, or of public health or morals;

13. *Also welcomes* the efforts to use information and communications technology, including the Internet, to promote interreligious and intercultural dialogue, including through the Interfaith Dialogue e-Portal established following the Special Non-Aligned Movement Ministerial Meeting on Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace and Development, held in Manila in 2010, as well as the Peace and Dialogue e-Portal of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and encourages relevant stakeholders to utilize the opportunity to disseminate their best practices and experiences on interreligious and intercultural dialogue by contributing to the Interfaith Dialogue e-Portal and to the Peace and Dialogue e-Portal;

14. *Encourages* Member States to consider, as and where appropriate, initiatives that identify areas for practical action in all sectors and levels of society for the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, tolerance, understanding and cooperation, inter alia, the ideas suggested during the High-level Dialogue on Interreligious and Intercultural Understanding and Cooperation for Peace, held in New York in October 2007, including the idea of an enhanced process of dialogue among world religions, as well as the ideas suggested during the third High Panel on Peace and Dialogue among Cultures, held in Paris in November 2012;

15. *Acknowledges* the active engagement of the United Nations system with faith-based organizations and relevant non-governmental organizations in the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue and in bringing together people of different cultures, religions, faiths or beliefs to discuss common issues and objectives;

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

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

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

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

On 29 December (**decision 69/554**), the General Assembly decided that the item on the culture of peace would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

United Nations Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Prize

On 30 May [A/68/L.48], pursuant to resolution 64/13 of 10 November 2009 [YUN 2009, p. 1075], the General Assembly considered a draft resolution entitled “United Nations Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Prize”.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 6 June [meeting 91], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 68/275** [draft: A/68/L.48] without vote [agenda item 118].

United Nations Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Prize

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 64/13 of 10 November 2009, by which it designated 18 July as Nelson Mandela International Day, which has been observed by the United Nations every year since 2010,

Commending the President of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly for his initiative in establishing the United Nations Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Prize,

Bearing in mind Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela’s leading role in and support for Africa’s struggle for liberation and Africa’s unity, his outstanding contribution to the creation of a non-racial, non-sexist, democratic South Africa and his contribution to the struggle for democracy internationally and the promotion of a culture of peace throughout the world,

Bearing in mind also Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela’s values and his dedication to the service of humanity, as a humanitarian, in the fields of conflict resolution, race relations, promotion and protection of human rights, reconciliation, gender equality and the rights of children and other vulnerable groups, as well as the uplifting of poor and underdeveloped communities,

Wishing to further honour and pay homage to the extraordinary life and legacy of Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela,

1. *Decides* to establish the United Nations Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Prize, which will be honorary in nature, as a tribute to the outstanding achievements and contributions of individuals to the purposes and principles of the United Nations;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the President of the General Assembly, to establish within six months of the adoption of the present resolution the criteria and procedures for bestowing the Prize, to be adopted by the Assembly not later than 30 November 2014.

Alliance of Civilizations

Report of High Representative. By a letter of 12 September [A/69/382], the Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly the seventh annual report of the High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations highlighting the main activities carried out by the Alliance from July 2013 to June 2014. The Alliance numbered 114 Member States and entities, and 25 international organizations.

The High Representative described efforts by the Alliance to consolidate itself as a global multi-stakeholder platform in the area of advocacy and outreach, inter alia, guidance from members of its

Group of Friends; national and regional strategies; engagement with the private sector; and policy coherence with the UN system. He also detailed the Alliance’s initiatives and activities in the four core pillars of action: education, media, migration and media. Among the highlights, during the 2013 edition of the Youth Solidarity Fund project, the Alliance selected 17 youth-led organizations from the Middle East, North Africa, sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. Over 29,000 young people and adults directly benefited from projects supported through the Youth Solidarity Fund during the period between July 2013 and February 2014.

In accordance with the 2013–2018 strategic review, the Alliance of Civilizations office established a programme management unit to enhance management of various projects and initiatives. The Alliance continued to seek adequate, regular, reliable and predictable sources of replenishment for its Voluntary Trust Fund and improve relationships with the private sector. The High Representative recommended that Member States regularly support the Alliance because private sector funding could only augment, not replace, their support.

Sixth Global Forum. The Sixth Global Forum of the Alliance (Bali, Indonesia, 29–30 August) was held under the theme “Unity in Diversity: Celebrating Diversity for Common and Shared Values”. The Forum was opened by the President of Indonesia and the UN Secretary-General, and attended by 1,300 delegates including 30 Government ministers from 115 countries.

The Forum featured two plenary sessions: “Unity in Diversity: Celebrating Diversity for Common and Shared Values” and “Knowing one another: the urgent need to foster dialogue and Understanding between Eastern and Western Civilizations”. It also featured the following sessions: youth participation in peace building; use of interreligious and intercultural approaches to advance mediation; social inclusion and migration developments for post-2015 agenda; role of culture in the formulation of new sustainable development goals; perception of migration; media conversation across lines; harnessing positive power of social media; harmony through interreligious and cross cultural education; role of women in fostering understanding among cultures; and fostering understanding through sports, art, music and entertainment.

The Forum culminated in the adoption by consensus of the Bali Declaration, by which Member States reaffirmed the importance of common and shared values as a unifying factor in a world facing multiple challengers to coexistence, and encouraged the Alliance of Civilizations to continue addressing, within its mandate, the prevailing global political and social situations.

Communication. By a letter dated 12 December letter [A/69/663], the Islamic Republic of Iran transmitted to the Secretary-General a copy of the Declaration and Plan of Action of the First International Conference on A World against Violence and Violent Extremism (Tehran, 9–10 December).

Sport for development and peace

The Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace, with the assistance of the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace (UNOSDP), continued to lead UN system efforts to promote sport as a tool for attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) [YUN 2000, p. 49] and the Post-2015 sustainable development goals; lead and coordinate the efforts of the United Nations system to promote the understanding and support amongst UN Member States of sport as a tool to attain the MDGs and the sustainable development goals in the Post-2015 Development Agenda; encourage dialogue, collaboration and partnerships between the United Nations, Member States and other stakeholders around Sport for Development and Peace; and represent the Secretary-General and the UN system at important global sporting events and other important forums.

The Special Adviser noted that progress was made in five priority areas: contributing to the development of Africa (in particular sub-Saharan Africa); encouraging dialogue and mutual understanding in conflict areas; advancing gender equality; fostering the inclusion of persons with disabilities; and promoting youth development and supporting community role models. Notably, the Special Adviser continued efforts to encourage dialogue between conflicting parties such as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea. He invited and met with officials from the two Koreas at the Imagine PEACE Youth Camp and at the Incheon Asian Games, held in South Korea, engaged in further exchanges with the two sides in order to strengthen diplomatic ties, and stated that his Office would continue playing a facilitation role between the two Koreas using upcoming sport events such as, but not limited to, the 2015 Summer Universiade and the 2015 World Military Games.

The Special Adviser also encouraged the Qatar 2022 (World Cup) Supreme Committee and other Qatari sport stakeholders to advance social progress and respect the human rights of migrant workers in the country, and led a UN System-wide response towards the Ebola crisis in West Africa in collaboration with the World Health Organization and the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA). In July, the inauguration of the Sport of Hope Center, attended by the Secretary-General, the Special Adviser, and International Olympic Committee (IOC) President, took place in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. That

event followed a commitment from the IOC to provide aid to help rebuild Haiti's sporting infrastructure after the earthquake that hit the country in 2010. To mark the first observance of the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace, which was declared by General Assembly resolution 67/296 [YUN 2013, p. 1073], UNOSDP organized a number of events to recognize and celebrate the growing number of sport-based development initiatives around the world.

Also, as part of the first observance of the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace, a High-level Panel Discussion on "Celebrating Sport for Development and Peace" was convened on 28 April at UN Headquarters in New York. At the event, a formal agreement was signed between the United Nations and IOC to join hands in achieving common objectives, further highlighting the role of partnerships and cooperation to foster sustainable development through sport.

Report of Secretary-General. In August [A/69/330], pursuant to resolution 67/17 [YUN 2012, p. 1070], the Secretary-General submitted a report on initiatives undertaken by Member States and UN entities to promote sport for development and peace since his last report [YUN 2012, p. 1069], including on the Olympic Truce of the 2014 Sochi Olympic and Paralympic Games; Human Rights Council and sport; inaugural International Day of Sport for Development and Peace; partnerships, initiatives, programmes and policies; and UN system activities related to the 2014 FIFA World Cup. He also provided an update on the activities and functioning of the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace and its Trust Fund; reviewed the contribution of sport to the achievement of the MDGs [YUN 2000, p. 49] and presented an updated Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace [A/67/282].

Solemn Appeal by the President of the General Assembly. On 29 January [A/68/710], the General Assembly President issued a solemn appeal in connection with the observance of the Olympic Truce, calling on all Member States to demonstrate their commitment to the Olympic Truce for the 2014 Sochi Olympic and Paralympic Games, and to undertake concrete actions at the local, national, regional and global levels to promote and strengthen a culture of peace and harmony based on the spirit of the Truce. Referring to the original tradition of the Olympic Truce practised in ancient times, as described in resolution 68/9 [YUN 2013, p. 1073], the President also called upon all warring parties of armed conflicts around the world to agree to true mutual ceasefires for the duration of the Olympic Truce, thus providing an opportunity to settle disputes peacefully.

On the same day, the General Assembly, at its seventy-third plenary meeting, took note of the solemn appeal made by the General Assembly President

in connection with the observance of the Olympic Truce (**decision 68/551**).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 31 October [meeting 36], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/6** [draft: A/69/L.5 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 11].

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

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/5 of 3 November 2003, 59/10 of 27 October 2004, its decision to proclaim 2005 the International Year for Sport and Physical Education, to strengthen sport as a means to promote education, health, development and peace, and its resolutions 60/1 of 16 September 2005, 60/9 of 3 November 2005, 61/10 of 3 November 2006, 62/271 of 23 July 2008, 63/135 of 11 December 2008, 65/4 of 18 October 2010 and 67/17 of 28 November 2012,

Recalling also its resolution 67/296 of 23 August 2013, in which it proclaimed 6 April the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace,

Recalling further its resolution 68/9 of 6 November 2013 on building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal, and all its previous resolutions on this matter,

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

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

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

Recognizing also the need to strengthen and further coordinate efforts, including multi-stakeholder partnerships, at all levels to maximize the potential of sport for contributing to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and national peacebuilding and State-building priorities,

Encouraging Member States to give sport due consideration in the context of the post-2015 development agenda,

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

of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases,

Recalling the Declaration of Berlin, adopted by more than 120 States members of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at the fifth International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport, held in Berlin from 28 to 30 May 2013, as an essential guideline for strengthening the educational, cultural and social dimensions of sport and physical education and for developing an international sport and physical education policy which fosters peace and understanding between peoples and which safeguards human rights in the world of sport by creating access to sport for all, improving physical education, developing new standards for mega and major sport events and preserving the integrity of sport,

Welcoming the memorandum of understanding signed between the International Olympic Committee and the United Nations in April 2014, in which a call was made to strengthen efforts around sport-based initiatives that encourage social and economic development, as well as to strengthen the many partnerships that United Nations organizations have established with the Committee, and welcoming also the holding of the third International Forum on Sport for Peace and Development, jointly organized by the Committee and the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace,

Affirming the invaluable contribution of the Olympic movement in establishing sport as a unique means for the promotion of peace and development, in particular through the ideal of the Olympic Truce, and welcoming the XXXI Olympic Summer Games and the XV Paralympic Summer Games, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 5 to 21 August and from 7 to 18 September 2016, respectively, the XXIII Olympic Winter Games and the XII Paralympic Winter Games, to be held in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, from 9 to 25 February and from 9 to 18 March 2018, respectively, and the XXXII Olympic Summer Games and the XVI Paralympic Summer Games, to be held in Tokyo from 24 July to 9 August and from 25 August to 6 September 2020, respectively,

Recognizing the importance of continental sporting events for promoting education, health, development and peace, and in this regard welcoming the upcoming 2015 Pan-American Games, to be held in Toronto, Canada, the eleventh All-Africa Games, to be held in Brazzaville, the 2018 Asian Games, to be held in Jakarta, and the inaugural 2015 European Games, to be held in Baku,

Acknowledging the Olympic Charter and that any form of discrimination is incompatible with belonging to the Olympic movement,

Acknowledging also the opportunities provided by the XXII Olympic Winter Games and the XI Paralympic Winter Games, held in Sochi, Russian Federation, for education, understanding, peace, harmony and tolerance among and between peoples and civilizations, and the opportunities provided by the second Youth Summer Olympic Games, held in Nanjing, China, to inspire the youth of the world to embrace, embody and express the Olympic values, as reflected in resolution 68/9 relating to the Olympic Truce,

Calling upon future hosts of the Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games and other Member States to include sport, as appropriate, in conflict-prevention activities and to

ensure the effective implementation of the Olympic Truce during the Games,

Acknowledging the International Inspiration programme, the first legacy initiative ever linked to the Olympic and Paralympic Games, which has reached over 25 million children in 20 countries around the world through the power of high-quality and inclusive physical education, sport and play,

Recognizing the role that the International Paralympic Committee plays in showcasing the achievements of athletes with an impairment to a global audience and in acting as a primary vehicle to change societal perceptions of disability sport,

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

Recalling also article 30 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, outlining the right of persons with disabilities to take part on an equal basis with others in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport, while also stipulating that States parties shall take appropriate measures to this end,

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

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

Recognizing the need for indicators and benchmarks based on commonly agreed standards to assist Governments to enable the consolidation of sport in cross-cutting development strategies and the incorporation of sport and physical education in international, regional and national development policies and programmes,

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

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

Emphasizing the critical role of productive public-private partnerships for funding sport for development and peace programmes, institutional development and physical and social infrastructures,

Recognizing that major international sport events should be organized in the spirit of peace, mutual understanding, friendship, tolerance and inadmissibility of discrimination of any kind and that the unifying and conciliative nature of such events should be respected, as recognized by fundamental principle 6 of the Olympic Charter,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5. *Encourages* the stakeholders, and in particular the organizers of mass sport events, to use and leverage such

events to promote and support sport for development and peace initiatives and to strengthen existing and build new partnerships, coordinate common strategies, policies and programmes and increase coherence and synergies, while raising awareness at the local, national, regional and global levels;

6. *Encourages* Member States to adopt best practices and means to promote the practice of sport and physical activities among all members of society, and in this regard welcomes initiatives to adopt dedicated health, youth and sport days, including specialized sport days, at the national and local levels, as a means to promote physical and mental health and cultivate a sport culture in society;

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

8. *Supports* the independence and autonomy of sport as well as the mission of the International Olympic Committee in leading the Olympic movement;

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

10. *Notes* the efforts undertaken by the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly, Member States and civil society for the observance of the Olympic Truce, and encourages future hosts of the Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games and other Member States to support the effective implementation of the Truce;

11. *Appreciates* the leadership of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace, supported by the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace, on issues relating to sport for development and peace within the United Nations system and beyond, and their creation and implementation of innovative initiatives such as the Youth Leadership Programme;

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

13. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts undertaken by the Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group, which met for its thematic meeting on harnessing the power of sport to address gender-based violence and its fourth plenary session, on 30 June and 1 July 2014, respectively, and the commencement of the substantive work

of the thematic working group on sport and persons with disabilities, in addition to the working groups on sport and peace, sport and gender, and sport and child and youth development;

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

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

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

17. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session the item entitled "Sport for development and peace".

Culture and sustainable development

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/223 [YUN 2013, p. 1076], the Secretary-General transmitted a July [A/69/216] report from the UNESCO Director-General on progress made since July 2013 in implementing that resolution through the activities undertaken by Member States and UN organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). It also included options for a consolidated UN approach to the role of culture for poverty eradication and sustainable development through inclusive economic and social development and environmental sustainability.

As mandated by resolution 68/223, a special thematic debate on "Culture and sustainable development in the post-2015 development agenda" was convened at UN Headquarters in May 2014 by the President of the General Assembly, in partnership with UNESCO. Participants included 18 Government Ministers and high-level representatives of Member States, the G-77 plus China, the European Union, the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, the Director-General of UNESCO, the Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization, the President of the

General Conference of UNESCO, and the Chairperson of the Executive Board of UNESCO. The participants highlighted the importance of integrating culture into the post-2015 development agenda. Also, in May, the global campaign “#culture2015goal”, a coalition of more than 600 NGOs working in the field of culture, published a declaration on the need to include explicit targets and indicators for culture in the post-2015 sustainable development goals.

The Director-General highlighted the efforts of Member States and UN system entities in implementing specific measures to enhance the role of culture, covering the areas of promoting cultural diversity through education and the media; enabling women and men to equally access, participate and contribute to cultural life; developing a dynamic cultural and creative sector; supporting the emergence of local markets for cultural goods and services; promoting global awareness of the linkages between cultural and biological diversity; developing innovative mechanisms of financing for culture; and mobilizing culture as a vehicle for tolerance, understanding, peace and reconciliation. In June, a declaration adopted by the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Group of 77 and China on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Group recommended that the role of culture be fully taken into account to achieve sustainable development, as development was “a comprehensive economic, social, cultural and political process”.

The Director-General proposed a set of options for Member States to consider while devising a consolidated UN approach on culture and sustainable development. Those included integrating culture in development strategies and policies at all levels; developing cultural literacy, including an understanding of cultural heritage; safeguarding traditional knowledge and skills; and increasing access to and participation in cultural life of all individuals and communities to improve social cohesion. The Director-General also recommended that Member States fully integrate culture, through cultural heritage and the cultural and creative industries, into the framework of the post-2015 system of goals, targets and indicators.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/69/470/Add.2], adopted **resolution 69/230** without vote [agenda item 21 (b)].

Culture and sustainable development

The General Assembly,

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

Recalling its resolutions 41/187 of 8 December 1986, 46/158 of 19 December 1991, 51/179 of 16 December 1996,

52/197 of 18 December 1997, 53/184 of 15 December 1998, 55/192 of 20 December 2000, 57/249 of 20 December 2002, 65/166 of 20 December 2010 and 66/208 of 22 December 2011, concerning culture and development, and its resolutions 66/288 of 27 July 2012, entitled “The future we want”, and 68/223 of 20 December 2013 on culture and sustainable development,

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,

Recalling further the declaration adopted in Florence, Italy, on 4 October 2014, at the third United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization World Forum on Culture and Cultural Industries,

1. *Takes note* of the report on culture and sustainable development prepared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization as transmitted by the Secretary-General, which identifies options for a consolidated United Nations approach on culture and sustainable development;

2. *Recalls* the discussions at and takes note of the Chair’s summary of the special thematic debate of the General Assembly on the role of culture and sustainable development in the post-2015 development agenda, held at United Nations Headquarters on 5 May 2014, as mandated by its resolution 68/223, at which high-level participants highlighted the importance of integrating culture into the post-2015 development agenda;

3. *Notes* the contribution of culture to sustainable development, as recognized in the proposal of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals;

4. *Encourages* all Member States, intergovernmental bodies, organizations of the United Nations system, relevant non-governmental organizations and all other relevant stakeholders to continue to give due consideration to culture and sustainable development in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

5. *Recalls* the decision, in its resolution 68/223, to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled “Globalization and interdependence”, a sub-item entitled “Culture and sustainable development” and to maintain the biennial nature of the sub-item.

Human resources development

United Nations research and training institutes

United Nations University

The Council of the United Nations University (UNU) (Rome, 12–13 May; Tokyo, Japan, 8–9 December) adopted the statute of the UNU Operating Unit on Policy-driven Electronic Governance; reviewed the

progress and status of ongoing and new institutional development initiatives; approved the text of the host country agreement and bilateral agreement; adopted the statute of the consolidated UNU Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability; adopted the UNU strategic plan 2015–2019; considered and approved a revised biennial programme and budget for 2014–2015; and reviewed the progress made towards the establishment of a UNU Institute on Human Resources and Economic Development in Dakar, Senegal.

In 2014, the UNU Centre for Policy Research (UNU-CPR) was established at the UNU Centre in Tokyo as part of a broader effort by the UNU Rector to respond to the Secretary-General's request to enhance UNU policy relevance in the fields of peace and security as well as in global development. The core mission of UNU-CPR was to generate policy research that spoke to major debates in the wider UN community as well as the Secretary-General's priorities. Another highlight was the formation of the UNU Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) which was formed through the merger of the University's two Japan-based research and training institutes: the UNU Institute of Advanced Studies and the UNU Institute for Sustainability and Peace. The proposal to consolidate the two institutes was endorsed by the UNU Council in April 2013, and the new UNU-IAS was formally inaugurated on 1 January 2014.

In 2014, the research work of UNU focused on five interdependent thematic clusters: development governance, global change and sustainable development, peace, security and human rights, population and health and science, technology and society. UNU implemented 178 research projects (60 new, 70 ongoing, 48 completed during the year), of which 114 (64 per cent) were primarily focused on or in developing countries. UNU researchers published 34 books and 81 chapters in edited volumes, 233 articles in peer-reviewed journals and 44 other articles, and 13 special journal issues. UNU also published 304 working and discussion papers, 34 policy briefs, and 51 research/technology briefs, as well as numerous website articles, videos/podcasts, proceedings and conference papers.

During the year, UNU received \$46.9 million in contributions from 22 Governments and some 112 additional sources.

United Nations System Staff College

In response to General Assembly resolution 60/214 [YUN 2005, p. 1527] and Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/14 [YUN 2013, p. 1084], the Secretary-General transmitted a report to the Economic and Social Council covering the activities of the United Nations System Staff College over the 2013–2014 biennium, focusing on the College's outreach efforts, impact of services, substantive course portfolio and

strategic orientation. He reported that the Staff College made notable progress in terms of increasing the number of UN staff participating in its programmes, the level and diversification of its partnerships, the thematic focus of its courses and the quality of its services. In 2013, the College reached more than 9,000 beneficiaries with its courses, workshops and knowledge products, while in 2014 the overall number of beneficiaries exceeded 16,000. The combined figure represented an increase of 23 per cent over the 2011–2012 biennium, while the 2014 figure represented a historical peak. The year 2014 also saw an important increase over 2013 in terms of the value and number of partnership contracts signed with UN system entities, which amounted to 56 per cent and 55 per cent, respectively.

The Secretary-General also detailed the Staff College's key institutional achievements in terms of strengthening its efficiency, effectiveness, accountability in delivering results, and collaboration and partnerships. Regarding the financial situation of the College, total income in 2014 amounted to \$7.39 million. The College maintained its previous trend of self-generating a major portion of its income. It self-generated 65 per cent of its income in 2013 and 74 per cent in 2014 despite the decreasing resources of United Nations entities following the 2008 global financial crisis and its direct impact on funding available for learning and training activities.

The Secretary-General recommended that Member States and UN system entities provide full support to the Staff College in its efforts to deliver appropriately contemporary and forward-looking range of capacity-building measures for UN staff. In particular, Member States were encouraged to work with the College to ensure shared ownership of the change process and to support the College in consolidating a resource base commensurate with interlinked tasks.

Education for All

Literacy for life

In July [A/69/183], pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/132 [YUN 2013, p. 1085], the Secretary-General transmitted to the Assembly a report from the UNESCO Director-General on the implementation of that resolution and the process of elaborating a literacy vision and agenda for the period subsequent to the United Nations Literacy Decade (2003–2012) [YUN 2001, p. 1052].

The Director-General reported that there had been steady progress in the global literacy landscape. Global literacy rates for persons aged between 15 and 24 years had increased from 83 per cent in 1990 to 87 per cent in 2000 and 89 per cent in 2012. The absolute number of non-literate adults had fallen from 884 million in 1990 to 787 million in 2000

and 781 million in 2012. Progress proved uneven, however, across regions and countries. Three quarters of the global non-literate adult population lived in South Asia, West Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. Women still constituted two thirds of the world's non-literate population. Low literacy skills were also a concern in many high-income countries. The European Commission, for example, noted that in Europe, an estimated 20 per cent of adults lacked the literacy skills they needed to function fully in a modern society. Based on the prevailing trends, it was projected that 751 million adults, including 103 million young people aged between 15 and 24 years old, would lack basic literacy skills by 2015, and only 36 countries and territories were likely to achieve or exceed Education of All (goal 4)—achieving a 50 per cent improvement in levels of adult literacy by 2015, especially for women, and equitable access to basic and continuing education for all adults. The Director-General stressed that literacy was a global challenge and an unfinished agenda item that had to be urgently addressed.

As part of its drive to continue playing a catalytic role in the global literacy agenda, UNESCO proposed five strategic themes for the period subsequent to the 2003–2012 Literacy Decade: developing the capacities of Member States in the areas of policies, programme delivery and literacy assessments; scaling up literacy actions for girls and women; reinforcing innovative modes of literacy delivery, including through the use of information and communication technologies; expanding the knowledge base and monitoring and evaluation; and advocating for literacy on the global agenda and ensuring synergies between different actions, including through a multi-stakeholder partnership and networks.

The Director-General proposed that the General Assembly consider the following six recommendations: recognize literacy as a foundation for lifelong learning, as well as a building block for achieving basic human rights and sustainable development; encourage Governments to seek innovative solutions to accelerate literacy efforts and create institutional frameworks and systems for literacy and lifelong learning, and translate political commitment into dependable financing, robust programming and improvement-oriented monitoring; call upon countries, development partners, UN system entities and civil society to promote literacy and literate environments; express its support to the five strategic axes proposed for the global literacy agenda; urge countries to consider integrating literacy into the post-2015 global development and education agenda as an education and development imperative; and encourage UNESCO to continue to strengthen its role in coordinating and catalysing global efforts towards scaling up literacy in the period subsequent to the United Nations Literacy Decade.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/480], adopted **resolution 69/141** without vote [agenda item 26 (d)].

Literacy for life: shaping future agendas

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 56/116 of 19 December 2001, by which it proclaimed the 10-year period beginning on 1 January 2003 the United Nations Literacy Decade, its resolution 57/166 of 18 December 2002, in which it welcomed the International Plan of Action for the United Nations Literacy Decade, and its resolutions 59/149 of 20 December 2004, 61/140 of 19 December 2006, 63/154 of 18 December 2008, 65/183 of 21 December 2010 and 68/132 of 18 December 2013,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in which Member States resolved to ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, would be able to complete a full course of primary schooling and that girls and boys would have equal access to all levels of education, which requires a renewed commitment to promote literacy for all,

Reaffirming the Education for All goals, in particular goal 3, on ensuring that the learning needs of all young people and adults are met through equitable access to appropriate learning and life-skills programmes, and goal 4, on achieving a 50 per cent improvement in levels of adult literacy by 2015, especially for women, and equitable access to basic and continuing education for all adults,

Convinced that literacy is crucial to the acquisition by every child, young person and adult of the essential life skills that will enable them to address the challenges that they may face in life and represents an essential condition of lifelong learning, which is an indispensable means for effective participation in the knowledge societies and economies of the twenty-first century,

Reaffirming the right of indigenous peoples to have non-discriminatory access to all levels and forms of education provided by States, and recognizing the importance of effective measures to promote access for indigenous individuals, in particular children, to education in their own language, whenever possible, as addressed in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,

Deeply concerned that, according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, 781 million adults do not have basic literacy skills and 58 million children of primary and 63 million children of secondary school age remain out of school, that an estimated 250 million children of primary school age are failing to acquire basic literacy skills, that millions more young people leave school without a level of literacy adequate for productive and active participation in their societies, that the issue of literacy may not be sufficiently high on national agendas to generate the kind of political and economic support required to address global literacy challenges and that the world is unlikely to meet those challenges if present trends continue,

Recognizing that literacy is a foundation for lifelong learning, a building block for achieving human rights and fundamental freedoms and a driver of sustainable

development and that the United Nations Literacy Decade (2003–2012) had a catalytic effect as a global framework for sustained and focused efforts for the promotion of literacy and literate environments,

Welcoming the convening of the International Conference on Girls' and Women's Literacy and Education: Foundations for Sustainable Development, held in Dhaka and co-hosted by the Government of Bangladesh and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in support of the Global Education First Initiative and on the occasion of International Literacy Day, on 8 September 2014, and taking note with appreciation of the adoption of the Dhaka Declaration,

Taking note of the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, which 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, and acknowledging that it includes a goal on ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all with a stand-alone target on literacy,

Affirming that the realization of the right to education, especially for girls, contributes to the promotion of human rights, gender equality and the eradication of poverty, as well as to development,

Recognizing the importance of continuing to implement national programmes and measures to eliminate illiteracy worldwide as reflected in the Dakar Framework for Action on Education for All, adopted on 28 April 2000 at the World Education Forum, and in the Millennium Development Goals, and in this regard also recognizing the important contribution of South-South and triangular cooperation through, inter alia, innovative pedagogical methods in literacy,

Deeply concerned about the persistence of the gender gap in education, which is reflected by the fact that, according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, nearly two thirds of the world's non-literate adults are women,

Concerned that, according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, one third of the children not attending school are children with disabilities and that the literacy rate among adults with disabilities is as low as 3 per cent in some countries,

Deeply concerned about the impact of disrupted educational services in humanitarian emergencies on efforts to promote literacy skills, especially for all children and young people,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization entitled "Literacy for life: shaping future agendas";

2. *Commends* the efforts made by Member States, their development partners, the international donor community, the private sector, civil society and the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, including the lead organization of the United Nations Literacy Decade, the United Nations Educational, Scientific

and Cultural Organization, in promoting the right to education, including by making progress on the goals of the Decade;

3. *Recognizes* the importance of continuing to implement national programmes and measures for everyone to acquire, use and advance literacy skills in order to eliminate illiteracy worldwide, enhancing further political and financial commitments, in particular for youth and adult literacy and non-formal education, intensifying collective efforts through enhanced education systems and interventions and building a robust knowledge and technical base through improved literacy monitoring, assessment and research;

4. *Calls upon* all Governments to develop reliable measures of literacy and generate data that are comparable across time and disaggregated by age, sex, disability, socioeconomic status, geographical location (urban/rural areas) and other relevant factors;

5. *Encourages* Member States, their development partners and the specialized agencies and other relevant organizations of the United Nations system, as appropriate, to sustain and expand the gains achieved during the Decade through improving the integration of literacy into sector-wide and multisectoral education and development strategies, expanding the provision of quality literacy programmes, enhancing education systems to provide quality basic education through schooling, enriching literate environments to allow people to acquire, use and advance literacy skills and promoting literacy for women and girls, as well as for marginalized groups, for their empowerment and inclusion in societies;

6. *Requests* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to continue its coordinating and catalysing role in the fight against illiteracy, including in the context of the agenda for the period following the United Nations Literacy Decade, through developing Member States' capacities in the areas of policies, programme delivery and literacy assessments, scaling up literacy actions for girls and women, reinforcing innovative models of literacy delivery, including through information and communications technologies, and expanding the knowledge base and monitoring and evaluation, as well as advocating literacy on the global agenda and ensuring synergies between different actions, including through multi-stakeholder partnerships and networks;

7. *Encourages* efforts to provide education for all, especially for boys and girls, in humanitarian emergencies, including in order to contribute to a smooth transition from relief to development;

8. *Recognizes* the continued need to give appropriate consideration to the issue of literacy in the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda;

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

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, under the item entitled "Social development", the sub-item entitled "Literacy for life: shaping future agendas".